



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch  
1416 Ninth Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



June 6, 2017

Mr. Steve Monowitz, Director  
Planning and Building Department  
County of San Mateo  
455 County Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Redwood City, California 94063

Dear Mr. Monowitz:

### Coast Yellow Leptosiphon Status Review

The purpose of this letter is to a) inform you of the presence of a rare plant species, coast yellow leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon croceus*), that is present on San Mateo County-owned property; b) inform you of a petition to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to designate this species as “endangered” under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); and c) request your help in protecting this plant species from possible extinction.

Coast yellow leptosiphon is a rare plant of the Phlox family that is only known from Vallemar Bluff in Moss Beach, San Mateo County (County). Coast yellow leptosiphon is restricted to coastal prairie habitat and only one small population of this species is known to exist. The majority of the population is located on Assessor's Parcel Number 037-087-050. The enclosed Figure 1 shows the approximate location of the coast yellow leptosiphon population.

On December 8, 2016, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) accepted for consideration a petition to list coast yellow leptosiphon as an endangered species pursuant to CESA (Fish & G. Code § 2050 *et seq.*), and as a result, coast yellow leptosiphon became a candidate species on December 23, 2016. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is now in the process of preparing a report on the status of coast yellow leptosiphon for the Commission to consider before they decide whether or not to list this plant as a threatened or endangered species.

The provisions of CESA apply to coast yellow leptosiphon while it is a candidate species. According to these provisions, import, export, “take”, possession, purchase, sale, or attempting to do any of those actions to species that are designated as threatened, endangered, or candidates for listing is illegal, unless authorized by permit by CDFW. “Take” is defined in the California Fish and Game Code as “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.”

Because there is only one known population of coast yellow leptosiphon, protecting this population is critical for the continued existence of the species. As the landowner, the

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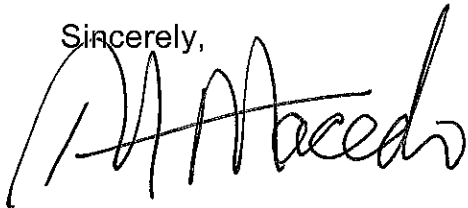
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County plays a significant role as steward and manager of the land that provides habitat for coast yellow leptosiphon. CDFW would like to work with the County to help ensure that the coast yellow leptosiphon population on County property persists into the future. For instance, CDFW would like to work with the County to remove the invasive ice plant that is encroaching into and threatening the coast yellow leptosiphon population. CDFW respectfully asks the County to consult with CDFW before making any changes in the current land use on the property supporting coast yellow leptosiphon to avoid potentially impacting this rare species.

CDFW's petition evaluation report and other documents relating to the petition are available on the Commission's website at:  
<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/CESA/index.aspx#l>.

If you have questions about coast yellow leptosiphon, the CESA listing process, or anything else related to this letter, please contact Ms. Cherilyn Burton, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Habitat Conservation Planning Branch's Native Plant Program, at (916) 651-6508, or by email at [cherilyn.burton@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:cherilyn.burton@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Richard Macedo, Branch Chief  
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch

Attachment

ec: County of San Mateo

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Figure 1. Coast Yellow Leptosiphon Population  
Moss Beach, San Mateo County

0 300 600 1,200 Feet