



## California Native Plant Society

East Bay Chapter  
Conservation Committee

---

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Robin Griffin  
City of Pleasanton  
200 Old Bernal Avenue  
PO Box 520  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

### **RE: Rare and unusual plants of the Staples Ranch vicinity**

Dear Mrs. Griffin:

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a non-profit organization of more than 10,000 laypersons, professional botanists, and academics organized into 32 chapters throughout California. The Society's mission is to increase the understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation.

Although the comment period for the Notice of Preparation for the Staples Ranch project has expired [parcel nos: 946-1128-002-09 and 946-1128-003-09], the East Bay Chapter of CNPS (EBCNPS) hopes that you and the consulting biologists will accept a list of rare and unusual plant species likely to occur on site (please see attached "**CEQA-Protected Rare and Unusual Plants of the Livermore Valley and Altamont Pass Regions 2005**").

The Livermore Valley is known to be a repository for rare and unusual plant species that occur on alkaline soils, in association with vernal pools, and in arid environments. Staples Ranch separates the City of Livermore from Pleasanton may serve as an important wildlife and plant corridor, connecting the Mt. Diablo area with the Mt. Hamilton range.

We appreciate the City making the Initial Study (IS) publicly, and easily, available. We hope that the City will require the consultant to follow the California Department of Fish and Game botanical survey standards in order to ensure a proper ecological assessment of this project site, including any changes in hydrology since the previous survey of 1993.

Please do not hesitate to call us at (510) 734-0335 with further questions and concerns. We ask that you continue to keep us informed, especially when the DEIR is available.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

22

Lech Naumovich  
Conservation Analyst  
California Native Plant Society  
East Bay Chapter  
PO Box 5597  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
(510) 734-0335  
[conservation@ebcnps.org](mailto:conservation@ebcnps.org)  
[www.ebcnps.org](http://www.ebcnps.org)

CC:

Pat Cashman, Alameda County Surplus Property Authority  
Tom Fraser, Wetlands Resources Associates  
Eric Brown, City of Livermore  
Mary Ann Showers, DFG



**CEQA-Protected Rare and Unusual Plants  
of the Livermore Valley and Altamont Pass Regions  
2005  
(Statewide Rare Plants in Upper Case)**

<b>Rank in East Bay</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Habitat</b>
A2	<i>Allenrolfea occidentalis</i>	iodine bush	Alkali areas
A1	<i>Allium crispum</i>	crinkled onion	Dry Open Slopes; Serpentine; Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Amsinckia eastwoodiae</i>	Eastwood's fiddleneck	Grassland; Misc. habitats
*A1	AMSINCKIA GRANDIFLORA	large-flowered fiddleneck	Grassland; Sand or Sandstone; Misc. habitats
*A2	AMSINCKIA LUNARIS	bent-flowered fiddleneck	Grassland; Woodland; Misc. habitats
A1	<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>didymocarpus</i> ( <i>A. gambelianus</i> is more common)	two-seeded milkvetch	Grassland
*A1	ASTRAGALUS TENER VAR. TENER	alkali milk-vetch	Alkali areas; Grassland; Vernal Pools; Misc. Wetlands
A2	<i>Atriplex argentea</i> var. <i>mohavensis</i>	silverscale	Alkali areas
*A2	ATRIPLEX CORDULATA	heartscale	Alkali areas; Grassland; Misc. Wetlands
*A2	ATRIPLEX CORONATA VAR. CORONATA	crownscale	Alkali areas; Grassland; Vernal Pools
*A2	ATRIPLEX DEPRESSA	brittlescale	Alkali areas; Grassland; Misc. Wetlands
*A2	ATRIPLEX JOAQUINIANA	San Joaquin saltbush	Alkali areas; Grassland; Misc. Wetlands
A1	<i>Atriplex subspicata</i>	saltbush	Alkali areas
*A1	BALSAMORHIZA MACROLEPIS VAR. MACROLEPIS	big-scale balsamroot	Grassland; Serpentine
A1	<i>Bidens laevis</i>	bur-marigold	Freshwater Marsh; Misc. Wetlands
*A2	BLEPHARIZONIA PLUMOSA	big tarplant	Grassland; Scrub
A2	<i>Carex nudata</i>	torrent sedge	Rock, Tallus or Scree; Riparian; Sand or Sandstone areas
A2	<i>Carex senta</i>	rough sedge	Riparian areas; Misc. Wetlands
*A2	CENTROMADIA PARRYI SSP. CONGDONII ( <i>Hemizonia parryi</i> ssp. <i>congdonii</i> in Jepson Manual)	Congdon's tarplant	Alkali areas; Grassland
A2	<i>Chamaesyce ocellata</i> ssp. <i>ocellata</i>	valley spurge	Sand or Sandstone
A1x	<i>Chamomilla occidentalis</i> (historical-1938) ( <i>C. suaveolens</i> is more common)	valley pineapple weed	Alkali areas; Salt Marsh; Vernal Pools
A1	<i>Collinsia bartsiiifolia</i> var. <i>bartsiiifolia</i>	white Chinese houses	Sand or Sandstone
*A1	CORDYLANTHUS MOLLIS SSP. HISPIDUS	hispid bird's-beak	Alkali areas; Grassland
*A1	CORDYLANTHUS PALMATUS	palmate-bracted bird's-beak	Alkali areas; Grassland
A1	<i>Cryptantha intermedia</i>	common cryptantha	Forest; Rock, Tallus or Scree; Sand or Sandstone; Woodland
A1	<i>Cucurbita foetidissima</i>	calabazilla	Gravel; Rock, Tallus or Scree; Sand



			or Sandstone
A2	<i>Cuscuta californica</i> var. <i>californica</i>	California dodder	Chaparral; Grassland; Misc. habitats
A1	<i>Cuscuta indecora</i> var. <i>indecora</i>	pretty dodder	Misc. habitats
*A1	DEINANDRA BACIGALUPII	Livermore tarplant	Alkali areas
A1	<i>Downingia bella</i>	Hoover's downingia	Vernal Pools
A2	<i>Downingia cuspidata</i>	cuspidate downingia	Vernal Pools
A2	<i>Downingia insignis</i>	cupped downingia	Vernal Pools
A2	<i>Elymus elymoides</i> ssp. <i>elymoides</i>	squirreltail	Grassland
A2	<i>Ericameria arborescens</i>	golden-fleece	Chaparral; Forest; Woodland
A2	<i>Eriogonum angulosum</i>	angle-stemmed eriogonum	Sand or Sandstone; Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Eriogonum luteolum</i> var. <i>luteolum</i>	golden carpet	Gravel; Sand or Sandstone; Serpentine
*A2	ERODIUM MACROPHYLLUM	round-leaved filaree	Grassland; Scrub
*A2	FRITILLARIA AGRESTIS	stinkbells	Alkali areas; Grassland
*A2	HESPEREVAX CAULESCENS ( <i>H. sparsiflora</i> is more common)	hogwallow starfish	Vernal Pools
A1	<i>Heterodraba unilateralis</i>	heterodraba	Grassland
A2	<i>Hordeum depressum</i>	low barley	Alkali areas; Vernal Pools; Misc. Wetlands
A2	<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	foxtail barley	Misc. habitats
A1	<i>Hutchinsia procumbens</i>	prostrate hutchinsia	Alkali areas
A1	<i>Juncus ambiguus</i>	toad-rush	Alkali areas; Brackish Marsh; Salt Marsh
A2	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	jointed rush	Misc. habitats
A1	<i>Lagophylla ramosissima</i> ssp. <i>congesta</i> (ssp. <i>ramosissima</i> is more common)	hare's-ear	Misc. habitats
*A2	LASTHENIA FERRISIAE	Ferris's goldfields	Alkali areas; Vernal Pools
A2	<i>Lasthenia fremontii</i>	Fremont's goldfields	Vernal Pools; Misc. Wetlands
A2	<i>Lasthenia minor</i>	woolly goldfields	Grassland
A2	<i>Layia chrysanthemoides</i>	smooth layia	Grassland
A2	<i>Lepidium dictyotum</i> var. <i>acutidens</i>	sharp-toothed pepper-grass	Alkali areas
A1	<i>Lepidium nitidum</i> var. <i>oreganum</i> (var. <i>nitidum</i> is more common)	shining pepper-grass	Alkali areas; Vernal Pools; Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Leptochloa fascicularis</i>	bearded sprangletop	Misc. Wetlands
A1	<i>Leptochloa uninervia</i>	dense-flowered sprangle-top	Misc. Wetlands
*A1	LINANTHUS ACICULARIS	bristly linanthus	Chaparral; Grassland; Woodland
*A1	LINANTHUS GRANDIFLORUS	large-flowered linanthus	Grassland; Gravel; Sand or Sandstone; Scrub
A1	<i>Linanthus liniflorus</i>	flax-flowered linanthus	Scrub; Serpentine; Woodland; Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Lithophragma parviflorum</i> var. <i>parviflorum</i>	prairie star	Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Lotus strigosus</i>	strigose trefoil	Chaparral; Scrub
A1	<i>Lupinus affinis</i>	lupine	Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Madia elegans</i> ssp. <i>vernalis</i> (ssp. <i>densifolia</i> is more common)	common madia	Grassland
A2	<i>Mentzelia affinis</i>	Hydra stick-leaf	Grassland; Sand or Sandstone; Woodland
A1x	<i>Mentzelia laevicaulis</i> (historical- 1969)	blazing star	Dry Washes; Rock, Tallus or Scree; Sand or Sandstone
A2	<i>Microseris campestris</i>	San Joaquin microseris	Grassland; Vernal Pools
A2	<i>Microseris elegans</i>	elegant microseris	Grassland; Vernal Pools



A2	<i>Mimulus pilosus</i>	downy monkeyflower	Dry Washes; Gravel; Riparian; Sand or Sandstone
A2	<i>Minuartia californica</i>	California sandwort	Chaparral; Dry Open Slopes; Grassland; Rock, Tallus or Scree; Sand or Sandstone; Serpentine
A1x	<i>Monolopia lanceolata</i> (historical-1941)	common monolopia	Chaparral; Dry Open Slopes; Grassland; Woodland
*A1	MYOSURUS MINIMUS SSP. APUS	little mousetail	Alkali areas; Freshwater Marsh; Vernal Pool
A2	<i>Myosurus minimus</i> ssp. <i>minimus</i>	common mouse-tail	Freshwater Marsh; Vernal Pools
A2	<i>Myosurus sessilis</i>	sessile mouse-tail	Grassland; Vernal Pools
*A2	NAVARRETIA COTULIFOLIA	cotula navarretia	Misc. Wetlands
A1	<i>Nicotiana attenuata</i>	coyote tobacco	Dry Open Slopes
A2	<i>Nicotiana quadrivalvis</i>	Indian tobacco	Dry Open Slopes; Dry Washes
A1	<i>Nitrophila occidentalis</i>	nitrophila	Alkali areas
A2	<i>Orobanche bulbosa</i>	bulbous broom-rape	Chaparral
A2	<i>Orobanche vallicola</i>	California broom-rape	Forest; Woodland
A2	<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> var. <i>purdyi</i>	foothill penstemon	Chaparral; Forest; Grassland
A2	<i>Petunia parviflora</i>	wild petunia	Dry Washes
A2	<i>Phacelia ramosissima</i> var. <i>ramosissima</i>	branching phacelia	Dry Open Slopes; Dry Washes; Grassland; Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	tansy phacelia	Gravel; Sand or Sandstone
A1	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> var. <i>incisa</i> (var. <i>nodiflora</i> is more common)	narrow-leaved fog-fruit	Misc. Wetlands
A2	<i>Pilularia americana</i>	pillwort	Vernal Pools; Misc. Wetlands
*A1	PLAGIOBOTHRYIS GLABER	hairless popcorn flower	Alkali areas; Vernal Pools; Misc. Wetlands
A2	<i>Plagiobothrys leptocladus</i>	alkali plagiobothrys	Alkali areas
A2	<i>Pleuropogon californicus</i>	semaphore grass	Riparian areas; Misc. Wetlands
A1	<i>Puccinellia nuttalliana</i>	Nuttall alkali grass	Alkali areas
A2	<i>Puccinellia simplex</i>	little alkali grass	Alkali areas
A1x	<i>Pyrocoma racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i> (historical-1959)	racemose pyrrocoma	Alkali areas; Grassland; Salt Marsh; Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Rumex salicifolius</i> var. <i>denticulatus</i>	willow dock	Misc. Wetlands
A2	<i>Salicornia subterminalis</i>	Parish's glasswort	Alkali areas; Salt Marsh
A1	<i>Scirpus fluviatilis</i>	river bulrush	Misc. Wetlands
A2	<i>Senecio flaccidus</i> var. <i>douglasii</i>	shrubby butterweed	Dry Washes; Rock, Tallus or Scree; Sand or Sandstone
A2	<i>Sesuvium verrucosum</i>	sea-purslane	Alkali areas
A2	<i>Spergularia macrotheca</i> var. <i>leucantha</i>	large-flowered sand spurry	Alkali areas; Vernal Pools
A2	<i>Spergularia macrotheca</i> var. <i>macrotheca</i>	large-flowered sand spurry	Alkali areas; Coastal Bluff; Rock, Tallus or Scree; Misc. Wetlands
A2	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	alkali sacaton	Alkali areas
A2	<i>Tonella tenella</i>	small-flowered tonella	Riparian areas; Misc. habitats
A1	<i>Torreyochloa pallida</i> var. <i>pauciflora</i>	weak mannagrass	Freshwater Marsh; Riparian
A1?	<i>Trifolium barbigerum</i> var. <i>andrewsii</i> (?)	Gray's clover	Misc. habitats
A2	<i>Trifolium barbigerum</i> var. <i>barbigerum</i>	bearded clover	Misc. habitats
*A1x	TRIFOLIUM DEPAUPERATUM VAR. HYDROPHILUM (Vars. <i>amplectens</i> and <i>truncatum</i> are	saline clover	Alkali areas; Salt Marsh



	more common)		
A2	Trifolium flavulum (Included within T. fucatum in Jepson Manual)	bull clover	Alkali areas; Grassland; Serpentine; Misc. Wetlands
A1	Trifolium gambelii (Included within T. fucatum in Jepson Manual)	bull clover	Alkali areas; Grassland; Serpentine; Misc. Wetlands
A2	Trifolium lilacinum (Included within T. barbigerum var. andrewsii in Jepson Manual)	Gray's clover	Misc. habitats
*A1x	TROPIDOCARPUM CAPPARIDEUM (HISTORICAL- 1981 BUT NOT SEEN SINCE THEN)	caper-fruited tropidocarpum	Alkali areas; Grassland
A2	Vicia hassei	slender vetch	Grassland; Scrub
A2	Vulpia microstachys var. microstachys (var. pauciflora is more common)	Nuttall's fescue	Dry Open Slopes; Rock, Tallus or Scree; Sand or Sandstone; Serpentine; Woodland

**NOTE:** Plant species followed by “(?)” have taxonomic or distribution problems and it is not clear if they occur here.

Dates indicated for historical species refer to last known record in the Alameda-Contra Costa Counties area.

**Explanation of Ranks**

**\*A1 or \*A2:** Species in Alameda and Contra Costa counties listed as rare, threatened or endangered statewide by federal or state agencies or by the state level of CNPS.

**A1x:** Species previously known from Alameda or Contra Costa Counties, but now believed to have been extirpated, and no longer occurring here.

**A1:** Species currently known from 2 or less regions in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

**A2:** Species currently known from 3 to 5 regions in the two counties, or, if more, meeting other important criteria such as small populations, stressed or declining populations, small geographical range, limited or threatened habitat, etc.

