

March 25, 2022

Project No. 2102-3681

Gary and Catherine Miller  
755 Sunshine Drive  
Los Altos, CA 94024

Subject: Spring Botanical Survey, 4455 Almond Drive, Templeton, California

Dear Gary and Catherine,

Padre Associates, Inc. (Padre) has prepared this letter report (Report) to document the results of a spring botanical survey conducted in support of a Conditional Use Permit for the construction of a new residential development (Project) at 4455 Almond Drive in Templeton, San Luis Obispo County, California; Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 033-281-041 (Project Site). The survey was conducted as a follow-up to the biological resources assessment survey that was completed in November 2021 and documented in the Biological Resources Assessment Report (BRA Report) prepared by Padre in December 2021. The purpose of the spring botanical survey was to capture the typical blooming period (March through June) for potentially occurring special-status plant species of the Project region, when the species were readily identifiable. This Report provides a summary of field survey methods and results, a figure depicting the Project Site area, site photographs, and a comprehensive list of plant species observed during the November 2021 and March 2022 surveys.

## **METHODS**

Prior to conducting the field survey, Padre reviewed the results of the query of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) documented in the December 2021 BRA Report to determine which special-status plant species have the highest potential to occur within the Project Site. On March 22, 2022, Padre Biologist, Christina Santala completed a field survey within the Biological Survey Area (BSA) focused on the presence/absence of special-status plant species and the suitability of habitat to support these species. Note that the typical blooming period for regionally occurring special-status plant species is April through June. However, Padre decided that a mid-March survey was appropriate because the bloom season appeared to be earlier than expected based on observations of regional reference sites, possibly due to insufficient rainfall this winter and overall regional climate conditions.

The BSA encompassed the entire parcel including the proposed Project disturbance footprint. Field survey methods consisted of walking transects throughout the BSA. All plant species observed were recorded. Plants that were not positively identified in the field were further examined using appropriate botanical keys, including The Jepson Manual Vascular Plants of California (Baldwin et. al., 2012).

## FINDINGS

No special-status plant species were observed during the March 2022 field survey. Based on the CNDDDB query and as discussed in the BRA Report, special-status plant species with the highest potential to occur include Miles' milk-vetch (*Astragalus didymocarpus* var. *milesianus*), yellow-flowered eriastrum (*Eriastrum luteum*), Eastwood's larkspur (*Delphinium parryi* ssp. *eastwoodiae*), mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*), and La Panza mariposa-lily (*Calochortus simulans*), and Santa Lucia dwarf rush (*Juncus luciensis*). The vegetation communities within the BSA were consistent with those described in the BRA Report including Wild oats and annual brome grassland, Orchard, Ornamental, and Ruderal. Overall, spring conditions were observed as evidenced by substantial cover of annual grasses and forbs in their early to mid-bloom stages, and the almond (*Prunus* sp.) and walnut (*Juglans* sp.) trees were beginning to bud and flower.

## CONCLUSION

No special-status plants were observed within the BSA during November and March field surveys. In addition, there are no sensitive vegetation communities occurring within the BSA. Therefore, no further mitigation measures related to botanical resources are recommended prior to Project implementation and/or Project-related ground disturbances.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the contents of this Report, please contact Christina Santala at [csantala@padreinc.com](mailto:csantala@padreinc.com), or (805) 786-2650, ext. 113.

Sincerely,

Padre Associates, Inc.



Christina Santala  
Project Biologist

Attachments: Figure 1 – Biological Survey Area Map  
Site Photographs  
Comprehensive Plant List

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## REFERENCES

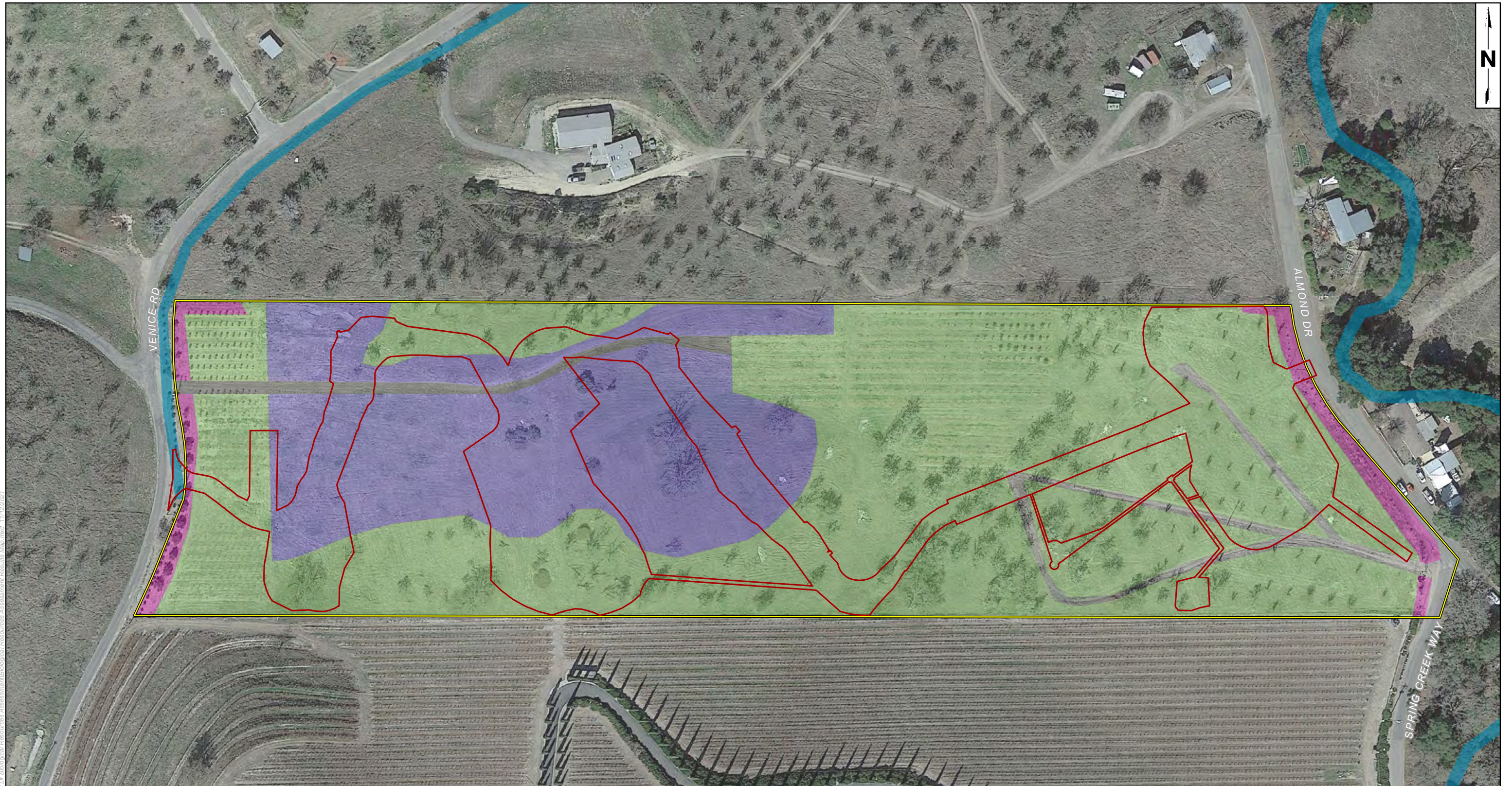
- Baldwin, Bruce G., Goldman, Douglas H., Keil, David J., Rosatti, Thomas J. 2012. The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition. University of California Press. Berkeley, California.
- Calflora. 2022. Information on California plants for education, research and conservation. [web application]. 2022. Berkeley, California: The Calflora Database [a non-profit organization]. Available: <https://www.calflora.org/> (Accessed March 2022).
- California Department of Wildlife (CDFW). 2022. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch, Sacramento, CA. Online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>. Accessed March 2022.
- California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2022. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v8-03 0.39). Website <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed November 2021].

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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**Figure 1 – Project Site Map  
Site Photographs  
Comprehensive Plant List**





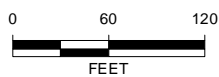
**LEGEND:**  
 [Yellow outline] Project Site Limit  
 [Red outline] Limits of Disturbance

**Vegetation Communities**  
 [Green] Orchard - Almond / Walnut / Olive  
 [Pink] Ornamental

[Grey] Ruderal / Developed  
 [Purple] Wild oats and annual brome grassland

**NWI Wetland Type**  
 [Blue] Riverine

**MAP EXTENT:**



Source: Google Earth Pro Imagery February 2021, County of San Luis Obispo, NWI 2020, Above Grade Engineering July 2021  
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 0405 Feet  
 Notes: This map was created for informational and display purposes only.



PROJECT NAME: 4455 ALMOND DR  
 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT  
 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CA  
 PROJECT NUMBER: 2102-3681  
 DATE: December 2021

**PROJECT SITE MAP**

**FIGURE 1**

F:\GIS\Projects\GIS Maps\Map - Project\4455 Almond Dr - Biological Resources Assessment Results Map.mxd 11/12/2021





Photo 1. Representative view of Orchard and Ruderal vegetation spring conditions (aspect northwest; 3/22/22).



Photo 2. Representative view of annual grassland spring conditions (aspect east; 3/22/22).





Photo 3. Proposed Project footprint area at highest point of the BSA, spring conditions (aspect north; 3/22/22).



Photo 4. Additional view of annual grassland vegetation; Orchard and Ornamental plantings visible at bottom of slope (aspect southwest; 3/22/22).

**Comprehensive List of Plants Observed within the BSA  
4455 Almond Drive, Templeton, CA**

| <b>Scientific Name</b>                        | <b>Common Name</b>    | <b>Habit</b> | <b>Wetland<br/>Indicator<br/>Status</b> | <b>Native<br/>Status</b> | <b>Family</b> | <b>Cal-IPC<br/>Rating</b> | <b>Listing<br/>Status</b> |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Acmispon americanus</i>                    | Spanish lotus         | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Fabaceae      |                           |                           |
| <i>Acmispon brachycarpus</i>                  | Short podded lotus    | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Fabaceae      |                           |                           |
| <i>Agoseris grandiflora</i>                   | Agoseris              | PH           | -                                       | N                        | Asteraceae    |                           |                           |
| <i>Amsinckia intermedia</i>                   | Common fiddleneck     | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Boraginaceae  |                           |                           |
| <i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>                 | Narrow-leaf milkweed  | PH           | FAC                                     | N                        | Apocynaceae   |                           |                           |
| <i>Avena barbata</i>                          | Slender wild oats     | AG           | -                                       |                          | Poaceae       | Moderate                  |                           |
| <i>Avena fatua</i>                            | Wild oats             | AG           | -                                       |                          | Poaceae       | Moderate                  |                           |
| <i>Baccharis pilularis</i>                    | Coyote brush          | S            | -                                       | N                        | Asteraceae    |                           |                           |
| <i>Brassica nigra</i>                         | Black mustard         | AH           | -                                       |                          | Brassicaceae  | Moderate                  |                           |
| <i>Bromus diandrus</i>                        | Ripgut grass          | AG           | -                                       |                          | Poaceae       | Moderate                  |                           |
| <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>                      | Soft chess            | AG           | FACU                                    |                          | Poaceae       | Limited                   |                           |
| <i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>                  | Italian thistle       | AH           | -                                       |                          | Asteraceae    | Moderate                  |                           |
| <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>                 | Yellow star-thistle   | AH           | -                                       |                          | Asteraceae    | High                      |                           |
| <i>Croton setiger</i>                         | Turkey mullein        | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Euphorbiaceae |                           |                           |
| <i>Dipterostemon capitatus</i>                | Blue dicks            | PH           | -                                       | N                        | Themidaceae   |                           |                           |
| <i>Epilobium brachycarpum</i>                 | Willow herb           | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Onagraceae    |                           |                           |
| <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>                     | Redstem filaree       | AH           | -                                       |                          | Geraniaceae   | Limited                   |                           |
| <i>Festuca microstachys</i>                   | Small fescue          | AG           | -                                       | N                        | Poaceae       |                           |                           |
| <i>Festuca myuros</i>                         | Foxtail fescue        | AG           | FACU                                    |                          | Poaceae       | Moderate                  |                           |
| <i>Hemizonia congesta</i>                     | Hayfield tar-weed     | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Asteraceae    |                           |                           |
| <i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>                | Telegraph weed        | AH           | -                                       |                          | Asteraceae    |                           |                           |
| <i>Juglans sp.</i>                            | California walnut     | T            | FACU                                    | N                        | Juglandaceae  |                           |                           |
| <i>Juglans regia</i>                          | English walnut        | T            | -                                       |                          | Juglandaceae  |                           |                           |
| <i>Lactuca serriola</i>                       | Prickly wild lettuce  | AH           | FACU                                    |                          | Asteraceae    |                           |                           |
| <i>Lupinus albifrons</i>                      | Silver bush lupine    | S            | -                                       | N                        | Fabaceae      |                           |                           |
| <i>Lupinus bicolor</i>                        | Miniature lupine      | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Fabaceae      |                           |                           |
| <i>Lupinus succulentus</i>                    | Succulent lupine      | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Fabaceae      |                           |                           |
| <i>Marrubium vulgare</i>                      | Horehound             | PH           | FACU                                    |                          | Lamiaceae     | Limited                   |                           |
| <i>Medicago polymorpha</i>                    | Bur clover            | AH           | FACU                                    |                          | Fabaceae      | Limited                   |                           |
| <i>Nerium oleander</i>                        | Oleander              | T            | -                                       |                          | Apocynaceae   |                           |                           |
| <i>Olea europaea</i>                          | Olive                 | T            | -                                       |                          | Oleacea       | Limited                   |                           |
| <i>Polygonum aviculare</i>                    | Prostrate knotweed    | A/PH         | FAC                                     |                          | Polygonaceae  |                           |                           |
| <i>Prunus sp.</i>                             | Cultivated almond     | T            | -                                       |                          | Rosaceae      |                           |                           |
| <i>Quercus douglasii</i>                      | Blue oak              | T            | -                                       | N                        | Fagaceae      |                           |                           |
| <i>Stebbinsoseris heterocarpa</i>             | Grassland stebbinsose | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Asteraceae    |                           |                           |
| <i>Stephanomeria virgata ssp. pleurocarpa</i> | Tall stephanomeria    | AH           | -                                       | N                        | Asteraceae    |                           |                           |
| <i>Silybum marianum</i>                       | Milk thistle          | AH           | -                                       |                          | Asteraceae    | Limited                   |                           |



**Comprehensive List of Plants Observed within the BSA  
4455 Almond Drive, Templeton, CA**

|                                   |                     |      |      |   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|---|---------------|
| <i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i> | Poison oak          | S    | FACU | N | Anacardiaceae |
| <i>Verbena lasiostachys</i>       | Western vervain     | PH   | FAC  | N | Verbenaceae   |
| <i>Vicia benghalensis</i>         | Mediterranean vetch | AH/V | -    |   | Fabaceae      |

Notes:

Scientific nomenclature follows Baldwin (2012).

N - Native species

Habit definitions:

AG - Annual grass.

AH - Annual herb.

F - Fern

PG - Perennial grass.

PH - Perennial herb.

PV - Perennial vine.

S - Shrub

T - Tree

Wetland indicator status (Lichvar and Kartesz, 2016):

OBL (Obligate Wetland Plants) - Almost always occur in wetlands.

FACW (Facultative Wetland Plants) - Usually occur in wetland, but may occur in non-wetlands.

FAC (Facultative Wetland Plants) - Occur in wetlands and non-wetlands.

FACU (Facultative Upland Plants) - Usually occur in non-wetlands, but may occur in wetlands.

UPL (Upland Plants) - Almost always occur in non-wetlands.

Cal-IPC (California Invasive Plant Council) Ratings:

High - These species have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Most are widely distributed

Moderate - These species have substantial and apparent-but generally not severe-ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and

Limited - These species are invasive but their ecological impacts are minor on a statewide level or there was not enough information to justify a higher score.

CNPS (California Native Plant Society) Ranking System; CRPR (California Rare Plant Rank):

1A - Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere

1B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

2A - Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere

2B - Plants, rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

3 - Plants about which more information is needed – a review list

4 - Plant of limited distribution – a watch list

CRPR Threat Ranks:

0.1 - Seriously threatened in California

0.2 - Moderately threatened in California

0.3 - Not very threatened in California