

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 10

*Resource Name or #: Defense Fuel Support Point Estero Bay

P1. Other Identifier: 3300 Panorama Drive

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

***a. County:** San Luis Obispo

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** Morro Bay North 7.5' **Date:** 1995 T 29S; R 10E; Unsectioned portion Rancho Morro y Cayucos; M.D. **B.M.**

c. Address: 3300 Panorama Drive

City: Morro Bay

Zip: 93442

d. UTM: Zone: 10S; 694000 mE/ 3920150 mN

e. Other Locational Data:

Elevation: ~100' AMSL

APN 065-038-001, Part of Lot 8 in Block 1-E of the Atascadero Beach Subdivision as shown in the map recorded 2 July 1917 in Book 2 of Maps at Page 15 in the records of San Luis Obispo County.

***P3a. Description:**

The former Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Estero Bay occupies a 10-acre parcel ¼ mile east of California Highway 1 and ½ mile east of the Pacific Ocean, near the northernmost point of the City of Morro Bay. The property sits at the base of steeply-rising hills. To the north and west are residential areas composed of single-family homes and small apartment buildings. An unnamed seasonal creek runs along the northern edge of the property.

Structures on the property include two fuel tanks, one water tank, pump house, office building, garage, sheds, and appurtenant piping and fencing. Before closure in 1991, the facility also included an offshore tanker mooring point, 0.5 miles of submerged pipeline, 0.35 miles of underground pipeline within the City of Morro Bay, and a 98-mile pipeline from Morro Bay to Lemoore Naval Air Station in Fresno County.

The double-walled steel fuel tanks each hold approximately 4,350,000 gallons and are 140' in diameter. A staircase ascends the side of each tank to its roof, which has a 6' high railing around its perimeter. The tanks rest on concrete pads surrounded by concrete spill containment berms. The 25'-diameter water tank is set between the fuel tanks on a concrete slab at the top of the containment berm, and has a 131,600-gallon capacity.

The pump house is a single-story, side-gabled building with siding and roof in corrugated steel. Measuring 25'x30', it has a 2-over-2 steel-frame windows on its east and south facades and a sliding door on its east side. A shed-roofed extension, open on the south end, projects from its west side. Immediately to the east of the pump house is an outdoor area of piping and pumps
See Continuation Sheet Page 3

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP9 (Public Utility Building), HP34 (Military Property)

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo:

1979 Aerial view of facility, facing east. Highway 1 in foreground (courtesy California Coastal Records Project)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Historic

Prehistoric Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Rhine LP and CVI Group LLC
2304 W. Shaw Ave, Suite 102
Fresno, CA 93711

***P8. Recorded by:**

Dr. Daniel D Shoup, A/HC
609 Aileen Street
Oakland, CA 94609

***P9. Date Recorded:** 5/24/2016

***P10. Survey Type:**

Archival

***P11. Report Citation:** None

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

DPR 523A (1/95)

*Required information

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Name or # Defense Fuel Support Point Estero Bay

- B1. Historic Name:
- B2. Common Name: 3300 Panorama Drive
- B3. Original Use: Fuel storage and transmission
- B4. Present Use: None

*B5. **Architectural Style:** Double-walled steel fuel storage tanks

*B6. **Construction History:**

DFSP Estero Bay was constructed in 1961. The fuel tanks, water tank, office building, and pump building appear to be part of the original facility. The garage building was added between 1979 and 1986.

*B7. **Moved?** No Yes Unknown **Date:** **Original Location:**

*B8. **Related Features:**

The offshore mooring buoys, chains, anchors, and undersea pipeline originally associated with the facility were removed in 1992 after facility closure. The pipeline from DFSP Estero Bay to Lemoore Naval Air Station was cleared of fuel and filled with pressurized nitrogen in 1992.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Defense Supply Agency (now Defense Logistics Agency)

*B10. **Significance: Theme:** Cold War Military Infrastructure **Area:** Southern California

Period of Significance: 1945-1990

Property Type: Infrastructure

Applicable Criteria: N/A

History of Project Area

Rancho Moro y Cayucos was granted to Leonardo Martin Olivera and Vicente Antonio Feliz by Mexican Governor Juan B. Alvarado in 1842. Olivera was a soldier in the Monterey Company, stationed at Mission Soledad. His daughter, Maria Augustina, married Feliz in 1839, and the father and son-in-law were jointly granted the two-square-league (8,045-acre) rancho. In 1845, James McKinley, a Scottish sailor who had settled in California, purchased the rancho from Feliz and Olivera. McKinley later received patent under US Law in 1878 (Hoover et al. 1966). The project area was part of a 500.79 acre parcel (Lot #30) subdivided from Rancho Moro y Cayucos at some point in the 1880s (Harris 1874, Henderson 1890).

A homestead was located near the project area by 1897, located west of Panorama Drive between Tahiti and Trinidad Streets (USGS 1897, 1943). Topographic maps and aerial photos circa 1940 show a roughly hexagonal tree line, which perhaps served as a windbreak, on and near the project area (USACE 1942, CDF 1937). The residential neighborhood adjacent to DFSP Estero Bay was annexed to the City of Morro Bay in the 1960s and developed as single-family homes and apartments between 1960 and 1980.

The use of the Estero Bay area for petroleum storage began by 1913, when Standard Oil and General Petroleum owned property about one mile north and one mile east of the project area, respectively (Parsons 1913). The near-shore deep water and relatively sheltered environment of Estero Bay allowed the development of offshore docking platforms for tankers. By 1937 the 'Standard Oil Company Estero Bay Tankage and Loading Station' had an offshore dock and pipelines (USACE 1937). By 1941 a facility called the 'Valley Pipeline Terminal' was also located ½ mile south of the project area. These facilities were active until the 1990s (USACE 1937, 1942; CDF 1941; USGS 1957, 1965, 1995). *See Continuation Sheet Page 3*

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: HP9 (Public Utility Building), HP34 (Military Property)

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

*B12. **References:**

See Continuation Sheet Page 4

B13. **Remarks:**

*B14. **Evaluator:** Dr. Daniel D. Shoup, www.ahc-heritage.com

***Date of Evaluation:** 5/24/2016

(This space reserved for official comments.)

*Recorded by: Daniel Shoup

*Date: 5/24/2016 Continuation Update

***P3a. Description** (Continued from Page 1)

The single-story cinder-block office building measures 28'x30'. A row of narrow windows runs just below the roofline on the north and south sides of the building, and aluminum-frame windows meet at the northwest corner. Another aluminum slider is set to the north of the entrance door, which opens onto the west façade. A second door opens near the middle of the east façade. The roof has broad eaves and is covered in asphalt sheeting. An outdoor pump and appurtenant piping is located immediately north of the office building.

The corrugated metal garage measures 40'x25' and has shallow plain front gables beneath slightly-projecting eaves. A roll door 8' wide is set below the north gable, while an entrance door with upper light opens onto the center of the south façade. The east and west sides of the building have no openings. Aerial photography suggests that the garage was built between 1979 and 1986.

A west-facing 5'x8' storage shed with corrugated metal sides and roof, shallow plain gables stands between the garage and office.

The property is bounded by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire. Several juniper and cypress trees stand on the perimeter of the site.

***B10. Significance** (Continued from Page 2)

DFSP Estero Bay and the Naval Fuel Supply Program in Southern California

During World War II, a network of military fuel supply facilities was established along the West Coast by the Army-Navy Petroleum Board. An entity of the Department of the Interior until 1945, after the war it was transferred to the War Department and renamed the Joint Army-Navy Purchasing Agency. In 1962 it was consolidated into the Defense Supply Agency (now known as the Defense Logistics Agency) as the Defense Fuel Supply Center, with a mandate to manage Department of Defense petroleum requirements (DLA 2009).

Lemoore Naval Air Station (NAS) was constructed beginning in 1961 about 10 miles west of Lemoore (Fresno County), to support fleet carrier squadrons, train personnel, and provide service and support. The initial investment in the facility was over \$13 million, and 1962 payroll was about \$20 million per year. After the station opened in late 1961, fighter squadrons previously based at Moffett Field, Alameda, and Miramar were transferred to Lemoore. In the late 1960s, Lemoore NAS became the master training center for carrier-based air squadrons in the Pacific Fleet (Coletta and Bauer 1985:283).

Jet fuel for aircraft based at Lemoore NAS was procured by the Naval Fuel Office at Naval Supply Depot San Pedro. This facility, located on Terminal Island in the Port of Los Angeles, had been the focus of Naval fueling operations in Southern California since 1942. In July 1961, apparently in preparation for the opening of Lemoore NAS that August, the Naval Fuel Office allocated \$2.7 million to construct a marine terminal at Estero Bay that could store and pump fuel from offshore tankers to Lemoore. The Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Estero Bay was one of several pipeline and storage stations constructed during the period, enabling Naval Supply Depot San Pedro to directly supply eight Naval and Marine Air Stations by the end of 1962 (Coletta and Bauer 1985:607).

When complete, DFSP Estero Bay included an offshore tanker mooring point; a ½-mile long, 16-inch submerged pipeline from the mooring point to shore; a 0.35-mile underground pipeline from shore to the tank station itself; two large fuel tanks; a pumping station; and a 98-mile pipeline from Morro Bay to Lemoore NAS (Fluor Daniel GTI 1996:2). The volume of fuel delivered to Lemoore NAS via the Estero Bay facility were considerable: 680,000 barrels of jet fuel were provided in 1968 alone (Coletta and Bauer 1985:607).

Aerial photos (see Page 10 below) show little physical change to the property between 1972 and the present. The office and pump house were in their current locations by 1972. The corrugated metal garage was added at some point in the early 1980s. DFSP Estero Bay was closed in 1991 as part of the consolidation of defense facilities on the West Coast after the end of the Cold War. In 1992, the offshore mooring buoys, chains, anchors, and undersea pipeline were removed. The Morro Bay to Lemoore pipeline cleared of fuel and filled with pressurized nitrogen, also in 1992 (Fluor Daniel 1996:2).

After facility closure, the DFSP Estero Bay site was investigated for potential soil pollution. Jet fuel hydrocarbons were found in groundwater at depths up to 40 feet below grade (Fluor Daniels 1996). After remediation, the site was sold as surplus by the General Services Agency in 2006.

See Continuation Sheet Page 4

*Recorded by: Daniel Shoup

*Date: 5/24/2016

Continuation

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***B10. Significance** (Continued from Page 3)

Significance and Integrity

DFSP is located in its original location and apparently retains its original facilities. It appears to possess integrity of location, workmanship, feeling, association, and setting. The integrity of design and materials has been compromised by the removal of the mooring dock and pipelines that served the facility, making it unable to fulfil its original purpose as a fuel storage facility.

In order to be eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, a property must meet one of the Register's four criteria of significance. DFSP Estero does not appear eligible under Criterion 1 ('Resources that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States'): although the facility was part of an important historical trend (the development of military infrastructure during the Cold War), it was one of at least eight tank farms and pipeline facilities constructed by the Naval Fuel Office at San Pedro during the early 1960s, and one of hundreds around the country. It does not appear to be eligible under Criterion 2 ('Resources that are associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history') because historical research identified no such persons as having been associated with the facility during its period of operation. Since the buildings on the site are not architecturally distinctive, and the double-walled steel fuel storage tanks are among thousands of similar structures constructed in California during the period of significance, DFSP Estero Bay likewise does not appear eligible under Criterion 3 ('Resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values'). Likewise, the buildings themselves are unlikely to 'yield information important to history or prehistory' (Criterion 4). For these reasons DFSP Estero Bay does not appear eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources.

Bibliography

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1937a San Luis Obispo and Vicinity 15' Quadrangle. On file, Earth Sciences and Map Library, UC Berkeley.

1942 San Luis Obispo County Aerial Photomap, Sheet 90-38. On file, Earth Sciences and Map Library, UC Berkeley.

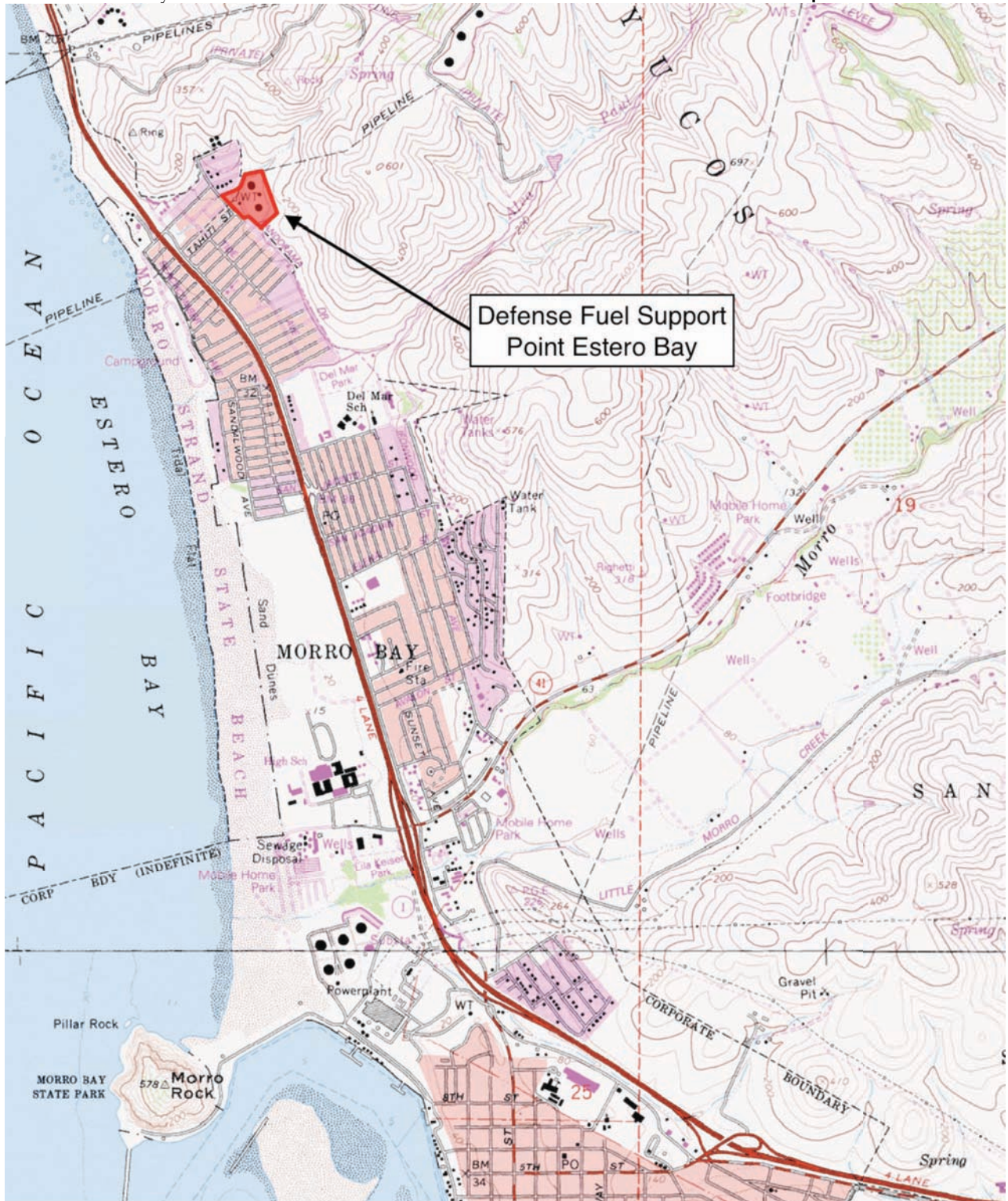
USGS (US Geological Survey)

1897 Cayucos 15' Quadrangle

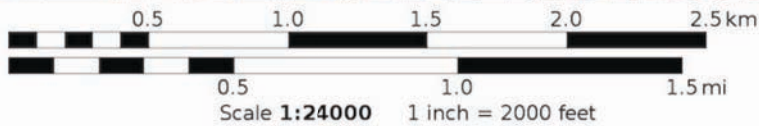
1943 Cayucos 15' Quadrangle.

1965 Morro Bay North 7.5' Quadrangle.

1995 Morro Bay North 7.5' Quadrangle.



Mercator Projection
WGS84
USNG Zone 10SFE





*Recorded by: Daniel Shoup

*Date: 5/24/2016

Continuation

Update



North tank (left) and water tank (right)



South Tank

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*Date: 5/24/2016

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Water tank showing concrete berm. Facing east.



Office Building, looking west. Panorama Drive in middle ground.

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Continuation

Update



Pump house, showing fuel piping area. Facing northwest. Panorama Drive in left background.

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*Date: 5/24/2016

Continuation

Update



Aerial Photographs of DFSP Estero Bay

Upper left: 1972, looking east. Note Standard Oil tank farm on hillside at upper L.

Lower left: 1979, looking east.

Upper right: January 1987. Note presence of garage.

Lower right: June 1993.

Photos: California Coastal Records Project