

**4-750-A Site Summary - Santa Clara River Estuary****4-750-A****County:** Ventura**ACP Division/Segment:** VN - E - S02**NOAA Chart:** 18725(a)**Map Book:** 521 F-G x 1-2**Decimal Degrees:** 34.228333 -119.261667**Site Description:**

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 tertiary treated waste water into the estuary.

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

9B Vegetated low banks

3A Fine- to medium-grained sand beaches

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Apr-Sept	
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT, SSC	Year-round	
Birds	seabirds		Year-round	
Birds	shorebirds		Year-round	
Birds	waterfowl		Year-round	
Fish	steelhead - Southern California	FE	Year-round	
Fish	tidewater goby	FE, SSC	Year-round	
Plants	salt marsh bird's beak	FE, SE	Year-round	
Plants	Ventura marsh milk-vetch	FE, SE	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	/Coordinator	Native American Heritage Commission	(916) 373-3710
C	/	South Central Coast Information Center	(657) 278-5395
E	/	Ventura Water Reclamation Facility	(805) 677-4114
T	Kyle Evans/Steelhead	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	(805) 794-9547
T	SURCOM (24-hr)/	California State Parks (Dispatch)	(951) 443-2969
T	/Ranger Officer	California State Parks, Ventura	(805) 648-4127
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:**

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

Western snowy plovers nest from Mar-Sep.

**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.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found in this area. Beware of people and animals on the beach, pedestrians, waves, slips, trips and falls, and water hazards. Safe access may be dependent on tide and surf. Sand may be soft so lower tire pressure on all vehicles.

**Site Strategies:****Site Validation Level: III****Strategy: 4-750.1 Objective:** Exclude Oil

*Strategy:* 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. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms accordingly to maintain their integrity and effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp Boom			3000	feet	<i>Strategy Updated: Last Test: 2/4/2014</i>
Boom	Sorbent Boom			1000	feet	
Vehicle	ATV			1		
Vessel	Skiff			1		
Anchor	Danforth			8		
Staff				10		

**Logistics:**

*Directions:* 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.

*Land Access:* Access to this site is controlled by California State Parks.

*On-Water Limitations:* Ventura Harbor is a full service civilian harbor for berthing, launching, and fueling.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* Equipment: MSRC yard in Carpinteria. Staging area: McGrath State Beach has restrooms, electricity, water, and parking, however, no other facilities occur. Potential command post sites: TBD Closest airport is in Oxnard

*Communications Problems:* NA

*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.

