

**4-080-A Site Summary - San Simeon Creek and Beach****4-080-A****County :** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment :** SL - B - S06 SL - B - S07**NOAA Chart :** 18700**Map Book :** 528 B-2**Decimal Degrees** 35.59527 -121.12743**Site Description:**

San Simeon Creek runs through San Simeon State Park Campground. There is a well developed freshwater marsh. The creek is fronted by a popular sandy beach, a snowy plover nesting beach designated critical habitat. State Park property and site is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and Sea Otter Game Refuge. Offshore is the White Rock State Marine Conservation Area MPA (extends from Pico Creek south 6 miles and 1 mile offshore) and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region. Species of concern are present year-round. Creek critical habitat for tidewater goby and steelhead. California red-legged frogs and western pond turtles present in creek. Shore birds and sea birds are present year round including coots, killdeer, great blue heron, snowy egret, whimbrel, yellowlegs, sandpipers, bittern, grebes, dabbling ducks, brown pelican and Western snowy plovers. Offshore harbor seals, California sea lions, and southern sea otters common offshore. Designated critical habitat for black abalone. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles extends from shore out to 100 miles offshore.

**Resources at Risk:**

*ESI and Habitat:* 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes  
4 Coarse-grained sand beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT	Year-round
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT	Year-round
Fish	tidewater goby	FE	Year-round
Fish	steelhead - Central/Northern California	FT	Year-round
Invertebrates	black abalone	FE	Year-round
Mammals	harbor seal	FP	Year-round
Mammals	Southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round
Reptiles	leatherback sea turtle	FE	Aug - Nov
Reptiles	western pond turtle	SSC	Year-round

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected, SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Name/Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Phone</b>
C	/	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-2474
C	/	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
O	Brian Hatfield/Marine Mammal Expert	US Geological Survey, Biological Division	(805) 927-3893
T	Mary Larson/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(562) 537-8624
T	Becky Ota/Marine Conservation Manager	California Department of Fish & Wildlife, MPAs	(650) 631-6789
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Environmental Scientist	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine	(562) 343-3808
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	Carolyn Skinder/Biologist	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(805) 927-2145
T	Regulatory Coordinator/24hr	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 236-6797
T	Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
T	Melissa Neuman/Marine Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 481-4594
T	Rick Bush/Fisheries Biologist	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-3562
T	Tina Fahy/Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-4023
T	/	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal T&E Species	(805) 644-1766

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Tidewater gobies nest in estuary sediments April - July; steelhead peak spawning March - July; California red-legged frogs breed November - March. Western snowy plovers nest March - November; refer to Typical Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategy pages (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with snowy plovers and least terns. Marine mammal pupping season: Harbor seals March - June; southern sea otters year-round. Leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Minimize disturbance in riparian/wetland areas when possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland/riparian areas, restrict the number and size of pathways and avoid trampling oil into sediments. If creek conditions allow, boom/fencing deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across creek to position the boom/fencing to reduce disturbance. Avoid disturbing bottom lagoon sediments to protect tidewater gobies (endangered, critical habitat) especially April - July, goby nesting season. Equipment and foot traffic entering wetted areas should be avoided to the maximum extent practical to prevent crushing tidewater gobies, their burrows, and eggs. If supplemental water is used to flush recommend gradually increasing the intensity/volume during the flush for gobies. Steelhead (threatened, critical habitat upstream) peak spawning March - July. Nov - March minimize trampling estuary/creek vegetation due to frog breeding. Black abalone (endangered) may be present on nearby rocky intertidal habitat. Beach is designated critical habitat for snowy plovers; refer to Typical Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategy pages (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with snowy plovers and least terns. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

State Park property; High recreational use area.

**Site Strategies:****Strategy: 4-080.1 Objective:** Deploy Containment Boom

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is open block entrance with short skirted containment boom (swamp boom) at appropriate angle for swift currents and changing tidal influences; place above high tide line. If creek conditions allow, boom deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position the boom (and fence posts or anchors on the bank) to reduce disturbance. Install boom in a configuration/angle which blocks channel and diverts oil to a collection point. Consider booming shorelines of inlet to prevent oiling. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check boom for effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp			300	feet	
Anchor				2		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		

**Strategy: 4-080.2 Objective:** Erect Filter Fence

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is closed install excelsior fencing along top of natural berm to capture oil when there is a potential for high tidal washover. When creek mouth is open use a filter fence barrier for exclusion/containment. Use this method when the cross-section of the watercourse does not exceed 30 feet in width, water flow volume is low, the channel bottom is capable of receiving and holding metal stakes, and the spill consists of heavy oil. If creek conditions allow, filter fence deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person slowly walk across the creek to position fencing (and fence posts) to reduce disturbance. Maintenance/monitoring of filter fencing necessary.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Fence	Construction Fencing			300	feet	
stakes				30		
skimmer				1		
Staff				4		
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		

**Strategy: 4-080.3 Objective:** Build Berm

*Strategy:* When creek mouth is open, under low flow conditions block creek entrance with sediment berm or sandbag berm, and install flow through pipes as necessary to prevent flooding. Cover berm with plastic sheeting to minimize erosion; and consider backing berm with 10" swamp boom and/or sorbent boom. To create protective berm, take sand from active unvegetated beach face to prevent damage to dune habitat. Manual building of berm preferred over heavy equipment even when heavy equipment can access site. Maintenance/monitoring necessary; check for berm effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Sandbags						
Staff				6		
skimmer				1		
Piping						

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* From the north: Take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 N), to just south of the town of San Simeon. Cross San Simeon Creek bridge (post mile marker 52.92) and turn right onto San Simeon Creek Rd. (follow camp ground signs). Enter campground and stay to the right until you reach the bridge and beach. From the south: Take Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo, Hwy 1, to San Simeon Creek Rd. campground and continue as above.

*Land Access:* Foot only, unless permission from State Parks to move utility poles

*On-Water Limitations:* Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro Bay boat ramp, approx. 20 miles south.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Staging Area: San Simeon State Beach campground. Command Post: State Parks office at Hearst Castle or hotels in San Simeon. Airports: SLO County Airport approx. 1 hour south, Paso Robles Airport approx. 45 min inland. Private Landing strip approx. 5 miles north, north of Hearst Castle visitor's center.

*Communications Problems:* None.

*Additional Operational Comments:*

