

**County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - A - S04**NOAA Chart:** 18700**Map Book:** 324 F-5**Decimal Degrees:** 35 -121.28704**Site Description:**

Arroyo Del Oso Creek Inlet is a small intermittent creek with a culvert under Hwy 1. Small salt marsh fronted by sandy beach. Beach is Hearst San Simeon State Park property and offshore is the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Sea Otter Game Refuge, and Pierdas Blancas State Marine Reserve MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region. Species of concern are present year round. Black abalone may be present in rocky intertidal habitat (designated critical habitat). Designated critical habitat for tidewater goby, and leatherback sea turtles. Sea otters common offshore. California red-legged frogs and western pond turtles present in creek.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes**List of Resources at Risk:**

|               | Resource Name              | Status  | Presence   | Sensitivity |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------|------------|-------------|
| Amphibians    | California red-legged frog | FT, SSC | Year-round |             |
| Birds         | shorebirds                 |         | Year-round |             |
| Birds         | seabirds                   |         | Year-round |             |
| Fish          | tidewater goby             | FE, SSC | Year-round |             |
| Invertebrates | black abalone              | FE      | 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:**

| Type | Name/Title                                   | Organization                                      | Phone          |
|------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| C    | /                                            | Central Coast Information Center                  | (805) 682-4711 |
| C    | /Coordinator                                 | Native American Heritage Commission               | (916) 373-3710 |
| T    | Steve Wertz/Senior Env. Scientist Supervisor | California Department of Fish and Wildlife, MPAs  | (562) 343-3808 |
| T    | SURCOM (24-hr)/                              | California State Parks (Dispatch)                 | (951) 443-2969 |
| T    | /Emergency Responder, 24-hr                  | 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    | Tina Fahy/Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator    | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service            | (562) 980-4023 |
| T    | /Spill Response Coordinator                  | 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 goby peak nesting in estuary sediments April - July; California red-legged frogs peak breeding November - April; leatherback sea turtles most commonly observed August - November; southern sea otters pup year-round. Peak bird nesting March - September.

**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) 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. Black abalone (endangered) may be present on rocky intertidal habitat. Southern sea otters (threatened) pup year-round.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Operations should be conducted with advice and cooperation of Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and USFWS. Beach is State Park; offshore is within the Monterey Bay National Marine sanctuary, Sea Otter Game Refuge and Pierdas Blancas State Marine Reserve MPA.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II****Strategy: 4-025.1 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    |      |      | 100 | feet |                  |
| Staff     |          |      |      | 4   |      |                  |
| skimmer   |          |      |      | 1   |      |                  |
| Vehicle   | ATV      |      |      | 1   |      |                  |

**Strategy: 4-025.2 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 |      |      | 100 | feet |                  |
| Staff     |                      |      |      | 4   |      |                  |
| skimmer   |                      |      |      | 1   |      |                  |
| Vehicle   | ATV                  |      |      |     |      |                  |
| Misc.     | Oil Snare (pom-pom)  |      |      | 1   |      |                  |
| Misc.     | Stake Driver         |      |      | 1   |      |                  |

**Strategy: 4-025.3 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 |
|-------------|----------|------|------|-----|------|------------------|
| Heavy Equip | Backhoe  |      |      |     |      |                  |
| Sandbags    |          |      |      |     |      |                  |
| Staff       |          |      |      | 6   |      |                  |
| skimmer     |          |      |      | 1   |      |                  |
| Piping      |          |      |      |     |      |                  |
| Vehicle     | ATV      |      |      | 1   |      |                  |

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* From the south: Take Hwy 101 N to Hwy 1 Morro Bay exit in San Luis Obispo. Creek is 1.2 miles north of Piedras Blancas Lighthouse. 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).

*Land Access:* Foot and ATV access only, State Park property.

*On-Water Limitations:* Limitations: Depth, obstruction. Launching, Loading, Docking and Services Available: Morro bay boat launch approx. 40 miles south.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Command Post: U.S. Geologic Survey research facility at the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse, approx. 1 2/10 mile south on Hwy 1. Staging, parking, water, and phones are available. Hotels in San Simeon. State Park's office at Hearst Castle. Airports: SLO county Airport approx. 1 hour south. Paso Robles Airport approx. 45 min inland. There is private landing strip for small planes north of Hearst Castle Visitor's Center, approx. 15 min. south.

*Communications Problems:* None.

*Additional Operational Comments:*

