
FLx, "Sensitive Plant Species Surveys at the Magic Mountain Entertainment Site Fireworks Area" (2005)



May 7, 2005

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 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 18 and April 28, 2005. In addition, the fireworks area was rechecked for sensitive plant species by FLx personnel on May 6, 2005. 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 generally the same locations as recorded previously in 2003 and 2004 surveys of the same site conducted by Dudek and Associates and FLx. Additionally, one new population, as well as scattered individuals of slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*) were found in new locations (see Attachment).

As part of FLx survey activities in 2004, 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 were included within the same buffer area. Therefore, a total of four exclosure areas were demarcated in the field and exclusion fences were installed in 2004. These fences currently are in need of repair in several sections. In 2005, all locations of slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*) were marked in the field with pin flags and/or flagging tape.

C. Perez
May 7, 2005
page 2 of 2

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, repair the exclusion fences, where necessary, 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.

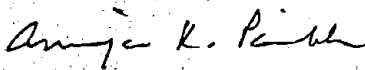
If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

FLx



Nathan Gale, Ph.D.

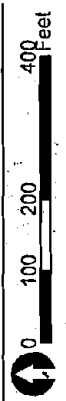


Anuja K. Parikh, Ph.D.



- San Fernando Valley spineflower
- Slender mariposa lily

MAGIC MOUNTAIN
FIREWORK FALLOUT AREA



FLX Survey, 2005