

**4-235-A Site Summary - Sweet Springs Marsh****4-235-A****County:** San Luis Obispo **ACP Division/Segment:** SL - F - S007**NOAA Chart:** 18703**Map Book:** 631 G-5**Decimal Degrees:** 35.32617 -120.84101**Site Description:**

Sweet Springs Marsh, is in the back bay of Morro Bay. This property is owned and managed by the Audubon Society, Morro Coast Chapter. There are two freshwater spring-fed ponds. The lower pond can be influenced by saltwater through a small inlet. California red-legged frogs (threatened) and western pond turtles (species of special concern) utilize the two freshwater spring-fed ponds. Saltmarsh Bird's-Beak is an endangered plant species in the area.

Morro Bay has large expanse of salt marshes, tidal flats, and eel grass beds, one of the most extensive in California; and is used by over 40 special, threatened, or endangered species. Most species found within Morro Bay are present year round, however some are seasonal for example buffleheads, white pelicans, and black brandt in the winter. Sensitive plants include marsh sandwort, California seablite, and salt marsh bird's-beak (at the south end of the marsh). Morro Bay is also designated as the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area MPA, and is governed by special protections established by the DFW Marine Region.

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

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	wading birds		Year-round	
Birds	waterfowl		Year-round	
Plants	salt marsh bird's beak	FE, SE	Year-round	
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 Information Center	(805) 682-4711
C	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
O	/	Audubon Society, Morro Bay Chapter	(805) 772-1991
O	Ted Schiafone/Harbor Manager	Morro Bay Harbor Department	(805) 772-6255
O	Melodie Grubbs/	Morro Bay National Estuary Program	(805) 772-3834
T	Steve Wertz/Senior Env. Scientist Supervisor	Califorina Department of Fish and Wildlife, MPAs	(562) 343-3808
T	Justin Viezbicke/Marine Mammal Stranding	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 506-4315
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:**

Species of concern found at Sweet Springs Marsh are year round residents. Western pond turtles nest April-August and females may leave the water to lay eggs. Red legged frogs breed Nov-April. Designated critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles (endangered), most commonly observed Aug. – Nov.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

Minimize disturbance in wetland areas when possible. When crews must walk in soft bottom wetland 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.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Poison oak along hiking path. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, State Dept. Parks and Rec. should be consulted before staging equipment and heavy traffic area permitted. Morro Coast Audubon owns and manages this property, (805) 772-1991.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: II****Strategy: 4-235.1 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 Boom			150	feet	
skimmer				1		
Misc.	Stakes			15		
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		

**Strategy: 4-235.2 Objective:** Erect Filter Fence

*Strategy:* Access by foot only due to environmental sensitivity. Limit traffic to existing foot path and along shoreline. Fencing/pompoms should be placed in channels above high tide line. If conditions allow, filter fence deployment and recovery to be done by only having one person position fencing (and fence posts) to reduce disturbance. Check and maintain filter fence for effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Fence	Construction Fencing			150	feet	
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)					
Stakes				15		
Stake driver				1		
Staff				4		
skimmer				1		

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* From the south take Hwy 101 N to Los Osos Valley Rd. (LOVR) exit. Take LOVR approx. 10 miles to 9th St., right on 9th St. to Romona Ave., left on Romona Ave. Access off Romona Ave. From the north take Hwy 101 S to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1S (or Hwy 5 S to Hwy 41 W to Hwy 46 W to Hwy 1 S) to South Bay Blvd. (Los Osos/Baywood Park exit). Stay on South Bay Blvd. (veers to the left, go over two bridges) to Santa Ysabel Ave., right on Santa Ysabel to 7th St., left on 7th St., to Romona Ave., right on Romona. Access off Romona Ave.

*Land Access:* Foot access only, use existing foot path to shoreline.

*On-Water Limitations:* # Morro Bay boat launch facility.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Staging Area: The street parking area. Command Post: U.S. Coast Guard or Harbor Dept. offices in Morro Bay. Airports: SLO County Airport is approx. 30 min. south. Paso Robles Airport is approx. 45 min. inland.

*Communications Problems:* None



