

County: **Ventura**
 USGS Quad: **Oxnard OE W**

Thomas Guide Location
 521 F-G x 1-2
 NOAA Chart: **18725(a)**

Latitude N Longitude W
 34.228333 119.261667

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014

SITE DESCRIPTION:

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN VENTURA COUNTY DIVISION E: Santa Clara river estuary lies just south of the Ventura Harbor and just north of the park at Mcgrath State Beach. The 180 acres of lagoon and salt marsh habitats support a wide variety of plants, primarily pickleweed and jaumea, as well as habitat for numerous birds, fishes (including the steelhead trout and the tidewater goby) and other wildlife. The river mouth is normally closed off by a sand berm during summer months. North and south of the river mouth are extensive fine to medium-grained sand beaches. A wastewater treatment plant is located on the north side of the river mouth. This plant discharges approx. 9.5 million gallons of tertiary treated waste water per day into the estuary.

SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN

Whenever the estuary is open to the ocean (most likely from late fall through early summer, depending on rain fall) wetland biota is at risk, including Steelhead trout, Tidewater goby, and Salt marsh bird's beak. Spring through Summer for birds nesting along local beaches; California least terns (Apr-Sep) and Western snowy plovers (Mar- Sept).

RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN

The river mouth is designated as a state wildlife refuge and a natural reserve and is part of the Mcgrath State Beach.

California least terns (Apr-Sep) and Western snowy plovers (Mar-Sep) and numerous species of shorebirds, seabirds and waterfowl.

Steelhead (Jan-May), Tidewater goby, Surfperch.

Pismo clams (Jun-Sep).

Salt marsh bird's-beak and Ventura marsh milk-vetch.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, and ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITIES

Cultural, Historical, and Archeological sites are known to exist in the area, however, the exact locations of these sites must be ascertained by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission at (916) 373-3710 and State Office of Historical Preservation (916) 445-7000, and the South Central Coastal Information Center (657) 278-5395.

KEY CONTACTS: Trustee (T); Entry/Owner/Access (E); Cultural (C); or Other Assistance (O)

Type	Name / Title	Organization	Phone
T	Channel Coast Distict	California State Parks	(805) 585-1850
T	Federally listed T/E species - Ventura Office	USFWS	(805) 644-1766
C	Stacy St. James Coordinator	South Central Coastal Information Center	(657) 278-5395
T	Kai Lampson Marine Biologist	CDFW - (Nearshore Species)	(805) 965-7216
T	Mary Larson Fisheries Biologist	CDFW - (Steelhead)	(562) 537-8624
E	Main Office - 24hr	Venoco Petroleum	(805) 390-3263
C	Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)	California State Parks (Sacramento Office)	(916) 445-7000
O	David Pereksta	BOEM (Shorebird Data)	(805) 389-7830
T	Elizabeth Petras Biologist	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3238
E	Dan Pfeifer Superintendent	Ventura Water Recl Facility	(805) 677-4114
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969

ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REFERENCES USED: 1. "CALIFORNIA COASTAL RESOURCE GUIDE" AND "CALIFORNIA COASTAL ACCESS GUIDE" BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION. 2. "INVENTORY OF COASTAL WETLANDS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY". INTERIM REPORT. BY: R. AMBROSE. 1993. 3. "STATUS OF FISHES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESERVES TO MAINTAIN THEIR EXISTENCE". BY: CAMM SWIFT, T. HAGLUND, M. RUIZ. 1990. 4. PROPOSED "WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER CRITICAL HABITAT". BY: USFWS - VENTURA FIELD OFFICE. 5. "COASTAL INLET PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE - VOLUME 1." RESEARCH PLANNING INC. 1993.

4-750 -A Site Strategy - Santa Clara River Estuary

County and Thomas Guide Location
521 F-G x 1-2 Ventura

NOAA CHART
18725(a)

4-750 -A

Latitude N Longitude W
34.2283 119.261667

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CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary spill threats from inland and marine sources. The primary objectives are to exclude oil from stream and lagoon, pre-clean debris, and clean oil from shorelines. The lagoon is habitat for Threatened/Endangered (T/E) fishes year around. T/E birds nest in the dunes and upper beaches south of the River from Mar-Sept. Animals and habitat can be injured by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders minimize disturbance in lagoon, and associated vegetation; avoid disturbing the dunes and upper beaches; drive vehicles on wet sand; avoid trampling oil into sediments; and follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

HAZARDS and RESTRICTIONS:

A. Water Contamination - Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in this area. Check with the County of Ventura, Ocean Monitoring Hotline, 805-662-6555, regarding health conditions prior to engaging in any activities which would require direct water contact. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

B. Beach Safety Considerations - Beware of people and animals on the beach, pedestrians, waves, slips, trips and falls, and water hazards. Safe entries and exits from shorelines and facilities in and around the beach are related to tides, sea conditions, and beach sand levels. When using a vehicle on the beach, sand surface may be soft. **YOU MAY GET STRANDED ON THE BEACH** - Plan accordingly.

SITE STRATEGIES

Strategy 4-750.1 Objective: Berming - Prevent oil from contaminating the inlet when it is subject to tidal influence, low flows are present, and/or wave washover could occur if berm materials are present.

Berming - First, consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. Build an earthen berm across the mouth of the inlet using onsite materials obtained from unvegetated areas below the high tide line to minimize damage to wildlife and habitat. Install under flow pipes in the berm to allow through flows and/or a spillway with a filter barrier to accommodate flow increases as weather conditions dictate. Cover the berm with sheet plastic to minimize erosion. Second, back the berm with swamp and sorbent booms to prevent contamination from entrainment, leakage and or washover. If there is skimmable oil present, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers and or other mechanical means for collecting oil. Monitor berm and associated features to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Strategy 4-750.2 Objective: Booming - Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet entrance to protect sensitive species and habitats when suitable berm building materials are unavailable, water flows are too great, or water depths are too great for berming.

Booming - Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet to minimize the likelihood of oiling the estuary. Place the booms in a configuration which forms an oil collection pocket which can be adjusted to accommodate changes in flow direction. Back exclusion booms with sorbent booms to minimize leakage. Line the shorelines and any side channels within the inlet to prevent collateral oiling. If there is skimmable oil present, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers and or other mechanical means for collecting oil. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms at least 2 x per day to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Strategy 4-750.3 Objective: Shoreline Precleaning - Prevent oiling of wrack, trash, and other materials to reduce collateral contamination and disposal problems.

Shoreline Precleaning - Consult with resource trustees regarding wildlife issues before undertaking this activity. Hand crews to move and store kelp, driftwood, vegetative debris, trash, and other materials above high-tide line. Dispose of trash. Replace unoiled debris in its former location once the threat of oiling is past. If heavy equipment is required for this operation, request trustee consultation and IC for authorization.

Table of Response Resources

strategy number	harbor boom	swamp boom	Other boom type	sorb boom	Anchoring no	Booms type and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No	Skimmers Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-750.1		3000		1000	6			1			194 1 Front End Loader, 1 Roll Plastic, 6 Culvert Pipes, 40 Sand Bags, 150 Stakes (metal), 3 Stake Driver, 40ft Construction Fencing, 1 Waste Bin (20 yd), 1 Portable Oil Storage Tank, 1 Hand Tools, 2 ATV	10	2
4-750.2		3000		1000	7			1	1		192 1 Waste Bin (20 yd), 1 Portable Oil Storage Tank OR Vacuum Truck, 100 Stakes (metal), 2 Stake Driver, 2 ATVs	10	2
4-750.3											102 1- Vehicle (4wd), 100 Trash Bags, 1 Hand Tools	5	

LOGISTICS

DIRECTIONS: to site (by land and/or by water, to nearest launch ramp and are access permits required.)

Access to river mouth is through state beach. Going southbound US 101, exit Seaward Ave #68, turn left on Harbor Blvd for 3.2 mi. Mcgrath State Beach is directly off of Harbor Blvd on the right.

Access to river mouth is through state beach. Going northbound US 101, exit Seaward Ave #68, turn left onto Seaward Ave from the off-ramp, turn left on E Harbor Blvd for 2.9 mi. Mcgrath State Beach is directly off of Harbor Blvd on the right. **THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN VENTURA COUNTY DIVISION E:**

LAND ACCESS: A. State Parks - Access to this site is controlled by California State Parks. Call the Channel Coast District Office at 805-585-1850 (between 0800 -1700). To notify State Parks of the need to respond in this area after hours, call 916-358-1300 (24 hour number). B. Venoco - When McGrath State Park is flooded, access is not possible and responders must access site from Venoco property adjacent to the Park. Call 24 hour main office number 805-390-3563 for access.
C. Access for foot traffic, ATV, 4-WD, and heavy equipment on beach. Keep below high tide line on wet sand, keep vehicle speed under 5mph, and maintain radio communication with all vehicles on beach. All beach access will be approved by IC under recommendation from agency resource biologist.

WATER LOGISTICS:

Limitations: depth, obstruction

Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: In the northern portion of the area (Seacliff to McGrath State Beach) contact Ventura Harbor for full service berthing, launching, and fueling. For sites south of CIH, Port of Hueneme and Channel Islands Harbor (CIH) both support full service berth, launching, and fueling.

FACILITIES, STAGING AREAS, POSSIBLE FIELD POSTS AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

Equipment: Clean Seas Yard in Carpinteria, Approx. 20 miles to the north.

Staging area: McGrath State Beach has rest rooms, electricity, water, and parking areas, however, no other facilities occur.

Potential command post sites:

Closest airports are in Oxnard and Santa Barbara

COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS:

ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COMMENTS:

Due to the probable occurrence of Snowy plovers and/or Least terns at this site, please review the Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategies (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with these sensitive species.

1. MONITOR STATUS OF RIVER MOUTH.
2. RESPONSE ACTIVITIES SHOULD AVOID IMPACT TO FRAGILE DUNE VEGETATION AND TO LEAST TERN AND SNOWY PLOVER NESTING HABITATS (DUNE AND UPPER BEACH, RESPECTIVELY)
3. HIGH USE RECREATIONAL AREAS, ESPECIALLY DURING SUMMER.
4. KNOWN OIL PIPELINES: Unidentified at this time
5. KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Unidentified at this time

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX (ESI) MAPS: SOUTHERN CALIF ATLAS. RPI

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Federal and State Emergency permits may be required.
2. All cleanup operations in the general area should be conducted with the advice and cooperation of the Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State Parks.
3. Air craft Restrictions: None known
4. Consider assistance of local authorities for closure of affected shorelines and traffic control.

