

MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES STUDY

DECOMMISSIONING AND REMEDIATION OF THE CARPINTERIA OIL AND GAS PROCESSING FACILITIES SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Project No. 2002-5211

Prepared for:

Chevron West Coast Decommissioning Program
3916 State Street, Suite 200
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Prepared by:

Padre Associates, Inc.
1861 Knoll Drive
Ventura, California 93003

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A. USFWS and NMFS Species Lists
- Attachment B. Site Photographs

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Marine Biological Resources Study (Study) has been prepared on behalf of Chevron USA (Chevron) in support of the Decommissioning and Remediation of the Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Project (Project). The proposed Project includes demolition of surface and subsurface facilities and remediation of any subsurface impacted soil and groundwater at the Carpinteria Onshore Oil and Gas Processing Facility, as well as subsea pipeline removal from the shore out to State Waters (three nautical miles) (Project Site). The Project will also include the removal of pipelines from the bluff and beach areas adjacent to the Casitas Pier and west of the Carpinteria Harbor Seal Rookery.

This Study includes a description of the proposed offshore Project activities, followed by the study methodology section, which describes desktop study and analytical methods used to assess the biological resources within the Project site. The methodology section includes a review of literature concerning historical site use, special-status species, sensitive habitats, and general biological site conditions. The environmental setting describes abiotic and biotic conditions at the Project site including climate, substrates, typical habitats and associated algal, marine plant and wildlife species, and special-status species reported in or near the Project Site. A review of regulatory requirements is then provided, and the final section summarizes the avoidance and minimization measures currently proposed by Chevron to reduce Project impacts to less than significant levels.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Chevron is planning the decommissioning of onshore and offshore oil and gas facilities associated with the Carpinteria Oil and Gas Facility. Given the marine biological nature of this Study, the following Project description focuses on the beach, nearshore and offshore components of the Project. A summary of terrestrial biological resources is provided in a separate report. Decommissioning and remediation of the Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities from the beach to the boundary of State Waters (three nautical miles) will include:

Beach Crossing and Offshore Pipelines (State Waters)

- Pig and flush pipelines in preparation for removal
- Removal of offshore Project pipeline segments out to 3-mile State waters limit
- Removal of nearshore beach crossing pipeline segments
- Recycling/disposal of all materials removed from the Project site(s)
- Restoration in accordance with the Site Restoration Plan (once approved)

2.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The onshore Project Site is located in the eastern portion of the City of Carpinteria, California, between U.S. Highway 101 and the Pacific Ocean. The offshore Project site is located between the onshore Project Site and the State water boundary within the Santa Barbara Channel (Figure 2-1 - Offshore Project Site and Study Area). The onshore facilities developed at the Project Site historically have been used to process oil and gas produced from the Summerland, Carpinteria, Santa Clara, and Sockeye Fields located within the Santa Barbara Channel. The associated offshore pipelines area located within State Lease Nos. PRC 3133, 3150, 7911, and 4000 on submerged lands leased from the City (from shore to 2 miles offshore) and County (from 2 to 3 miles offshore). Ownership of the Project Site was originally obtained by Chevron (formerly Standard Oil Company) in 1959 and subsequently sold to Venoco in 1999. Chevron reacquired ownership of the Project Site in an agreement between Chevron and Venoco in 2017.

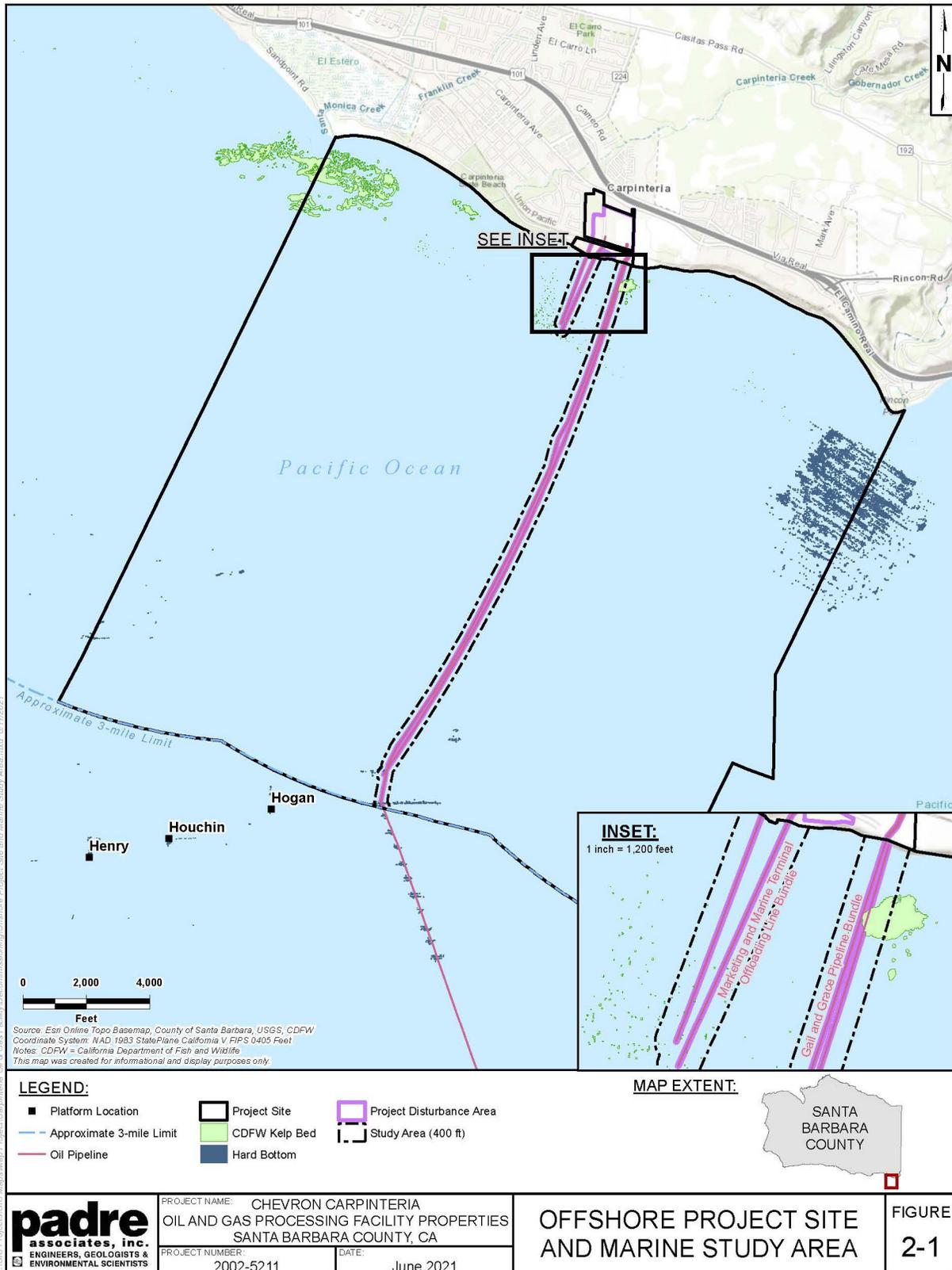


Figure 2-1. Offshore Project Site and Study Area

2.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Demolition and remediation activities will be broken into three primary areas according to their respective location and supporting construction methodologies. The three areas include the Onshore Processing Facility (including the area extending to the bluff face), Beach Crossing (bluff face to mean high tide line), and Offshore Pipeline Segments (mean high tide out to 3 nm State waters limit). Due to the marine biological nature of this Study, the following Project Description will focus on two Project areas: The Beach Crossing and Offshore Pipeline Segments. A full description of beach and offshore Project activities can be found in the Project Description (Padre, 2021).

2.2.1 Beach Crossing and Offshore Pipeline Decommissioning

Two operational areas are present within the beach crossing and offshore Project site: The Marketing and Marine Terminal Offloading Lines Bundle and the Gail and Grace Pipeline Bundle/10-inch oil pipeline area. Table 2-1 below lists the pipeline components for each operational area, lengths of pipeline to be removed, and the anticipated removal methods.

The proposed Project will require the mobilization of an offshore marine equipment spread consisting of either a dynamically positioned or anchored work barge(s) with support vessels. A commonly used offshore spread for pipeline removal projects consists of a derrick barge with deck crane (i.e., M/V Salta Verde or equivalent sized vessel) and tending tug, a materials barge (M/V Abalone Pt. or equivalent sized vessel) and tending tug, and a crew boat for transit between the nearest harbor and the offshore Project Site. In addition, a commercial dive support vessel and an offshore survey and surface navigation vessel may be required to locate and track progress during pipeline recovery operations. The derrick barge and dive vessel spread will include a vessel crane and mounted-winch, jet pump, air lift, cutting equipment, and recovery rigging to provide options for uncovering, pulling, cutting and recovery. When working in shallow depths, the derrick barge will require an anchor-handling vessel to run all the vessels anchors to pre-determined anchor locations. Anchoring along the pipeline bundles' corridors will be limited to sandy areas of the seafloor and will not occur on hard-bottom areas.

Table 2-1. Proposed Offshore Final Disposition Summary

Offshore Operational Area	Bundle Components	Pipeline Corridor Length (approximate feet)	Proposed Removal Methods
Gail and Grace Bundle/10-inch Oil Pipeline Area	10-inch oil pipeline 10-inch gas pipeline	19,030	Offshore: Reverse installation/under running pipeline utilizing crane barge to lift and cut pipe into sections on barge deck. Removal out to State Waters boundary (three nautical miles).
	10-inch oil pipeline (on risers)	17,909	Surf Zone: Shore-side and dive crews, remove concrete armoring, excavate

Offshore Operational Area	Bundle Components	Pipeline Corridor Length (approximate feet)	Proposed Removal Methods
			and recover pipelines to an offshore derrick barge. Bluff: Shore-side crews remove concrete armoring and recover concrete pieces and pipelines to the top of bluff via crane.
Marketing and Marine Terminal Offloading Line Bundle	10-inch offloading crude oil line 2, 4-inch subdrain pipelines 6-inch wastewater pipeline	2,843	Offshore: Diver-directed hydraulic pipe shear to cut into sections on seafloor and pipe grapple to recover pipe sections to barge deck. Removal out to existing offshore termini. Surf Zone: Shore-side and dive crews, excavate, as needed, in surf zone and on beach, and recover pipelines to a derrick barge. Alternatively, pipe could be recovered to top of the bluff via winch and crane (2 locations). Alternatively, a derrick barge could be utilized. Bluff: Shore-side crews remove rip rap armoring and recover boulders and pipelines to the top of bluff via crane and/or heavy equipment. Excavate and remove valve box following pipeline removal.
	20" crude oil pipeline 6" wastewater pipeline 8" wastewater pipeline Valve box (on bluff)	3,285	

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Padre biologists reviewed available facility design information, historic Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities reports and seafloor maps, as well as regional marine biological geographic information systems (GIS) data from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and bathymetric mapping from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (CDFW, 2021, Johnson et al., 2013). A list of federally listed Threatened and Endangered species was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and are included under Attachment A. The Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) and Partnership of Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) Databases were reviewed to assess the potential for biological resources and to determine the likelihood of occurrence for special-status species and/or sensitive and regulated habitats on the site. Special-status taxa that are known to exist or have the potential to exist on the Project site were also identified through a review of relevant literature.

3.2 DESKTOP STUDY

A biological resources study area was identified prior to beginning desktop studies. The study area includes all temporary disturbance areas, vessel and barge spread area and a 400-foot buffer from potential anchor locations (based on water depth). Boundaries of the study area are depicted in Figure 2-1. Reconnaissance surveys were conducted to familiarize with the layout and spatial limits of the study area; however, no focused field surveys were conducted within the study area at this time.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The offshore Project site is located between the onshore Project Site bluff edge and out to the State Waters line within northern side of the Santa Barbara Channel. The Marketing and Marine Terminal offloading line bundle terminates at approximately a 60-foot (18-meter) water depth, while the Gail and Grace pipeline bundle extends from its landfall at the Project site then out into City of Carpinteria and County of Santa Barbara deeded tidelands, continuing to the three-mile State Waters boundary and then eventually southward to Platforms Grace and Gail. Water depths within the offshore Project Site range between zero and approximately 150 feet (46 meters). The local climate of nearshore and offshore waters of the Project Site is comprised of temperatures averaging between 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit and winds from the west, that range from eight to 16 miles per hour (mph); however, winds speed near the coast can be much lower than those in open waters (Argonne National Laboratory, 2019). The Project site lies southeast of regionally important coastal migration and topographic landmarks, Point Conception, Point Arguello and Santa Ynez Mountains, and north of the California Channel Islands. The region is a major biogeographic transition zone offshore, where the cold-temperature waters of the Oregonian Province meet with the warm-temperate waters of the San Diego Province. This transition zone has resulted in the development of distinctive communities and foraging grounds for migrating wildlife.

4.1 MARINE HABITAT DESCRIPTIONS

4.1.1 Sandy Beach Habitat

The Project Site is located at Carpinteria Beach/Tarpits Park, which is heavily utilized by the public during most of the year. The beach habitat within this area is comprised of a gradually sloping sandy beach area that is located to the south of the bluff within the study area and extends to the intertidal zone. Due to regular inundation of saltwater from high tides and wave activity, wind, and dynamic soils, the sand beach habitat does not support vegetation. However, deposits of kelp detritus and driftwood from extreme high tide periods provide cover for a variety of avifauna and marine invertebrates in portions of this habitat. The amount of available habitat from these deposits of kelp detritus and driftwood debris fluctuates throughout the year based on ocean tides and wave activity.

4.1.2 Intertidal Habitats

The intertidal zone within the study area consists primarily of sand with a mosaic of intermittent low- to medium-relief rocks and soft-bottom sediments. In addition, the Casitas Pier pilings provide submerged artificial substrates in the intertidal zone. The intertidal zone is a dynamic environment influenced in part by daily tidal fluctuations (leading to high concentrations of sunlight, and periods of aerial exposure) and wave forces. Organisms residing within the intertidal zone are characterized by hardy species that are capable of withstanding stresses associated with waves and daily tidal fluxes. Where it occurs, hard substrate provides habitat structure and a semi-permanent surface that algae, benthic, and sessile organisms may attach to. Areas with hard substrate within the intertidal zone (i.e., rocky intertidal) can be areas of rich species diversity and abundance; however, due to the seasonal deposition and retreat of sand from the beach, relatively few specialized species live in the dynamic sand habitat within the study

area. Commonly documented species include crustaceans such as sand crab (*Emerita analoga*), echinoderms, arthropods, polychaetes, and mollusks. Common intertidal species found on exposed rocks and pier pilings include mussels (*Mytilus californianus*), barnacles (*Balanus* spp.), various species of red and brown turf algae, and other biofouling bryozoans and non-native species.

The intertidal substrates throughout the nearshore study area includes mixed substrate types consisting of sand and exposed bedrock, as well as low to medium-relief rock reefs along the mean low-tide line. In general, substrate types are similar along the length of the shoreline within the study area with exposed rock located along the western edge of the lease boundary and on the east side of Casitas Pier where exposed rock reef provides haul-out habitat for a Pacific harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina richardii*) rookery.

Surf grass beds (*Phyllospadix* sp.) are commonly found along the southern California intertidal reefs and are known to provide cover and habitat structure for intertidal invertebrates and marine alga. Surf grass can be observed from shore growing on the surface of intertidal rocks in the study area and previous site visits during low tide events have identified surf grasses in subtidal habitats; however, its presence may fluctuate on a seasonal basis depending on the intensity of sand deposition or wave action. Further study will be required to determine if eelgrasses (*Zostera* sp.) is present in the study area. The nearest monitored eelgrass bed at a southern facing coastline is located approximately 18.5 miles northwest of the Project Site, in 20 to 25 feet of water offshore Goleta Beach (Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, 2010).

4.1.3 Subtidal Habitats

As with the intertidal zone, the mixed sedimentary and rock reef habitat continues offshore along the subtidal study area. Wave exposure, sediment grain size, and depth are the main physical factors that influence the composition of subtidal benthic communities. Soft substrate habitats with small sand grain size within the subtidal zone typically have a lower diversity and abundance of species than those areas with hard substrate. However, the sandy subtidal environments support communities of organisms that are unique to this environment, and as such are important to marine ecosystems. Organisms typically found in sandy subtidal environments include but are not limited to tube worms (*Diopatra ornate*), sand dollars (*Dendraster excentricus*), and various species of crabs, sea stars, snails, and demersal fish. The Casitas Pier is located within soft substrate habitat; therefore, the seafloor beneath the Pier is expected to be dominated by soft substrate species. In addition, the pier pilings provide man-made structure for subtidal organisms to attached to including mussels, barnacles, tunicates, bryozoa, porifera, anemones (*Anthopleura elegantissima*), decorator crabs (*Loxorhynchus grandis* and *L. crispatus*), sea stars (*Pisaster* sp., *Patiria miniata*) red rock crabs (*Cancer* spp.), and rock scallop (*Crassedoma giganteum*).

In subtidal areas off the southern California coast where hard/rocky substrate is available, giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) communities (i.e., kelp forests) are often present. Kelp forests are an important part of the marine ecosystem in that they provide habitat structure and substrate surfaces for many epibiotic, benthic and sessile organisms, and provide food, shelter, and nursery habitat for migratory and resident species of fish, marine mammals, and invertebrates. Recent site visits and a historic review of satellite imagery (June 2002 through March 2020), as well as kelp bed data from CDFW identified a kelp bed located approximately 470 feet east from the

offshore end the Casitas Pier (Figure 2-1). Common fish species may utilize the kelp bed and near-by pier structure and shallow rock reefs for foraging and breeding. Species that are likely to occur include surfperches (*Embiotoca jacksoni*, *Rhacochilus vacca*), wrasses (*Oxyjulis californica*, *Halichoeres semicinctus*), and adult and young-of-year-rockfish (*Sebastes* spp.). In addition, there is the potential that juvenile bocaccio (*Sebastes paucispinis*), a CDFW managed special-status rockfish species, may occur within the subtidal study area.

4.1.4 Pelagic and Benthic Habitats

The open water habitat within the offshore pipeline corridors support migration and foraging habitat for marine mammals, reptiles, and avifauna. Water depth between the subtidal zone and the boundary of California State waters (three nautical miles) ranges between approximately 30 to 148 feet (9 to 45 meters) and therefore would support species that are adapted to live at those depths. The primary substrates within the offshore segments of the pipeline corridor have been characterized as fine- to medium-grained smooth sediments, with infrequent areas of mixed smooth sediment and bedrock, coarse-grained sand, gravel, cobbles (Johnson et al., 2013). Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) surveys have reported that the majority of the pipeline corridor is buried under soft sediments from approximately -45 to -140 feet and then intermittently exposed to the State waters limit (-148 feet) (Aqueos, 2019). Epifauna of deeper waters in sedimentary habitats and those species found growing or foraging on exposed pipeline segments include plumose anemone (*Metridium senile*), bat stars (*Patiria miniate*), and rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.).

4.2 WILDLIFE

The nearshore rocky coastline, sedimentary benthic seafloor, and open water habitat within the study area provide habitat for a wide variety of resident and migratory wildlife species. Special-status wildlife species (i.e., endangered, threatened, rare, or other special-status species) occurring, or potentially occurring, within the Project site and surrounding area are discussed in Section 4.5 below.

The composition, topography, water depth and other physical characteristics of marine communities determine the diversity and abundance of wildlife species residing in the study area. Wildlife species known to occur within the habitats present within the beach and offshore Project Site are discussed below.

4.2.1 Birds

Many bird species rely on intertidal and subtidal habitats and surf grass beds as places to rest or forage for food. Bird species with the potential to occur along the beach and intertidal habitat include semipalmated plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), marbled godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), sandpiper (*Calidris* spp.), and gulls (*Larus* spp.). Bird species that have a potential to occur within the subtidal habitat include but are not limited to western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), surf scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), cormorants (*Phalacrocorax* spp.), and California brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).

Bird species commonly associated with nearshore open waters of the central and southern California coast have the potential to occur in the open waters of the Project site. These birds include but are not limited to western grebes, brown pelicans, loons (*Gavia* sp.), Cassin's auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), cormorants, gulls, surf scoters, eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*), and murrelets (*Uria aalge*). These marine bird species feed on small schooling fish, squid, and zooplankton, and forage in open water where prey is concentrated near the water's surface. In addition, several special-status species have the potential to migrate and/or forage in the offshore study area including California least terns (*Sternula antillarum*), Ashy storm petrels (*Oceanodroma homochroa*), and black storm petrels (*Oceanodroma melania*).

4.2.2 Marine Invertebrates

The epifauna of the shallower sedimentary habitats typically includes several species of macro-invertebrates, including sea stars, Pacific sand dollars (*Dendraster excentricus*), and slender crabs (*Cancer gracilis*), as well as polychaete worms and mollusks. The rocky substrata tend to support a generally more diverse epibiota, comprised of macrophytic algae, urchins (*Strongylocentrotus* spp.), sea stars, and cnidarians (anemones and solitary corals).

Abalone are known to inhabit nearshore rocky reef habitats along the southern California coast. Black and white abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii* and *H. sorenseni*) are both federally endangered species protected under FESA and are considered rare in the study area. Black abalone live in rocky intertidal and subtidal reefs (out to 18 feet deep) where they are generally found in rock crevices and feed on drifting giant kelp (*Macrocystis*) and feather boa kelp (*Egregia menziesii*). White abalone live on rocky substrates alongside sand channels and are found at depths of 50 to 180 feet. They feed on algae that accumulates within the sand channels between deep rock reefs and are more often found out of crevices but camouflaged by the algae that grows on their shells. Other abalone species that could be found in the study area include red (*H. rufescens*), pink (*H. corrugate*), green (*H. fulgens*), and pinto (*H. kamtschatkana*), whose populations are managed by CDFW.

4.2.3 Fish

Fish assemblages off southern California are comprised of both year-round residents and migratory species. The abundance of some year-round residents, such as northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), may fluctuate considerably as new cohorts of juveniles migrate inshore or develop from larvae during spring and summer months. Substrate composition, wave exposure, depth, and presence of kelp or seagrass often determine fish species composition in a particular area. The study area provides habitat for demersal species, such as sanddabs (*Citharichthys* spp.), California halibut (*Paralichthys californicus*), or Pacific staghorn sculpin (*Leptocottus armatus*) that are associated with soft substrates. Other species such as white croaker (*Genyonemus lineatus*) or barred surfperch (*Amphistichus argenteus*) inhabit the water column but feed on invertebrates living in the substrate. Still others are restricted mainly to the water column, such as anchovy, sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), topsmelts (*Atherinidae*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), or white seabass (*Atractoscion nobilis*), where they feed on midwater plankton or other midwater fishes. Isolated hard substrate features may occur at a small portion of the open water study area. These hardbottom deeper reefs attract different assemblages of fishes, primarily rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.), which could transit through the region during localized movements.

Grunion (*Leuresthes tenuis*) is a member of the silverside family (*Atherinidae*) that uses sandy beaches from Monterey Bay to Central Baja California for spawning. Twice a month, at new and full moons between March and early September, grunions come ashore during the two or three nights following the highest tide. Grunion bury their eggs four to five inches below the surface, with maturation occurring in ten days. The next spring high tide reaches the eggs, induces them to hatch, and carries the larvae offshore where they mature. Grunion runs are more common along northern Santa Barbara County Beaches; however, there is the potential the species may occur seasonally within the study area.

4.2.4 Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

Baleen whales, toothed whales (including dolphins), and pinnipeds (California sea lion [*Zalophus californianus*] and Pacific harbor seal [*Phoca vitulina richardsi*]), could occur in the study area, in addition to an active rookery for Pacific harbor seal on the exposed rock and sandy beach on the east side of the Casitas Pier. The harbor seal rookery is discussed further below in Section 4.4.1.3 (Pinniped Haul-Outs). Some species of marine wildlife are seasonally present within the study area while others are resident species. All marine mammals are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 and are discussed below in Sections 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5.

Although rarely encountered, marine turtles occasionally are reported within waters off the southern California coast, and could potentially occur within the study area. Populations of marine turtles have been greatly reduced due to over harvesting and loss of nesting sites in tropical coastal areas. Sea turtles breed at sea and the females return to their natal beaches to lay their eggs; however, sea turtles do not nest anywhere along the California coast. The four listed sea turtles that may occur within the study area include the endangered Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and the threatened Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). Although several occurrences of sea turtles have been documented off the southern California coast, the likelihood of their occurrence in the study area is considered low.

4.2.5 Non-Native Aquatic Species

Non-native aquatic species (NAS), also known as non-indigenous species, include plants, animals, and micro-organisms that have been introduced to new regions through various human activities. In coastal environments, commercial shipping is the most significant vector for invasions, and vessel biofouling and ballast water are considered the primary contributors of NAS. Once established, NAS can cause significant ecological, economic, and human health problems in the receiving environment, including altering the structure and function of ecosystems, causing declines in native and commercial fisheries, and spreading human pathogens. CDFW recognizes 347 NAS with established populations in California coastal waters (CDFW Office of Spill Prevention and Response [OSPR], 2014). The origin of many NAS is unknown; however, the majority of NAS in California appear to be native to the northwest Pacific or northeast Atlantic. NAS could be present on the pilings of Casitas Pier or on exposed segments of Project pipelines.

Caulerpa taxifolia is an invasive alga with bright green, feathery, fern-like fronds that is native to tropical waters and has been a nuisance in southern California harbors. It can form dense mats and grow up to three inches per week, displacing native aquatic plants and animals. *Caulerpa* has the potential to significantly reduce the native diversity and abundance of marine

algae and animals once it has invaded. *Caulerpa taxifolia* can grow in shallow coastal lagoons as well as in deeper ocean waters, possibly to depths of greater than 150 feet (nearly 50 meters). Prior to offshore decommissioning activities, focused marine biological surveys will be completed to determine the presence or absence of *Caulerpa* within the offshore the Project site in accordance with the standard resource agency requirements.

4.3 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Multiple species of cetaceans (whales and dolphins,), marine turtles, and pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) have been recorded within the State waters offshore Santa Barbara County. Most of the species can occur for long durations within the greater Project region, although seasonal abundances of these taxa vary; pinnipeds and some dolphins are year-round residents. For example, Pacific harbor seals and California sea lions are year-round residents within the study area and utilized several beaches, rocky headlands, as well as floating docks and pier loading decks as haul-out areas.

Other marine species are migratory, such as the gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), or seasonal, such as the humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and are more abundant during specific months. Large, baleen whales are known to spend the summer months feeding in northern latitudes building up fat stores to sustain them through the winter and then migrating to warmer, sheltered waters in Baja California, Mexico, Hawaii, and/or Central America for calving and breeding during winter months. Large baleen whales may be present in the study area during their migrations through the Santa Barbara Channel in areas where convergence zone produce large aggregations of prey, such as krill, small schooling fish, and squid.

In addition to the regional convergence zones that provide coastal upwelling and foraging opportunities, the California Channel Islands provide essential nesting and feeding grounds for 99 percent of breeding seabirds in Southern California (Argonne National Laboratory, 2019). The Project Site does not include areas around the Channel Islands; however, the Project region is known as a migration corridor between offshore foraging and island nesting areas.

4.4 SENSITIVE HABITATS AND PROTECTED AREAS

4.4.1.1 Marine Protected Areas

MPAs are afforded protection with the CDFW under the Marine Life Protection Act. The following designations are managed within the West Coast MPA network: State Marine Reserve (SMR), State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), and State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA). The closest MPA to the Project site is the Goleta Slough SMCA, which is located approximately 19 miles (mi) (30 kilometers [km]) west of the study area. Project activities will not occur within an MPA.

4.4.1.2 Critical Habitats

The study area is not within a designated critical habitat area for marine species. The nearest aquatic critical habitat is designated for southern California steelhead and is located approximately one mile west of the study area within Carpinteria Lagoon as well as Rincon Creek, located approximately two miles southeast of the study area (Hydrologic subarea 331534); however, Project activities will not occur within critical habitat areas (NMFS, 2005).

4.4.1.3 Pinniped Haul-Outs

The California south coast provides a diversity of haul-out locations such as rocky shorelines, sandy beaches, estuaries and mudflats. California sea lion and harbor seals have several haul-outs along beaches and on shallow, rocky outcroppings.

The Carpinteria Harbor Seal Rookery and Preserve (rookery) is located adjacent to the study area approximately 160 feet east of the Casitas Pier (Figure 4-1). The rookery is accessible to the public during low tides to the west from Carpinteria Beach State Park and from Rincon Point to the east. The bluffs overlooking the colony are on private property now owned by Chevron, who continues to allow public access for viewing of the harbor seal rookery. The next nearest mainland harbor seal rookery is at the Mugu Lagoon, at Pt. Mugu Naval Air Warfare Center in Ventura County, making the Carpinteria rookery one of a few known active harbor seal rookeries in Southern-central California.

In addition to year-round Federal and State protections, the City of Carpinteria closes the beach surrounding the rookery for 750 feet (230 meters) to the east and west of the colony from December 1 through May 31 of each year to protect breeding seals and seal pups. Public access and projects related to oil field operations are not allowed on this part of the beach during the seasonal closure. In addition, waters out to 1,000 feet (305 meters) offshore from the closed beach area is restricted to personalized watercraft; however, offshore oil-field related crew and supply vessels are exempt from this law. In addition to the City legislation, the Coastal Land Use Plan for Santa Barbara County includes marine mammal haul-out and pupping grounds as environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA).

The local harbor seal population has been monitored and counted on annual basis since 1982 (MRS, 2008). In addition, the Carpinteria Seal Watch volunteers provide counts on a daily basis during the harbor seal breeding season (end of January to late-May). Due in large part to the beach closure ordinance and the efforts of the Seal Watch volunteers, the local breeding population has continued to expand from 13 seals in 1977 to a maximum of 240 seals (adults and pups) recorded in May 2017 (MRS, 2008; Carpinteria Seal Watch, 2021). However, these numbers are potentially underestimating the overall local population given that the best time to assess population numbers is during molting season in the summer and fall, when the greatest number of animals haul-out (MRS, 2008). Since the beach is open to the public during the molting season, this rookery is largely abandoned in the summer and fall, which will correspond to when the proposed beach and offshore Project activities will occur. The most recent State-wide count of harbor seals was conducted in 2012 and estimated there are 27,348 seals and that the population has been stable since 2009 but decreased since counts in 2004.

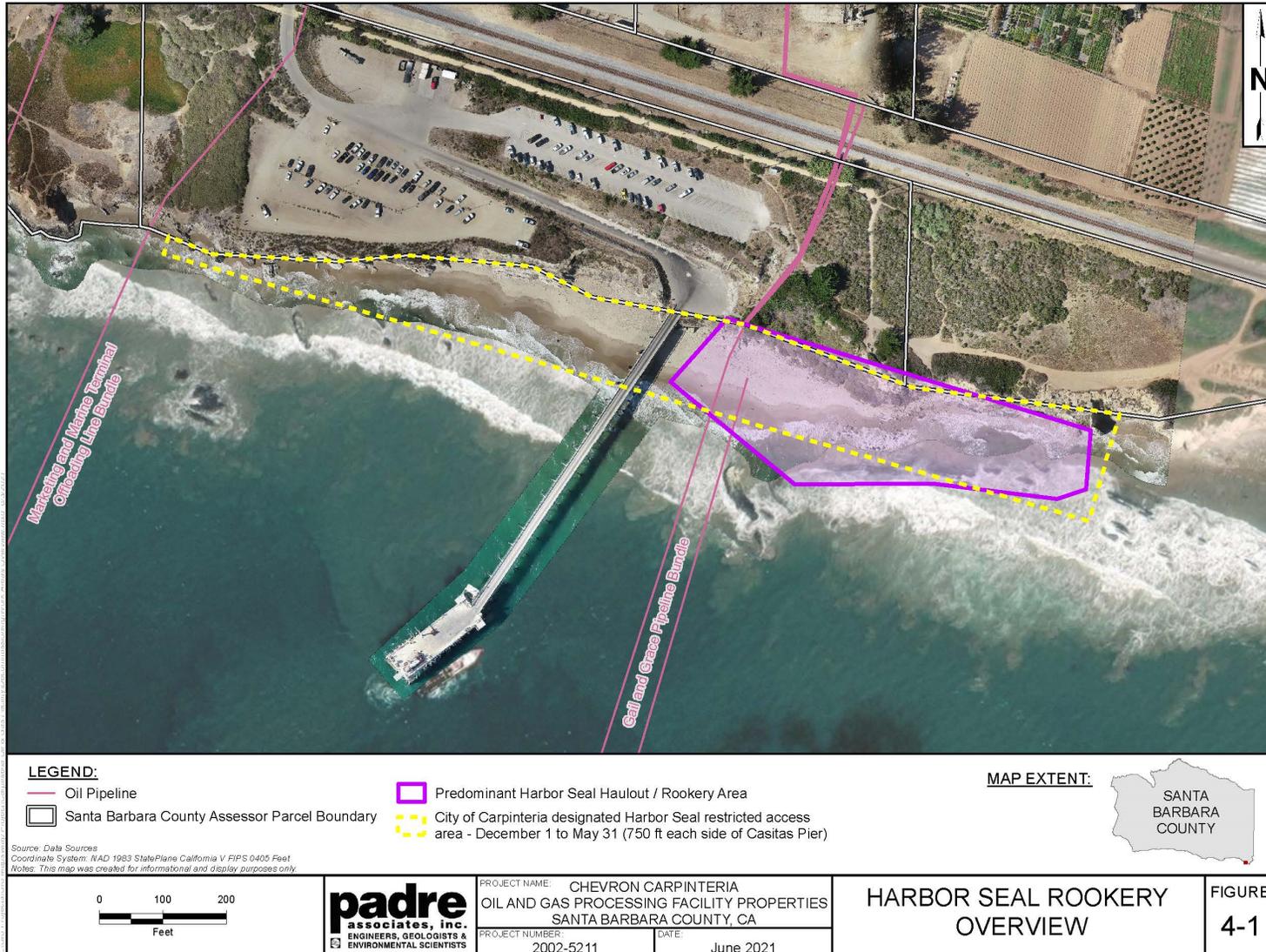


Figure 4-1. Harbor Seal Rookery Overview

4.4.1.4 Essential Fish Habitat

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) defined essential fish habitat (EFH) as “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.” According to the NMFS, EFH can include sediment, hard bottom, underwater structures, and associated biological communities (PFMC, 2005). Section 303, subdivision (a)(7) of the MSA requires fishery management councils to identify EFH. EFH that is judged to be particularly important to the long-term productivity of populations of one or more managed species, or to be particularly vulnerable to degradation, should be identified as habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC).

Based on the proposed activities and the assessment of existing habitats, only the adjacent kelp beds within the eastern side of the study area represent essential habitat for managed species (see inset on Figure 2-1). By avoiding these features, the impacts related to removal of the pipelines and associated diver activities are not considered significant impact to the EFH of any of the managed species that could occur within the area. There are no HAPCs designated for highly migratory or coastal pelagic species; and there will be no impacts to EFH for those species. Offshore decommissioning activities will be limited to narrow corridors and distinct anchor points within a sedimentary or sandy seafloor. The sedimentary bottom will be disturbed only during removal activities and Project vessels will not anchor in hard bottom habitat or within areas of sensitive resources. Refer to Appendix C4 - Essential Fish Habitat for a detailed analysis of EFH within the study area.

4.4.1.5 California Coastal National Monument

The California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provides unique habitat for marine-dependent species on more than 20,000 rocks, islands, exposed reefs, and pinnacles, as well as 7,924 acres of public land at six onshore units: Trinidad Head, Waluph-Lighthouse Ranch, Lost Coast Headlands, Point Arena-Stornetta, Cotoni-Coast Daires, and Piedras Blancas. The rocky headlands within the California Coastal National Monument provide foraging and roosting areas, nesting habitat for breeding seabirds and haul-outs for marine mammals. The offshore rocks included in the Monument are those exposed above mean high tide within 12 nautical miles of the California mainland. Approximately seven rock features of Monument land, are present within the study area (Figure 4-2). The Monument rock features partially correspond with the protected harbor seal haul-out and rookery and intertidal habitat located within the surf zone. Monument lands will be avoided and will not be disturbed or altered during Project decommissioning activities.

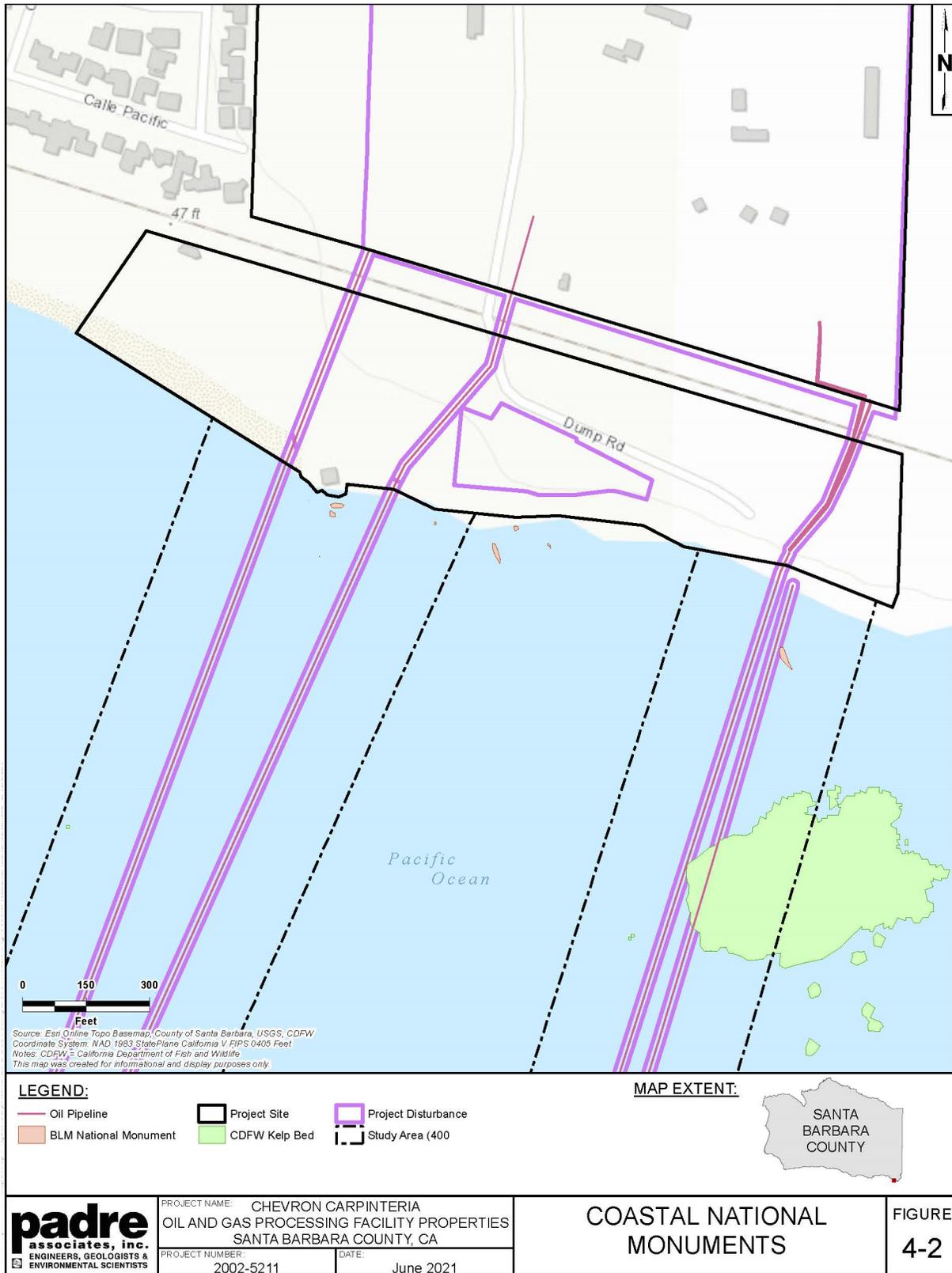


Figure 4-2. Coastal National Monument in Study Area

4.5 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

For the purposes of this Study, a special-status species is a plant or animal species that is:

- Listed as endangered, threatened, or a candidate species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA);
- Listed as endangered, threatened, or a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA);
- Listed as a species of special concern by the CDFW;
- Marine mammal species afforded protection by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA);
- A species that would occur in Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) within Essential Fish Habitat (EFH); and/or
- Considered rare, threatened, or endangered under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15380(d) as the species' survival is in jeopardy due to loss or change in habitat.

Based on the literature review and species lists obtained from USFWS (IPaC Trust Resource Report) (Consultation code: 08EVEN00-2021-SLI-0413) and from NMFS (NMFS, 2021) for the Carpinteria quadrangle, a list of special-status species that have been reported within a five-mile radius surrounding the Project site has been compiled. Special-status species with occurrences within five miles of the site that were considered for potential occurrence on the Project site are listed in Table 4-1. Table 4-1 also includes rationale for why certain species were considered unlikely to occur or absent from the study area.

An analysis of the likelihood of occurrence for each species was conducted on the basis of species ranges, previous observations, contemporary sightings, and presence of suitable habitat elements. The Project may be located outside of the known range of some species, or within the geographic range for a certain species, but suitable habitat, such as nesting, migrating corridors or deep-water habitats are absent from the study area.

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
PLANTS				
<i>Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus</i>	Salt Marsh Bird's-beak	FE	Marshes and swamps, coastal dunes, limited to the higher zones of salt marsh habitat.	Absent. No suitable habitat present.
<i>Phyllospadix spp.</i>	Surf grass	HAPC	Intertidal rocky substrate in areas with turbulent surf.	Present. Species observed on intertidal rocks within study area.
<i>Zostera marina</i> and <i>Zostera pacifica</i>	Eelgrass	HAPC	Soft or sandy sheltered seafloor typically in shallow bays or estuaries 0.5 ft to 12 feet (0.1 to 3.7 meters) (<i>Zostera marina</i>) and subtidal habitats along protected coastlines (<i>Zostera pacifica</i>) from 13 to 56 feet (4 to 17 meters).	Moderate. Suitable habitat occurs within study area. Nearest recorded bed occurs in the Ventura Marina, approximately 17 miles southeast of the study area (Sherman and DeBruyckere, 2018).
INVERTEBRATES				
<i>Haliotis cracherodii</i>	Black abalone	FE	Intertidal and subtidal habitats from upper intertidal to 20 feet (6 meters) depth between Point Arena, California to Bahia Tortugas, Mexico. Most commonly observed in complex habitats with deep crevices and drift macroalgae.	Low. Suitable habitat is patchy within study area. Nearest occurrence is located at Coal Oil Point Reserve, approximately 21 miles west of the study area (MARINE, 2021)..
<i>Haliotis sorenseni</i>	White abalone	FE	Low relief, rock reefs or boulder habitat surrounded by sand between 98 and 196-foot (30 and 60-meter) depths.	Low. Lack of suitable habitat within preferred depths within study area. Patchy habitat and small populations are present along Santa Barbara coasts; however, exact occurrence location information is not available.

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
FISH				
<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	Green sturgeon – Southern DPS	FT, CSC	Anadromous fish species found in near shore marine and estuarine environments from Alaska to Baja California, Mexico. Juveniles have been collected in the San Francisco Bay up to the lower reaches of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Green sturgeon depend on large rivers to spawn, typically in deep pools in large turbulent mainstem rivers. Spawning is documented in Sacramento River, but little is known about specific spawning locations.	Low. The Project is outside of the species' known spawning range. A small number of green sturgeons have been historically reported from the southern California coast. A mature green sturgeon was reported to be caught near Dana Point, Orange County in 1978, but there are no recent observation of green sturgeon within the study area.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Southern California steelhead	FE	Marine dispersal and rearing habitats consist of nearshore vegetative cover for shelter and prey base near natal rivers/streams.	Low. Minimal suitable dispersal habitat present in nearshore study area. Historically present in Carpinteria and Rincon Creeks, approximately one to two miles from the study area, respectively.
<i>Eucyclogobius newberri</i>	Tidewater goby	FT	Lagoons and estuaries where water salinity is less than 12 parts per million and water depth between 3 and 9 feet (one and 3 meters) deep. Marine dispersal is rare and species has no dependency on marine habitats.	Absent. No suitable habitat present in study area.
<i>Sebastes paucispinis</i>	Bocaccio	FE (Puget Sound/Georgia Basin DPS), CSC	Shallow water to over 1,000 ft (305 m) deep, over rocky-reefs and soft bottom habitats, but there is strong site fidelity to rocky bottoms and outcroppings	High. Suitable habitat areas of exposed pipeline, at deep rock reefs or dispersing through the offshore Project site. Bocaccio are commonly observed beneath Platforms Gail and Grace. (Love et al., 2012).

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
REPTILES				
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green sea turtle	FT	Nest at high energy beaches on Ascension Island, Aves Island, Costa Rica and Florida in the U.S. Utilize pelagic convergence zones as juveniles and shallow coastal zones as adults. Small populations inhabit southern San Diego Bay and Long Beach/Seal Beach harbors in Southern California.	Low. No suitable nesting or foraging habitat present. Potential migration corridor in offshore study area. Green turtles are rarely observed north of Port of Long Beach in California.
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead sea turtle	FT	Inhabit tropical and temperate waters along continental shelves and estuaries. Rarely observed in Southern California. Nests along coasts of Florida up to North Carolina.	Low. No suitable nesting or foraging habitat present. Potential migration corridor in offshore study area. Loggerhead turtles are rarely observed north of San Diego.
<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	Olive Ridley sea turtle	FT	Oceanic and neritic zone migrations in eastern Pacific. Rarely observed along the southcentral coast of California. Nesting from Sonora, Mexico to Columbia and the Galapagos Islands in large arribadas.	Low. No suitable nesting or foraging habitat present. Potential migration corridor in offshore study area. Olive Ridley turtles are rarely observed north of San Diego.
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback sea turtle	FE	Western Pacific leatherbacks nest in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and migrate to California central coast following prey jellyfish and sea nettles. Observed offshore central California coast May through December.	Low. No suitable nesting habitat present. Potential migration and foraging opportunities based on prey availability within study area; however, leatherback turtles are rarely observed offshore Santa Barbara County.

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
BIRDS				
<i>Phoebastria (=Diomedea) albatrus</i>	Short-tail albatross	FE, CSC	Breeding colony occurs on Torishima Island off Japan. Non-breeding population utilized pelagic habitat along Pacific Rim to Gulf of Alaska. Primarily juveniles will use California coastal waters to feed on squid, crustaceans, and fish.	Low. Breeding habitat does not occur in study area. Low potential for juvenile birds to occur in study area during fall and early winter (Argonne National Lab, 2019).
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Marbled murrelet	FT, SE	Nest in old growth forests in San Francisco area and Pacific Northwest. Forage in nearshore marine habitats on pelagic fish and invertebrates.	Low. Potential nearshore foraging habitat present during late summer/fall migration. Nesting habitat is not present in the study area.
<i>Synthliboramphus scrippsi</i>	Scripps's Murrelet	ST	Pelagic birds that nest on islands in southern California including San Miguel, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, Santa Catalina, San Clemente, and Santa Barbara island. Feed offshore on schooling fish and zooplankton in ocean fronts where prey aggregates.	High. Suitable foraging and migrating habitat present in study area. Nesting habitat is not present in study area.
<i>Oceanodroma homochroa</i>	Ashy Storm Petrel	CSC	Pelagic; feed at night on cephalopods, crustaceans, and small fish at waters surface. Nests on South Farallon, Santa Barbara, Prince, and Santa Cruz Islands.	High. Suitable foraging and migrating habitat present in study area. Nesting habitat is not present in study area.

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>	Black storm petrel	CSC	Pelagic; forage over open water for larval spiny lobster, cephalopods, small fish and crustaceans. Nests on Santa Barbara Island and Sutil Island.	High. Suitable foraging and migrating habitat present in study area. Nesting habitat is not present in study area.
<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	California least tern	FT	Breeds on sandy beaches with minimal vegetation close to estuaries and embayments. Nearest breeding colony is located at McGrath Beach, approximately 17 miles south of the study area.	Moderate. Potential nearshore foraging habitat present during early spring migration. Nesting habitat is not present in the study area.
<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>	Western snowy plover	FT, CSC	Nests above the drift zone in sandy depressions on dune-backed, sparsely vegetated beaches. Forages for invertebrates from the swash zone to the macrophyte wrack line, on salt flats and along edges of salt marshes and salt ponds.	Present. Species observed during non-breeding season (fall and winter) on beaches in study area. Suitable nesting habitat is not present in study area.
MAMMALS				
<i>Delphinus capensis</i>	Long-beaked common dolphin	MMPA	Pelagic; found in large pods (100 to 500 individuals) in shallow, tropical, subtropical, and warmer temperate waters within 50 to 100 miles of the coast and along the continental shelf.	High. Suitable foraging habitat present in offshore study area within deeper water depths. Commonly observed in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Short-beaked common dolphin	MMPA	Pelagic; found in large groups up to thousands in cool temperate water along continental slope in waters 650 to 6,500 feet deep, but in California are common from coast to 300 miles offshore.	High. Suitable foraging habitat present in offshore study area within deeper water depths. Commonly observed in the Santa Barbara Channel.
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	MMPA	Coastal and Pelagic; circumbally temperate and tropical waters in harbors, bays, estuaries, as well as nearshore coastal waters, and deeper waters over the continental shelf.	High. Suitable foraging habitat present in offshore study area within nearshore water depths. Commonly observed in surf zone offshore Santa Barbara County and in the Santa Barbara Channel.
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin	MMPA	Pelagic; prefer deeper water (3,300 feet) but can be found feeding around continental shelf following primary prey, squid.	High. Suitable foraging habitat present in offshore study area within deeper water depths. Commonly observed in the Santa Barbara Channel.
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue whale	FE	Pelagic; Inhabit broad areas throughout the eastern North Pacific. Concentrations of blue whales have been documented feeding off California each summer and fall.	Moderate. Migration habitat is present offshore study area. Blue whales are commonly observed outside the study area in deeper waters, foraging around oil and gas platforms.
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	California gray whale	MMPA	Coastal and Pelagic; migrate through coastal shallow waters in fall and early spring. Breed in warm, shallow lagoons in Baja California. Feed in shallow softbottom habitats on benthic and epibenthic invertebrates by filtering sediments.	High. Migration corridors and suitable foraging habitat located in study area. Most likely to be present in study area mid-February through May. Breeding grounds are not present within study area.

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale	FE (Central America DPS) FT (Mexico DPS) ³	Coastal; feed in convergence zones where aggregations of krill occur. Populations off California migrate from Mexico DPS and Central America DPS to feed during summer and fall.	High. Suitable migration and foraging habitat are present in offshore and nearshore study area. Commonly observed offshore Santa Barbara County and in Santa Barbara Channel during summer and fall.
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Minke whale	MMPA	Coastal and pelagic; prefer temperate to boreal waters but are found in tropical and subtropical areas. Minke whales in California/Oregon/Washington are considered residents that do not migrate and establish home ranges. Feed on schools of small fish, crustaceans, and plankton.	High. Suitable foraging habitat is present in offshore and nearshore study area. Commonly observed offshore Santa Barbara County and in Santa Barbara Channel during summer and fall.
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin whale	FE	Pelagic migrations from Arctic and Antarctic feeding areas in summer to tropical breeding and calving areas in the winter.	Low. Suitable migration and foraging water depths are not present within study area. Fin whales are observed west of the Channel Islands.
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Northern right whale	FE	Mostly occur in central North Pacific and Bering sea. Spend summers in far northern feeding grounds and migrate south to warmer water in southern California.	Low. Species rarely observed offshore Santa Barbara County. Migration routes/patterns unknown. Observations have been recorded in southern California during winter months.
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm whale	FE	Offshore deep waters, with highest abundance off California from April to mid-June and from August to mid-November.	Low. Suitable migrating and foraging water depths are not present in study area. Sperm whales are occasionally observed west of Channel Islands.

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei whale	FE	Offshore deep waters away from the coastline. Unpredictable distribution. Breeding areas unknown.	Low. Suitable foraging water depths are not present in the study area. Rarely observed offshore California. Migration patterns and breeding areas are not well understood.
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Southern resident Killer Whale	FE	Southern resident killer whale stock consists of a small population off British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. Forage widely along the outer coast of the North Pacific where they follow chinook salmon runs as well as inland waters of the Puget Sound in spring and summer.	Low. Study area is outside of the range of federally endangered Southern Resident killer whale DPS.
	West Coast Transient killer whales	MMPA	The West Coast Transient killer whales can be observed in offshore Monterey Bay from April through June feeding on marine mammals and migrating Gray Whale calves. This stock is not a federally listed species.	Moderate: Suitable migrating and foraging habitat for west coast transient killer whale occurs in study area. Sighting of transient killer whales are rare but are occasionally observed near Channel Islands.
<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	California sea lion	MMPA	Coastal and beach areas; feed in coastal areas and influenced by anthropogenic structures and fishing activity. Prefer sandy beaches for haul-out or rocky coves for breeding.	High. Suitable foraging and haul-out habitat is present in study area. The study area does not support any known rookeries.
<i>Phoca vitulina richardsi</i>	Pacific harbor seal	MMPA	Coastal and beach areas; temperate and coastal habitats within 15 to 31 miles of their natal areas. Perform shallow and deep dives for fish, shellfish, and crustaceans.	Present. Rookery and haul-out site present in study area on east side of Casitas Pier, Carpinteria Beach.

Table 4-3. Special-Status Species Occurring Within Five Miles of the Offshore Study Area and Considered for Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity of the Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status ^{1,2}	Habitat	Probability of Occurrence
<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>	Guadalupe fur seal	FT	Offshore southern California and the Pacific Coast of Mexico. Breed on coastal rocky habitats and caves of Guadalupe Island, Mexico. Recently, few pups have been born on San Miguel Island.	Low. Suitable haul-out and rookery habitat is not present in study area and non-breeding season distribution is not well understood. Rare strandings of immature Guadalupe fur seal can occur on beaches between California and Washington states.
<i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>	Northern fur seal	MMPA	Pelagic and coastal; spend most of the year in the ocean. Nocturnal and solitary species. Breeds on rocky and sand beaches of San Miguel Island. May migrate north during summer or some animals are residents around San Miguel Island.	Moderate. Suitable haul-out and rookery habitat is present in study area; however, fur seals have not been observed utilizing mainland habitats. Potential foraging habitat available in offshore study area.
<i>Enhydra lutris nereis</i>	Southern sea otter	FT	Coastal; forage and breed in shallow coastal waters associated with giant kelp beds (<i>Macrocystis</i>) and bull kelp (<i>Nerocystis</i>). Feed on shallow water invertebrates and crustaceans. Current range extends from Pigeon Point to Gaviota Beach, northern Santa Barbara (Hatfield et al., 2019).	Low. Minimal suitable habitat present and study area is south of current known range.
¹ Status: FE = Federal Endangered FT = Federal Threatened FC = Federal Candidate SE = California State Endangered ST = California State Threatened			SC = California State Candidate FP = CDFW Fully Protected CSC = California Species of Special Concern BCC = USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern HAPC = Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPCs are defined as discrete subsets of EFH that provide important ecological functions and/or are especially vulnerable to degradation)	
² All marine mammals are Federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).				
³ Individuals from both the Central America and Mexico DPS are known to feed along the California coast.				

5.0 REGULATORY SETTING

5.1 FEDERAL

5.1.1 Special-Status Species

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), administered by the USFWS and the NMFS, provides protection to species listed as Threatened (FT) or Endangered (FE), or proposed for listing as Threatened (PFT) or Endangered (PFE). The Services maintain lists of species that are neither formally listed nor proposed but could be listed in the future. These Federal candidate species (FC) include taxa for which substantial information on biological vulnerability and potential threats exists and are maintained in order to support the appropriateness of proposing to list the taxa as an endangered or threatened species. The FESA makes it unlawful to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect an endangered species, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Anyone violating the provisions of the ESA and regulations is subject to a fine and imprisonment. An “endangered species” is any species, which the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and/or the Department of Commerce determine is in danger of extinction throughout all or a portion of its range. A “threatened species” is any species, which the Secretaries determine is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

The United States (U.S.) Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972, amended 1994, protects all marine mammals, including cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises), pinnipeds (seals and sea lions), sirenians (manatees and dugongs), sea otters, and polar bears within the waters of the U.S. Specifically, the MMPA prohibits the intentional killing or harassment of these marine mammals; however, incidental harassment, with authorization from the appropriate federal agency, may be permitted. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries (or National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]) is responsible for enforcing the MMPA.

5.1.2 Essential Fish Habitat

Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act protects Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) which is defined as “...those waters and substrate necessary for fish spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.” “Waters,” as used in this definition, are defined to include “aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish.” These may include “...areas historically used by fish where appropriate; ‘substrate’ to include sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities.” “Necessary” means, “the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species’ contribution to a healthy ecosystem.” EFH is described as a subset of all habitats occupied by a species (NOAA, 1998).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) identifies four Habitats of Particular Concern (HAPC) within the southern central California area: estuaries, rocky reefs, seagrass beds, and kelp beds. HAPCs are defined as discrete subsets of EFH that provide important ecological functions and/or are especially vulnerable to degradation. The HAPC designation does not necessarily confer additional protection or restrictions upon an area, but it helps prioritize and focus conservation efforts.

5.1.3 Waters and Wetlands

The Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulate the discharge of dredge and fill material into jurisdictional “waters of the United States” (WoUS) and wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps is responsible for the issuance of permits for the placement of dredged or fill material into WoUS pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). As defined by the Corps at 33 CFR 328.3(a)(3), WoUS are those waters that are used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; tributaries and impoundments to such waters; interstate waters including interstate wetlands; and territorial seas.

The Corps asserts jurisdiction over traditional navigable waters (TNW) and adjacent wetlands. Under Corps and EPA regulations, wetlands are defined as: “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.”

5.1.4 Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33USC 403)

In addition to Section 404, the Corps regulates activities affecting “navigable waters of the United States” under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403). Navigable waters are defined as “...*those waters of the United States that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide shoreward to the mean high-water mark and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible to use to transport interstate or foreign commerce* (33 CFR 322.2[a]).” Structures or work under or over a navigable WoUS is considered to have an impact on the navigable capacity of the waterbody (33 CFR 322.3[a]).

5.2 STATE

5.2.1 Special-Status Species

The CDFW administers a number of laws and programs designed to protect the State’s fish and wildlife resources. Principal of these is the California Endangered Species Act of 1984 (CESA) (Fish and Game Code Section 2050), which regulates the listing and take of State endangered (SE) and threatened species (ST). Under Section 2081 of CESA, CDFW may authorize an incidental take permit allowing the otherwise unlawful take of a SE or ST species.

CDFW maintains lists of Candidate-Endangered species (SCE) and Candidate-Threatened species (SCT). These candidate species are afforded the same level of protection as listed species. CDFW designates Species of Special Concern (SSC) that are species of limited distribution, declining populations, diminishing habitat, or unusual scientific, recreational, or educational value. These species do not have the same legal protection as listed species but may be added to official lists in the future. The SSC list is intended by CDFW as a management tool for consideration in future land use decisions.

5.2.2 Marine Life Protection Act

California adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999 to provide improved protection for the diversity and abundance of California's ocean habitats through a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) with the goals of sustaining, conserving and protecting marine life populations; protecting marine ecosystems; improving recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems; and protecting marine natural heritage. There is strong scientific evidence that marine protected areas restore and protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems.

5.3 LOCAL AND REGIONAL

5.3.1 City of Carpinteria

City of Carpinteria Municipal Code 12.24.090 closes the beach 750 feet (228 meters) east and west of the Carpinteria Harbor Seal rookery on Carpinteria Beach from December 1 through May 31 each year. The closure area also extends out to 1,000 feet (304 meters) offshore during this period.

5.3.2 County of Santa Barbara

The County of Santa Barbara's Coastal Plan defines environmentally sensitive habitat areas as "any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments."

Habitats which are found in the County's coastal zone include: rare and endangered species habitats (as identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife), wetlands, streams, near shore reefs, tidepools, offshore rocks, native plant communities, dunes, kelp beds, harbor seal rookeries and hauling out grounds, and seabird roosting and nesting areas.

County policy 30230 (based on the California Coastal Act) requires that marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and, where feasible, restored. Special protection shall be given to areas and species of special biological or economic significance. Uses of the marine environment shall be carried out in a manner that will sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters and that will maintain healthy populations of all species of marine organisms adequate for long-term commercial, recreational, scientific, and educational purposes.

County policy 30240(a) requires that environmentally sensitive habitat areas will be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on such resources shall be allowed within such areas.

6.0 AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

The proposed Project has the potential to cause temporary impacts to marine biological species and habitats during pipeline removal activities including impacts from vessel operations, and disturbances during breeding season, sensitive habitat disturbance, oil spills, and introduction of non-native aquatic species. To reduce the likelihood of significant impacts to marine biological resources, the following avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented by Chevron during beach, nearshore, and offshore Project activities.

AMM 1: Environmental Awareness Training. The approved biological monitor(s) will be responsible for conducting an environmental awareness training for all Project personnel to familiarize workers with surrounding common and special-status species and their habitats, applicable regulatory requirements, and measures that must be implemented to avoid or minimize potential impacts to biological resources.

AMM 2: Delineation of Work Limits. Prior to the start of the Project, beach decommissioning work area perimeters will be clearly flagged to ensure heavy equipment and vehicles stay within the permitted disturbance area, minimizing footprints to the extent necessary for equipment staging and activity, and to notify the public to avoid the active work zone. Signage will be posted on each sides of the active work zone alerting pedestrians of the hazards. Natural areas outside of the work zone shall not be disturbed. Designated equipment staging and fueling areas shall also be delineated at this time.

AMM 3: Marine Wildlife Contingency Plan Implementation. A Project Marine Wildlife Contingency Plan (MWCP) will be implemented during all offshore Project activities. A Marine Wildlife Monitor (MWM) shall be present on the offshore Project vessel and within the Beach and Offshore Operational Areas to monitor designated avoidance zones and have the authority to halt Project activities that may impact marine wildlife.

AMM 4. Harbor Seal Monitoring and Protection Plan. The Project Harbor Seal Monitoring and Protection Plan (Appendix C5) will be implemented during decommissioning activities on the bluff/beach and surf zone areas to reduce disturbances to harbor seals in the area. The Plan will include scheduling bluff/beach and surf zone project activities outside of the harbor seal breeding season and beach closure period from December 1 through May 31.

AMM 5: Pre-Decommissioning Marine Biological Dive Surveys. No more than 90 days prior to commencement of offshore activities, Chevron will conduct a pre-decommissioning marine biological survey of the sensitive habitat areas adjacent to the nearshore pipeline corridors. If sensitive seagrass species are identified, anchor locations will be relocated to avoid impacts to these protected habitats and post-decommissioning surveys would be conducted to verify seagrass beds had not been impacted by Project-related activities. Adjustments to decommissioning methodologies in sensitive habitats may be made to reduce impacts to these areas. In addition, ROV or multi-beam geophysical surveys will be conducted at each anchor location to confirm the absence of hard-bottom habitat.

AMM 6: Oil Spill Response and Contingency Plan Implementation. An Oil Spill Response and Contingency Plan (OSRCP) will be implemented during all Project activities in the event of a release of oil or contaminants.

AMM 7: Prevent Introduction of Non-Native Aquatic Species (NAS). All Project vessels will be in compliance with California's state ballast management regulations.

7.0 REFERENCES

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ATTACHMENT A

USFWS AND NMFS SPECIES LISTS

Chevron Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project

Following is the copy/pasted results of the informal search of NMFS database to generate a list of species that may be present in the Carpinteria, California Quadrangle. Query performed on June 10, 2021.

Quad Name **Carpinteria**

Quad Number **34119-D5**

- **ESA Anadromous Fish**

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -
CCC Coho ESU (E) -
CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -
NC Steelhead DPS (T) -
CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SC Steelhead DPS (E) - **X**
CCV Steelhead DPS (T) -
Eulachon (T) -
sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) - **X**

- **ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat**

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SC Steelhead Critical Habitat - **X**
CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -
Eulachon Critical Habitat -
sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
Phone: (805) 644-1766 Fax: (805) 644-3958

In Reply Refer To:

June 09, 2021

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2021-SLI-0413

Event Code: 08EVEN00-2021-E-01380

Project Name: Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project -offshore component

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve

conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.]

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office

2493 Portola Road, Suite B

Ventura, CA 93003-7726

(805) 644-1766

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2021-SLI-0413

Event Code: 08EVEN00-2021-E-01380

Project Name: Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facilities Decommissioning Project
-offshore component

Project Type: OIL OR GAS

Project Description: Decommissioning and removal of surface and subsurface offshore
facilities

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: [https://
www.google.com/maps/@34.3659627,-119.52806893151833,14z](https://www.google.com/maps/@34.3659627,-119.52806893151833,14z)



Counties: Santa Barbara County, California

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 16 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.
-

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> Population: U.S.A. only, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193	Endangered
California Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104	Endangered
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Light-footed Clapper Rail <i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6035	Endangered
Marbled Murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> Population: U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467	Threatened
Short-tailed Albatross <i>Phoebastria (=Diomedea) albatrus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/433	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered
Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i> Population: Pacific Coast population DPS-U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA), Mexico (within 50 miles of Pacific coast) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8035	Threatened

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
Arroyo (=arroyo Southwestern) Toad <i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3762	Endangered
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Tidewater Goby <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/57	Endangered

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Gambel's Watercress <i>Rorippa gambellii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4201	Endangered
Marsh Sandwort <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2229	Endangered
Salt Marsh Bird's-beak <i>Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6447	Endangered
Ventura Marsh Milk-vetch <i>Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1160	Endangered

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

- **ESA Marine Invertebrates**

Range Black Abalone (E) - X

Range White Abalone (E) - X

- **ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat**

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

- **ESA Sea Turtles**

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) - X

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) - X

Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) - X

North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) - X

- **ESA Whales**

Blue Whale (E) - X

Fin Whale (E) - X

Humpback Whale (E) - X

Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) - X

North Pacific Right Whale (E) - X

Sei Whale (E) - X

Sperm Whale (E) - X

- **ESA Pinnipeds**

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) - X

Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -

- **Essential Fish Habitat**

Coho EFH -

Chinook Salmon EFH -

Groundfish EFH - X

Coastal Pelagics EFH - X

Highly Migratory Species EFH - X

- **MMPA Species (See list at left)**
 - **ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds**
- See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office
562-980-4000**

MMPA Cetaceans - **X**

MMPA Pinnipeds - **X**

ATTACHMENT B

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

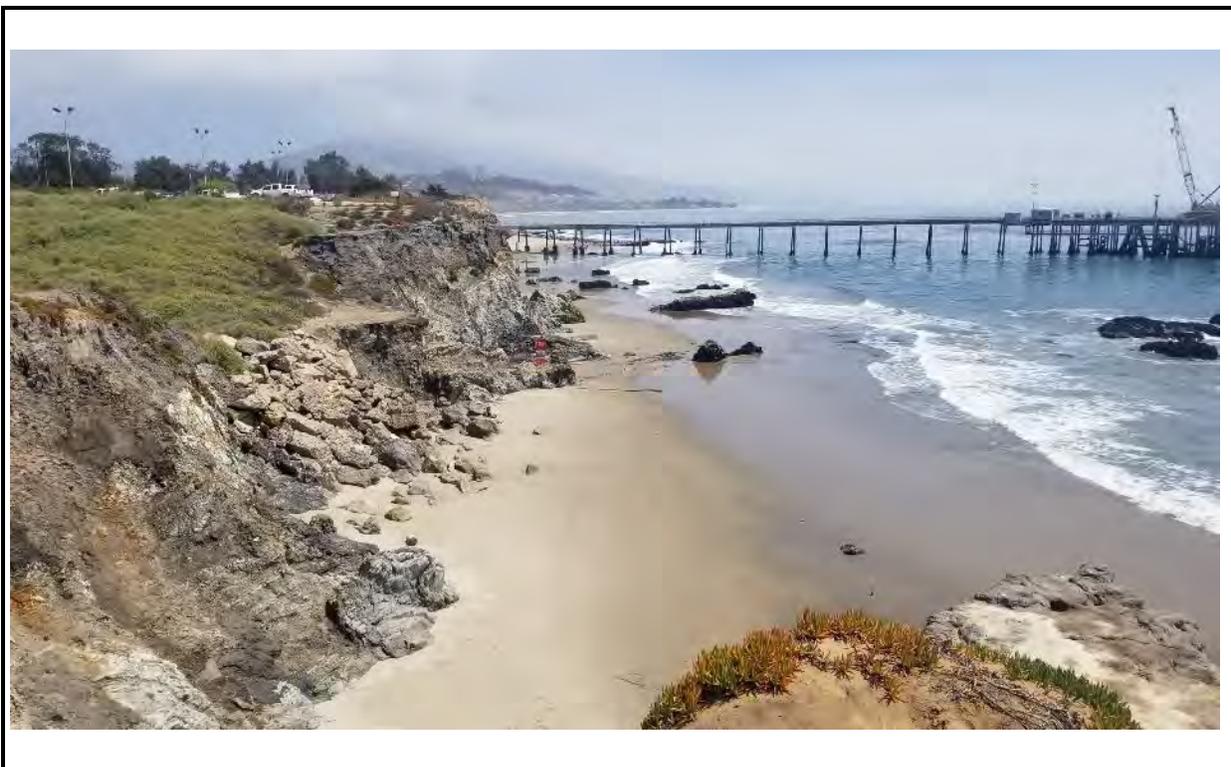


Photo 1. Study area on west side of Casitas Pier and Marketing and Marine Terminal Offloading line bundle (buried). Date: April 20, 2021, aspect east.



Photo 2. Study area on east side of Casitas Pier with Gail and Grace pipeline bundle (buried) and exposed concrete armament. Date: April 20, 2021, aspect west.

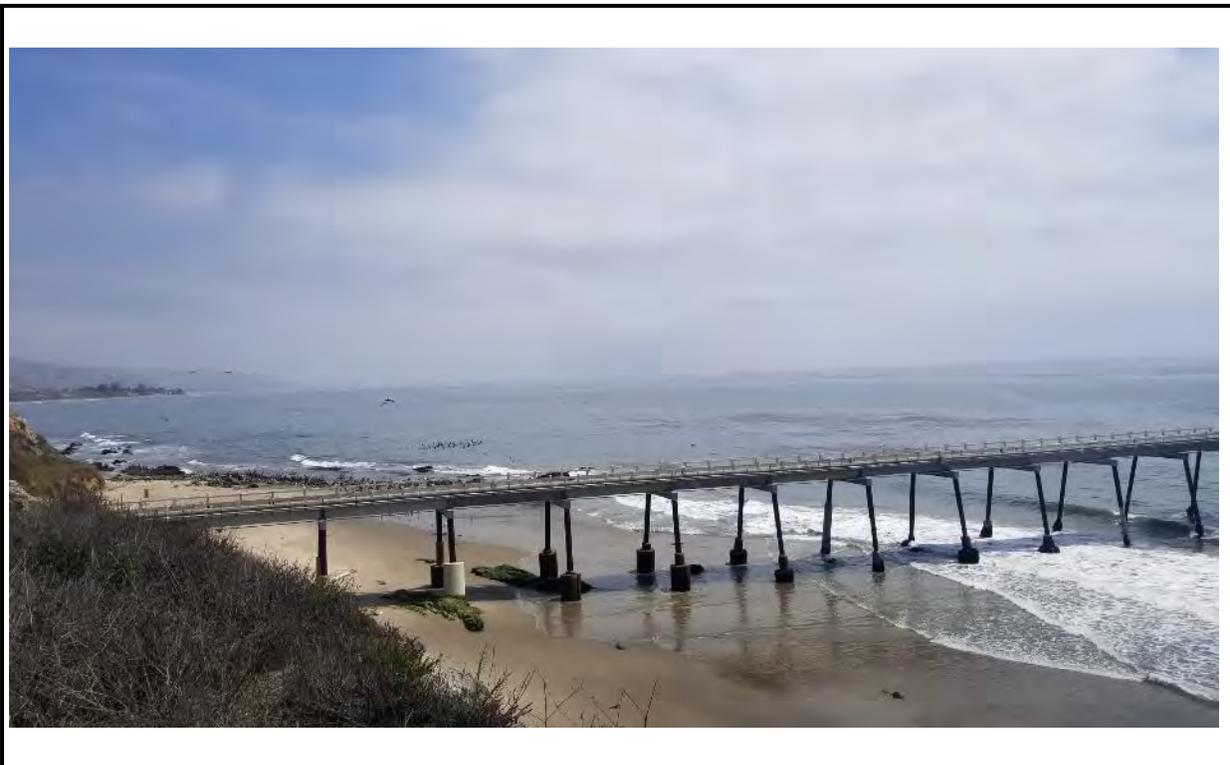


Photo 3. Casitas Pier and overview of harbor seal rookery on the east side of the Pier. Date: April 20, 2021, aspect southeast.

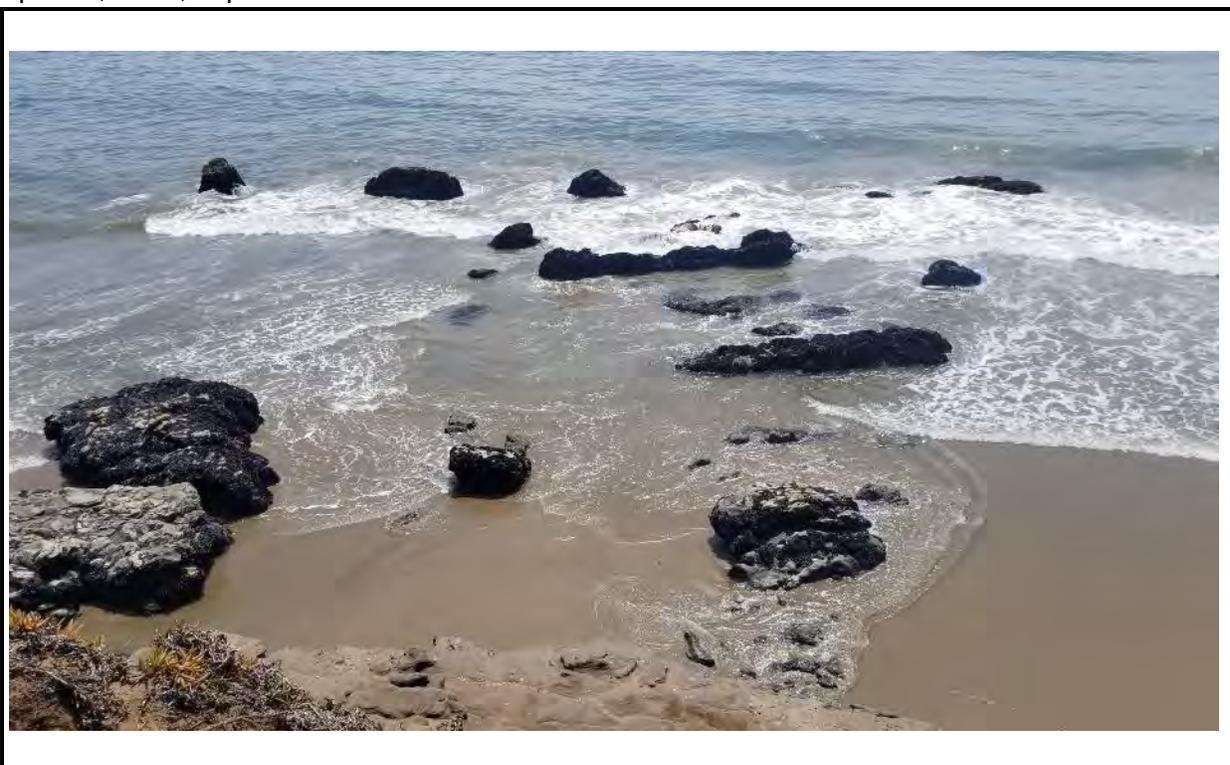


Photo 4. Overview of typical intertidal habitat dominated by mussels (*Mytilus* sp.) within study area. Date: April 20, 2021, aspect south.