

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, 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

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

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