
APPENDIX D

FOCUSED PLANT SURVEY RESULTS



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To: Sally Rideout
From: Daniel Edelstein, Senior Biologist
Date: September 25, 2019

Re: Focused survey results for Congdon's tarplant at 965 Weeks Street, East Palo Alto, California

On September 24, 2019, I conducted a focused plant survey to determine the presence/absence of a special-status plant species with potential to occur at the 965 Weeks Street, East Palo Alto project site. The target species was California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank 1B Congdon's tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* spp. *congdonii*).

As background, Congdon's tarplant typically grows amid valley and foothill grassland habitat, often on alkaline-rich soils in Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and San Luis Obispo counties. However, this species is found on a range of substrates, and is tolerant of disturbed and ruderal (weedy) areas; it often occurs in patches of non-native grassland. The species is known from the East San Francisco Bay Area, Salinas Valley, and Los Osos Valley. This low-growing annual herb is most observable during its peak blooming period, from late summer to early fall.

CNPS Rare Plant Rank 1B species are considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. Impacts to such species require mitigation under the California Environmental Quality Act, because all CNPS 1B species meet the definitions of Sections 2062 and 2067 of the California Fish and Game Code pertaining to the California Endangered Species Act, and are considered eligible for state listing.

MEMORANDUM

Before conducting the survey, I reviewed several applicable resources, including a *California Natural Diversity Database* (CNDDDB) query report for the target species dated September 24, 2019. It noted that the nearest, most recent documented presence of Congdon's tarplant was approximately 0.9-mile from the project site, per an observation of 17 individuals in 2001.

The 2.7-acre project site consists of an upland, ruderal, urban vacant parcel. During the survey, my method for searching for the target species was conducting meandering walking surveys throughout the site. Based on this method, I observed all plant species present on the site.

During the survey, the following common non-native grass and forb species were observed throughout the site: sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), field mustard (*Brassica rapa*), wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), common sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*).

In conclusion, Congdon's tarplant was not present on the project site during the focused plant survey. Focused plant survey results for special-status species such as Congdon's tarplant that are not federally or state-listed are generally considered valid for about five years. Please contact me with any questions.