4b. Conservation Committee Report
Chair: Jim Hanson
Committee Members: Michele Hammond, Bobby Evans, Jaymee Marty, Christopher Gardner

DATE OF LAST MEETING – October, 2018

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHEMENTS - NEXT STEPS - ISSUES/CHALLENGES - ACTION ITEMS IN-PROGRESS/PENDING - ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED - ASSISTANCE/RESOURCES NEEDED FROM BOARD- Attached.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED – Centennial Project Facebook post and text of communications submitted to LA County Board of Supervisors on Centennial Project.

CONSERVATION REPORT – January, 2018

1. **Measure FF passes - East Bay Regional Parks District** – Measure FF passed with the assistance and endorsement of an alliance of East Bay environmental organizations. In addition to trail repairs, etc., this measure, Measure FF, will also help fund removal   of French broom and other invasive plants at Richmond's Miller/Knox Park, enhance of native grassland prairie at Pt. Pinole, and conduct vegetation fuel management in the East Bay hills.

GOAL: Join with EB CNPS chapter, Sierra Club and other environmental organizations to assure comprehensive floristic surveys for, and avoidance of, sensitive native grasslands plant communities in CEQA documents.

2.   **Save TESLA as a Park, Livermore Legislative Round 3** - Hearing on   CEQA suit set for March 15, 2019 in Sac. Superior Court. Friends of TESLA will also request legislation again for State Parks to offer the property for sale, rather than their current plan to turn it into another off-road vehicle park.

Goal: Enlist CNGA membership support of Save TESLA legislation in 2109 to conserve the Oak Savannah w/ Poa secunda grasslands, etc.

3. **Mayor and slim majority on Richmond City Council remove major elements of public's vision for Pt. Molate from developer Request for Proposals**- New City Council seated. On January 15, and deserting the "Community Plan", another grassroots plan, and the overwhelming support of most residents, the two new members joined Mayor Tom Butt and another Council member to remove the preference in the developer Request for Proposals to not build in ecologically-diverse south valley and bluffs.

Goal: Work with community and supporting organizations to make it clear in the city and regionally that ecological degradation, subsidizing luxury shoreline housing, and building next to a refinery with one road in and out is a bad plan for the environment, for economic equity, and the the city's social and fiscal health.

4. **Sibley/McCosker Parks and other FIVE other East Bay Regional Parks Land Use Plan Amendment/DEIR's up for comment in 2019 –**

GOAL: Join with EB CNPS chapter, Sierra Club and other environmental organizations to assure comprehensive floristic surveys for, and avoidance of, sensitive native grasslands plant communities in CEQA documents. Work with District to protect and manage the native grasslands proposed for mt. bike mixed use trails in the Sibley/McCosker park development.

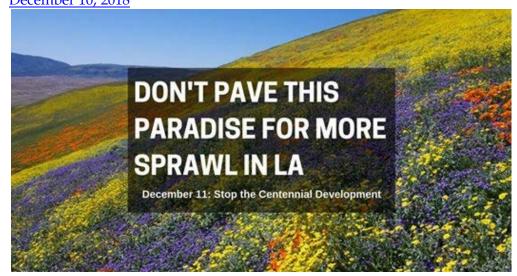5. **Big Tejon Ranch Centennial Project, Los Angeles –** Attached is CNGA's email to each LA County Supervisors on Centennial vote. CNPS and/or Center for Biological Diversity will likely be following challenging the EIR.
Goal: Follow the project and provide updates with CNGA Facebook posts.

6. Climate Change enhanced wildland-interface fires and conservation of native grassland and other flora

A question to consider at this point. Just as in 2018, we can anticipate that RCD's, State agencies, and cities will be drafting policies on protecting vegetation for vegetation fuels clearing and when and in what conditions to to re-seed with regionally-adapted native grasses and forbs. How can CNGA be prepared to respond and help conserve existing native grasslands in the process? (i.e. start by at least publishing photos to recognize what a burned bunchgrass looks like? Any results of seeding WUI's from Sonoma and Redding fires?)

TUE, DEC 11, 2018
Join us to Stop Centennial on Dec 11
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors ·
Los…

Shared to California Native Plant Society   1

Comment 10 Likes

Email from CNGA: **Please say NO to the Centennial project**

Dear Hilda Solis,

The California Native Grasslands Association asks you to please vote NO on the proposed Centennial project.

We are petitioning you to reject this project because it would destroy more than 5,000 acres of high quality habitat for native grasses and wildflowers - one of the most biologically diverse and endangered habitat types in the state. In addition, it is a massive sprawl development, miles from the city and job centers, that flies in the face of what California is telling the world that we need to do – advance and approve smart development in the face of mounting climate change.

As you've undoubtedly heard from the public and press, approving a project of this size in this location is a very expensive risk to the whole region. This project is proposed to be built on top of two major fault lines, it would add an estimated 75,000 new car trips per day, and the public would be saddled with a massive bill to widen Highway 138. As you know, a recent L.A. times editorial in the wake of the Paradise fire also commented on the proposed 19,000-home Centennial project and concluded "……the death and destruction of the last year should be a wake-up call that California can't continue to sprawl into increasingly dangerous wildfire terrain."

As an elected official representing one of the most influential cities in the country, we ask that you take needed leadership on climate change and environmental stewardship. Please leave this irreplaceable area of Los Angeles natural beauty and rare biodiversity in place. Support housing near transit and existing infrastructure. Please say no to this project.

 Sincerely, Jim Hanson, Conservation Chair, Andrea Williams, President, Diana Jeffery, Administrative Director