

MCL Invasive Plant Subcommittee

Meeting of January 20, 2016

Agenda

Announcements/Calendar Items/Info Sharing:

- Expanding our email list
- Request for guest speakers and topics
- Put a note in the CNPS newsletter about our committee
- Research in the OSD: 1) Nomad Ecology is re-visiting and evaluating special-status plant populations, and professors La Pierre and Simms from UC Berkeley are investigating different treatment options for broom to see how best to prevent re-infestation.

Agenda Items

Recent Events & Updates

- Bay Area Open Space Council Gathering November 19, Berkeley on public funding opportunities. Anybody attend?
- MMWD board meeting on watershed funding, December 8, at which several of us spoke. The new watershed protection fee is estimated to cost average residential users \$5/month and bring in \$3.7M annually. The fee will increase by about 50 cents every year. Vegetation management and watershed maintenance components of the fee are charged to customers based on their meter size. Phil Sotter estimates, based on the 2012 draft vegetation management plan, that \$6-8M would be required to effectively manage broom and invasives, and he called on the board to commit to a 20-year plan for total eradication. Updated cost figures will be included in the new vegetation management plan.
- Status update: draft letter to the Board of Supervisors re the search for a new Parks and Open Space Director, stating our concerns to find a candidate with solid experience managing invasive species. New Interim Director Pat O'Brien from EBRPD; retirement of Ron Miska, Assistant Director. Nona will ask for the job description.
- Update on the 2010 Sonoma County Biodiversity Plan. There have been no significant followup documents, and the plan did not have a transformative effect. It is generally seen as a background document or reference. The county OSD is preparing a very good vegetation map, and many local organizations are active in the county and use the Plan as a background document. The county supervisors are still focused on economic development, however.
- Update on MCOSD VBMP and EIR

-Update on MMWD VMP and EIR

-Update on MCOSD project in Tiburon: Eva

Current/New Items

-Formation of Friends of Native Habit to focus on IPM on the Open Space District.

-Should we engage directly with anti-herbicide groups, and if so how? Discussion.

-Refocus on our key goals and priorities—discussion of the proper timing to introduce the concept of an invasive plant ordinance to cities in Marin.

-Paul: review of Tao Orion's Beyond Invasive Species, a Permaculture Approach to Ecosystem Restoration. [postponed]

Mission Statement

The mission of the Invasive Plant Subcommittee of the Parks and Open Space Committee is to educate and inform the citizens of Marin County about the threat to our open spaces posed by invasive plants and to mobilize the human, financial, governmental and institutional resources of our county to take effective action to restore our open space habitats to their natural condition to the maxim extent reasonably feasible.