
FLx, "Sensitive Plant Species Surveys at the Magic Mountain Entertainment Site Fireworks Area" (2004; 2004B)

May 8, 2004

Mr. Cris Perez
The Newhall Land and Farming Company
P.O. Box 250
Piru, CA 93040

Subject: Sensitive Plant Species Surveys at the Magic Mountain Entertainment Site Fireworks Area

Attachment: Figure of Sensitive Plant Species Locations at the Fireworks Area

Dear Mr. Perez:

The purpose of this letter is to document the results of sensitive plant species surveys conducted at the Magic Mountain Entertainment (MME) site fireworks area. The 26-acre fireworks area was surveyed by Dudek and Associates personnel as a part of their rare plant surveys of the 550-acre MME site between April 14 and April 27, 2004. In addition, the fireworks area was rechecked for sensitive plant species by FLx personnel on May 1 and on May 5, 2004. The particular focus of the surveys was for the state-listed endangered species San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B species, slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*). At the same time, we also looked for other potentially-occurring sensitive species.

Much of the 26-acre fireworks area has been cleared previously, and that area now is occupied by annual non-native grasses, with scattered native and non-native herbaceous species. Areas not recently subject to clearing are occupied by coastal sage scrub, dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* ssp. *foliolosum*). In both cleared and non-cleared areas, scattered valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) and coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*) also are present.

Both the target sensitive species were found during the current surveys, occupying the same locations as recorded previously in 2003 surveys of the same site conducted by Dudek and Associates. Additionally, two individuals of slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*) were found in a new location at the edge of the previously cleared area in the southernmost portion of the fireworks site (Attachment).

As part of FLx survey activities, buffer areas were established around populations of San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*). Five populations were found; two of these are in close proximity and have been included within the same buffer area. Therefore, a total of four enclosure areas have been demarcated in the field using pink pin flags. Each buffer area was delineated approximately 30 feet from the edge of the spineflower populations.

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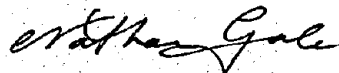
Following is a list of recommendations to assist in minimizing botanical impacts at the site.

1. Strictly maintain the buffer boundaries around the spineflower populations and avoid all activities within the enclosure zones.
2. Minimize ground disturbance during vegetation clearing activities to avoid impact to underground bulbs of slender mariposa lily plants, and reduce related erosion potential.
3. Leave all valley oaks and coast live oaks intact, and do not operate mechanized equipment within the drip line of these trees.

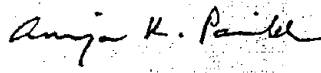
If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

FLx



Nathan Gale, Ph.D.



Anuja K. Parikh, Ph.D.



- San Fernando Valley spineflower
- Slender mariposa lily

Flx Survey, 2004



MAGIC MOUNTAIN
FIREWORK FALLOUT AREA