

California Native Grasslands Association
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD
Date: 3-15-19 Board Meeting

5a. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Jim Hanson

Committee Members: Emily Allen, Robert Evans, Michele Hammond

DATE OF LAST MEETING – Jan, 2019

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

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED – State CNPS letter to State Board of Forestry, report item #5

CONSERVATION REPORT – March, 2019



1. Save TESLA as a Park, Livermore Legislative Round 3 - Friends of TESLA now have a legislative bill, SB 767, introduced by Senator Glazer for this session. Similar legislation to last year - State Parks to offer the property for sale, rather than their current plan to turn it into another off-road vehicle park.

Action: None needed at this time. This bill is similar to the legislation from last year that almost made it to the Governor.

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

2. Mayor & Richmond City Council reviewing developer proposals for Pt. Molate; - Following Mayor Tom Butt a slim Council vote to drop the requirement to not build in ecologically-diverse south valley and bluffs, the Council is considering developer proposals, including possibly using a financing scheme that would



have Richmond residents subsidize millions in infrastructure costs for high end housing on the shoreline even though this is a largely working class town.

Action: inform Council members of serious equity issues with this financing scheme at 3-5-19 Council meeting. Done.

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.

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



Action: Writing a letter to request a meeting with Parks Planning Dept. to talk about having comprehensive floristic surveys done as part of park land use plan amendments, such as surveying for sensitive plant communities (i.e. native grasslands) where trails or other construction is being considered.

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.

4. Big Tejon Ranch Centennial Project, Los Angeles – No news

Goal: Follow the project and provide updates with CNGA Facebook posts.

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

State Cal Fire is restarting an EIR for a vegetation fuel treatment plan.

Action: Asked State CNPS office to request that the Cal Fire EIR included surveying for and avoiding or mitigating disturbance to sensitive plant communities (i.e. native grasslands) when vegetation fuel treatment work is being done (think bulldozers, heavy trucks, goat grazing under supervision, etc).