

6-440-A Site Summary - Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

6-440-A

County : San Diego **ACP Division/Segment :** SD - J - S003

NOAA Chart : 18773

Map Book : 1309 H6

Decimal Degrees 32.64175 -117.10916

Site Description:

Sweetwater River National Wildlife Refuge is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is a large marsh area with extensive vegetated habitat influenced by intertidal flooding conditions. It forms an expansive habitat in south San Diego Bay that provides food and shelter to a large number of wildlife resources. Several threatened or endangered species are seasonal or year-round residents.

Resources at Risk:

ESI and Habitat: 10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

7 Exposed tidal flat

List of Resources at Risk:

	Resource Name	Status	Presence
Birds	Belding's savannah sparrow	SE	Year-round
Birds	light-footed Ridgway's rail	FE, SE	Year-round
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Feb - Sep
Plants	intertidal mudflat		Year-round
Plants	salt marsh		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	Dr. Seth Mallios/	South Coastal Information Center	(619) 594-5682
O	/	Chula Vista Nature Center	(619) 409-5900
O	/	Coastal and Marine Institute	(619) 594-7723
T	/Southern Comms. Center (SURCOM) 24-hr	CA State Parks	(951) 443-2944
T	/	National Marine Fisheries Service	(562) 980-4043
T	/Refuge Manager (Ext. 302)	S.D. Bay N.W.R	(619) 575-2704
T	/	San Diego Port District	(619) 686-6254
T	On Call/Spill Coordinator	US Fish Wildlife Service Carlsbad 24 hour	(760) 607-9768

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

Additional Site Summary Comments:

Safe responder access to this site will be difficult at most tidal levels. Shallow water and extensive mud flats will be a challenge to the deployment of boom, sand bags, or sorbent materials along the shoreline at this site.

Concerns and Advice to Responders:

Refer to ACP Site 6-000-A for important information on beach nesting birds that use this site. Be prepared to use site monitors to evaluate and minimize any potential negative effects (especially to listed species), that could result from cleanup and response activities at this site.

Hazard and Restrictions:

The bay-side face of the refuge is a broad mudflat which will restrict responders water access on average low tides. Very low tides will severely limit safe access.

Site Strategies:

Strategy: 6-440.1 Objective: See the Cross-Bay Boom Strategy 6-420

Strategy: Collect oil off-site using boom sets or towed boom arrays to prevent oil migration to this site.

Table of Response Resources

Last Page Update

Strategy: 6-440.2 Objective: Deploy boom to prevent oil spread in the area.

Strategy: This strategy is the continuation of strategy 435.2. It begins where 435.2 ends and extends westward through Sweetwater Channel rounding the outer channel marker, keeping to the east side of the south bay navigation channel. From there it turns southward toward the south bay along the channel markers. At channel marker 7 the boom will turn eastward and continue to channel marker 9, leaving the channel open to vessel traffic. The channel markers themselves provide the anchoring system for much of the boom length. Only in Sweetwater Channel will anchoring systems be provided by the responder.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor Boom			6500	feet	
Anchor	Danforth		15 lb	14		
Vessel	Boom Boat			2		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			6		

Strategy: 6-440.3 Objective: Deploy boom to prevent oil spread in the area.

Strategy: After deploying Strategy 6-440.2, continue the boom from channel marker 9 toward the northwest corner of the South Bay Boat Yard leaving the channel clear for vessel traffic.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Harbor Boom			2000	feet	
Anchor	Danforth		25 lb	4		

Strategy: 6-440.4 Objective: Deploy boom to prevent oil spread in the area.

Strategy: A third level of protection at this site relies on the use of intertidal boom at the historic Sweetwater River mouth (south edge of D Street fill). On moderate tides this channel may also be protected by sandbagging similar to strategy 6-440.5

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Intertidal			200	feet	

Strategy: 6-440.5 Objective: Build a sand bag barrier to exclude oil from the wetland channels.

Strategy: Four tidal channels are located around the perimeter of the wetland from a promontory on the north end of the wetland to the far south end of the refuge at the F Street road culvert. Each inlet will require at least 100 sandbags to close the respective tidal inlet. When this protection strategy is preferable, responders should consider using it at the inlet identified for boom protection in strategy 6-440.4

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Sandbags				500		
Staff	Staff to Deploy			20		

Logistics:

Directions: Sweetwater River Wildlife Refuge can be entered from E Street off I-5. A gate code is necessary at the gated entry (see contacts). Shore side entry to the marsh beach face is possible from the parking lot using two available trails. Parking is limited inside the Refuge. All cleanup crews need permission to enter, and direction to access trails. Issues regarding listed species must be addressed before any shore side cleanup activity will begin. If it is necessary to close

Land Access: Truck/auto from D St. or E St. Interpretive Center gate or foot, street address for this site; 1033

On-Water Limitations: Water access may not be possible during low tides, and is only marginal at predicted tides >+3'.

Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment: Staging of sand bags and sand can occur on the Sweetwater Marsh Refuge however should be coordinated with Refuge personnel to avoid injury to Refuge property and

Communications Problems:

Additional Operational Comments: The Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge protection strategy is combined with the Paradise Marsh protection strategy. The Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge is a complex site to protect. It is a large wetland with several tidal channels. The protection strategies for all of the south bay sites are two or three level responses. All sites rely first on the ability to capture oil at or above the 24th Street Terminal. Secondary strategies



Least Tern Nesting Site.
Please refer to ACP Site
6-000 before deploying
response resources at
this sensitive site.

CDFW - OSPR & USCG Site: 6-440 Name: Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

G. Ewing (OSPR) & K. Wiese (OSPR) Date: 5/17/2018

●●●●● Harbor Boom
 ■■■■■ Nesting Areas

■ Marsh

Imagery: NAIP 2016, 60 cm resolution