

**4-761 -A Site Summary- McGrath State Beach & McGrath Lake****4-761 -A**

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

Thomas Guide Location  
 521 G-H x 2-4  
 NOAA Chart: **18725(a)**

Latitude N  
 34.21986  
 Longitude W  
 119.25778

Last Page Update : 6/30/2014
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**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

THIS SITE IS LOCATED IN VENTURA COUNTY DIVISION E: Mcgrath State Beach, the portion south of the Santa Clara river mouth, to the southern boundary, south of McGrath lake. This is a wide fine to medium-grained sand beach, backed by coastal dunes and is approx. 2 miles long. McGrath lake is a natural coastal dune lake which now serves as an agricultural drainage lake that is very rarely open to the ocean. An agricultural pump pumps water out of the lake to a "slough" area near the beach to maintain lake level and avoid flooding. This state beach is a high use recreational area (camping, water sports, etc). Venoco Petroleum operates an oil field adjacent to the lake.

**SEASONAL and SPECIAL RESOURCE CONCERN**

Spring and summer for California least terns and western snowy plovers nesting on beach.  
 All year possibility for pismo clams.

**RESOURCES OF PRIMARY CONCERN**

Seabirds and shorebirds including California least terns (Apr-Sep) and Western snowy plovers (Mar-Sep)  
 Pismo Clams (Possibly)

**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 District	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
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
T	SURCOM (24-hr)	California State Parks Dispatch	(951) 443-2969

**ADDITIONAL SITE SUMMARY COMMENTS:**

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County and Thomas Guide Location  
521 G-H x 2-4 Ventura

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## CONCERNS and ADVICE to RESPONDERS:

Primary spill threats from inland and marine sources. The best response options for protecting this shoreline are to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore areas before it reaches inshore areas and to pre-clean debris from beaches. Should oiling occur, cleanup oiled shorelines. The dunes and upper beaches provide critical nesting habitat for Threatened/Endangered birds. These animals can be killed and habitat can be damaged by oil and response/cleanup activities unless responders avoid disturbing the dunes and upper beaches; drive vehicles on wet sand, 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

Onshore response strategies for protecting onshore and nearshore resources in this area are extremely limited. Whenever possible, attempt to collect and/or disperse oil in offshore locations before it reaches inshore areas or the shoreline.

Strategy 4-761.1 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 tvpe and gear	Boom boat	Skiffs punts	Skimmers No Type	Special Equipment or comment No and kinds	staff deploy	Staff tend
4-761.1									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.)**

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.

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. 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:

1. Before using excavating equipment on berm, sand dunes, and/or upper beach or breaching the natural berm of the estuary, consider that such activities will disturb nesting grounds, vegetation, and possibly aquatic resources. Consult with DFG and USFWS prior to constructing a dike or breaching the berm, for guidance on how to lessen impacts to natural resources. Federal and State Emergency permits may be required: listed in ACP.

2. All cleanup operations in the general area should be conducted with the advice and cooperation of the DFG, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

\* Designated State Park Archaeologist and the California Department of Fish and Game must be consulted before the staging of motorized equipment and heavy traffic are permitted.

### 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 "Slough" Area and Mcgrath Lake for Contact with Ocean. Slough Will Be "Open" Most of the Year - Depending on Rainfall and Irrigation Practices; However, the Lake Is Usually Closed off by a Well Developed Sand Berm at its Southern End. This Is a Popular Recreational Beach.
2. Protect Fragile Dune, Riparian and Aquatic Vegetation Whenever Possible

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERECES:**

1. Environmental Sensitivity Index (Esi) Maps: Southern Calif Atlas. RPI

