



**California Native Plant Society**  
East Bay Chapter  
Conservation Committee

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**Conservation Analyst Report**

July-August 2007  
Lech Naumovich

**Priority Plant Protection Areas** – The Conservation Analyst is collaborating with the Rare Plants Committee, providing review, comments and suggestions on the most effective presentation and distribution of a document that maps and describes botanically important areas in the East Bay. EBCNPS has successfully secured \$8,000 in grants for the project.

**Concord Naval Weapons Station** – Since the CNWS was finally officially surplused by the Navy, Concord has continued the reuse planning with the appointed Citizens Advisory Committee, and attend the Technical Advisory Group by invitation from the City. EBCNPS has attended and/or facilitated a number of meetings, coordinating with other local environmental groups to help establish a platform, coordinate information exchange, and develop outreach ideas.

**Upland Habitat Goals Project** – The Vegetation Committee has nearly finished the final vegetation map that will be used as a base layer in the UHGP analysis. The last meeting is scheduled for September, which will finalize the base layer of data and some of the most important guiding scientific principles. EBCNPS is on the steering committee for this project due to be completed in 2008.

**Pittsburg** – Pressure to develop on Pittsburg hillsides has inspired a group of local residents backed by environmental groups to ask the city to develop a Hillside Protection Ordinance. Currently, Greenbelt Alliance, Save Our Hills, Sierra Club, and Save Mt. Diablo have taken an active interest in ensuring a proper ordinance is penned. EBCNPS has provided public comment to the planning commission and has been recognized in a *Contra Costa Times* article for its involvement.

**Springtown** – EBCNPS board members and volunteers, notably Mary Ann Hannon and Heath Bartosh, continue efforts to increase awareness and launch a community based movement to help communicate the scientific and cultural importance of this site. A site visit was organized in August for Zone 7 Water District and ESA biological consultants regarding management opportunities relating to the Sink. The new group, Friends of Springtown Preserve, is hoping to help involve Livermore in securing and properly managing this irreplaceable alkali scrub and sink environment. A website is currently being designed with the help of members of Mount Diablo Audubon.

**A's stadium in Fremont** – The Oakland A's have filed for a development agreement with the City of Fremont in order to move forward with stadium plans. EBCNPS is working with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and other groups to ensure that rare species and vernal pools are protected. EBCNPS

volunteers, notably, Janet Gawthrop and Carol Castro, have been attending meetings and providing input into the process.

East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan – The HCP was finally approved by all local cities, counties, and the regulatory agencies! EBCNPS continues to support the process as it starts to consider implementation strategies. At a recent mountain-top ceremony, EBCNPS volunteers Elaine Jackson and Dick Vrmeer were present to accept an award from Contra Costa County on behalf of their participation.

Serpentine Prairie – EBCNPS is working with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) in order to communicate important information and ideas as a management and restoration plan for Redwood Park's serpentine prairie is being created. EBCNPS hopes to see a viable, productive population of *Presidio Clarkia* thrive at this site.

City of Richmond General Plan Update – EBCNPS is providing species lists and information local to Richmond to help increase awareness about local biodiversity, including rare plant populations. Additionally, EBCNPS has commented on two inland developments [Forest Green and Canyon Oaks II] that threaten rare plant communities and populations including Loma Prieta Hoita (*Hoita strobilina*), riparian willow scrub, and coast live oak woodland.

Apperson Ridge – In one of the undeveloped landscapes of the East Bay, near Sunol Wilderness, a project that was approved about two decades ago is moving forward. A quarry is planned in this area with great impacts on local and regional flora and wildlife. EBCNPS volunteer Sue Rosenthal has been helping collect information and monitor the progress of this highly contentious project.

Extension of East Bay Regional Park District AA Funding – EBCNPS has offered to help and provide input on botanically important areas in the East Bay. The EBRPD is looking to renew their AA bond which has helped them fund about \$500,000 for projects and conservation purchases.

San Francisco Public Utilities Company Expansion Project – EBCNPS got involved early in the process of investigating impacts and mitigation for a public water project extending from the Sierra Nevada to San Francisco. EBCNPS' conservation chair, Laura Baker, along with Carol Castro and others have attended and commented in public meetings about the scientific aspects of these potential projects. EBCNPS is working with other interested CNPS chapters and local groups such as Audubon and Alameda Creek Alliance on monitoring the progress of this Project.