

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

California Endangered Species Act



Petition Evaluation for Diamond-Petaled California Poppy (*Eschscholzia rhombipetala*)

Report to the Fish and Game Commission
June 2026

Suggested citation: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2026. Petition evaluation for diamond-petaled California poppy (*Eschscholzia rhombipetala*). A report to the Fish and Game Commission, California Natural Resources Agency, Sacramento, CA, USA.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, AND TERMS

CESA – California Endangered Species Act

CNDDDB – California Natural Diversity Database

CNPS – California Native Plant Society

Commission – California Fish and Game Commission

CRPR – California Rare Plant Rank

Department – California Department of Fish and Wildlife

HCP – habitat conservation plan

NCCP – natural community conservation plan

SJMSCP – San Joaquin County Mult-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan

subsp. – subspecies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This petition evaluation for diamond-petaled California poppy (*Eschscholzia rhombipetala*) has been prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) in response to the petition to list diamond-petaled California poppy as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The purpose of this petition evaluation is to provide a recommendation to the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) on whether the petition provides sufficient information to indicate the petitioned action may be warranted.

Diamond-petaled California poppy is a small annual plant in the poppy family (Papaveraceae) that blooms in March and April. The petition describes diamond-petaled California poppy as being known from 12 occurrences in the western San Joaquin Valley, eastern San Francisco Bay Area, Inner North Coast Ranges, eastern Outer Southern Coast Ranges, and Inner Southern Coast Ranges in California, and occurring in valley and foothill grasslands with topography that varies from steep slopes to flats with vernal pools. The petition provides an abundance estimate at six occurrences with population sizes ranging from fewer than 10 to more than 1,000 individuals and provides information to suggest a declining population trend. The petition lists several threats to diamond-petaled California poppy including agricultural and developed land uses, climate change, and invasive species. The petition mentions that extirpation from much of its range or extinction of the species may occur because: most occurrences are threatened and the severity of some threats is increasing, the species has been documented at only a small number of sites that are also small in area, and most sites occupied by the species are unprotected and not managed for the conservation of the species. Existing management efforts were reviewed and suggestions for future management actions were discussed in the petition. Information sources and a distribution map were also provided in the petition.

The Department has determined that the petition does not sufficiently address each of the required petition components listed in Fish and Game Code section 2072.3 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 670.1, subdivision (d)(1):

- Life history
- Range
- Distribution
- Detailed distribution map
- Kind of habitat necessary for survival
- Abundance
- Population trend
- Factors affecting the ability to survive and reproduce

- Degree and immediacy of threat
- Impact of existing management efforts
- Suggestions for future management
- Availability and sources of information

In completing its petition evaluation, the Department considered the information in the petition and other relevant information the Department possesses. The Department has determined that there is not sufficient scientific information to indicate that the petitioned action to list diamond-petaled California poppy as endangered under CESA may be warranted. Therefore, the Department recommends that the Commission reject the petition for further consideration pursuant to CESA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Petition Evaluation Overview

This petition evaluation serves as the basis for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) on whether the petition to list diamond-petaled California poppy (*Eschscholzia rhombipetala*) as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) should be accepted and considered. The recommendation is based on the sufficiency of scientific information in the petition, as well as other relevant information possessed or received by the Department during the evaluation period.

A petition to list a species under CESA must include "information regarding the population trend, range, distribution, abundance, and life history of a species, the factors affecting the ability of the population to survive and reproduce, the degree and immediacy of the threat, the impact of existing management efforts, suggestions for future management, and the availability and sources of information. The petition shall also include information regarding the kind of habitat necessary for species survival, a detailed distribution map, and any other factors that the petitioner deems relevant" (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)).

Once a petition is submitted to the Commission, the Department has 90 days (120 days with extension) to prepare a petition evaluation that assesses each of the petition components and makes a recommendation to the Commission as to whether there is sufficient scientific information to indicate that the petitioned action to list the species under CESA may be warranted (Fish & G. Code, § 2073.5, subds. (a)-(b)). Once completed by the Department, the petition evaluation is delivered to the Commission and placed on the agenda for receipt at the next available meeting of the Commission. At that time, the petition evaluation will be made available to the public for a 30-day public comment period prior to the Commission taking any action on the petition. The Commission then considers the petition, the Department's petition evaluation and recommendation, written comments received, and oral testimony and will then make a finding at the next available meeting of the Commission as to whether the petition provides "sufficient information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted" (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.2, subd. (e)(2)). The standard for accepting a petition for consideration and assessing sufficiency of information is addressed in *Center for Biological Diversity v. California Fish and Game Commission* (2008) 166 Cal.App.4th 597.

If the Commission determines that the petitioned action may be warranted, the species becomes a candidate for CESA listing and proceeds to the status review stage of the CESA listing process. The Department then prepares a peer-reviewed report that advises

the Commission on whether the petitioned action is warranted, based upon the best scientific information available (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.6). Finally, the Commission determines whether the petitioned action to list the species as threatened or endangered is warranted, based on the Department's status review and other information in the administrative record (Fish & G. Code, § 2075.5).

1.2 CESA Petition History

On August 29, 2025, Dr. John C. Hunter submitted a petition to the Commission to list diamond-petaled California poppy as endangered under CESA. On September 8, 2025, the Commission referred the petition to the Department for evaluation. At its meeting on October 8, 2025, the Commission officially acknowledged receipt of the petition. At its meeting on December 10, 2025, the Commission granted the Department's request for a 30-day extension of the period to review the petition and prepare this petition evaluation.

1.3 Federal Status

Diamond-petaled California poppy is not listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.). In 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided notice that it was possibly appropriate to propose listing diamond-petaled California poppy as endangered or threatened, but sufficient data was not then available to support a listing proposal (58 Fed.Reg. 51144 (Sep. 30, 1993)).

1.4 Additional Species Status Designations

1.4.1 NatureServe Conservation Status Ranks

NatureServe's conservation status ranks consist of a global conservation status rank (global rank or G rank), describing the status of a given taxon over its entire global distribution, and a subnational conservation status rank (subnational rank or S rank), describing the status of a given taxon over its state distribution (Master et al. 2012). NatureServe has assigned diamond-petaled California poppy a global rank of G1 and a subnational rank of S1, indicating that the species is critically imperiled both globally and within California, with a very high risk of extirpation due to one or more of the following: very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, very severe threats, or other factors (CNDDB 2020, 2025).

1.4.2 California Rare Plant Rank

The California Native Plant Society works in collaboration with botanical experts throughout the state, including Department biologists, to assign rare plants a California

Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) reflective of their rarity status (CNDDDB and CNPS 2020). CNPS has assigned diamond-petaled California poppy a CRPR of 1B.1 (CNPS 2025). Plants with a CRPR of “1B” are considered rare, threatened, or endangered throughout their range with the majority endemic to California (CNDDDB and CNPS 2020). The threat code extension of “.1” indicates that the species is seriously threatened in California, with over 80 percent of occurrences threatened and a high degree and immediacy of threat (CNDDDB and CNPS 2020).

2 SPECIES DESCRIPTION AND TAXONOMY

Diamond-petaled California poppy is a member of the poppy family (Papaveraceae). It is an annual, upright plant that is typically 5 to 20 cm (2 to 8 in) in height (Still et al. 2023). Plants are hairless and have dissected leaves that only occur at the base of the plant and not along the stem (Still et al. 2023). Plants produce only one flower per leafless stem (Still et al. 2023). Flower petals are yellow, 3 to 7 mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ in) long, approximately 5 mm (0.2 in) wide, and fall from the plant shortly after blooming, generally on the same day (Ernst 1964; Still and Potter 2013; Still et al. 2023). The species is noted for its conspicuously large fruits and receptacle (the large area where its petals attach) relative to the overall size of the plant and its flowers (Ernst 1964). Diamond-petaled California poppy was first described by E. L. Greene in 1885 as *Eschscholzia rhombipetala* and that remains the currently accepted name (Greene 1885; Still et al. 2023).

3 SUMMARY OF PETITION COMPONENTS

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2072.3 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 670.1, subdivision (d)(1), the Department evaluated whether the petition contained information on each of the following petition components:

- Life history
- Range
- Distribution
- Detailed distribution map
- Kind of habitat necessary for survival
- Abundance
- Population trend
- Factors affecting the ability to survive and reproduce
- Degree and immediacy of threat
- Impact of existing management efforts
- Suggestions for future management
- Availability and sources of information

The Department did not receive new information from the public during the petition evaluation period (Fish & G. Code, § 2073.4). Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2073.5, the Department evaluated the petition to determine whether there is, or is not, sufficient information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted. A summary of the relevant information from the petition for each of the petition components is presented below. For each petition component, the Department has also presented an assessment of the information provided in the petition and a summary of any relevant information in the Department's possession. Overall sufficiency of the petition is determined by looking at the information in the petition as a whole and is further discussed in the "Sufficiency of Scientific Information and Recommendation to the Commission" section of this petition evaluation. In this petition evaluation, the Department has grouped similar petition components together and renamed components to create a more cohesive and readable document.

3.1 Life History

This section summarizes the information in the petition regarding the species' life history (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)). Section E on pages 6 and 7 of the petition provides information on the life history of diamond-petaled California poppy.

The petition provides a physical description of diamond-petaled California poppy, with descriptions of its habit, stem, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds. The petition contrasts diamond-petaled California poppy with the physical properties of a similar species, Lemmon's poppy (*Eschscholzia lemmonii* subsp. *lemmonii*). The petition describes diamond-petaled California poppy as an annual plant that blooms in March and April and is pollinated by insects. The petition states that the species uses mechanical seed dispersal and has a seed coat that indicates seeds are dispersed by water. The petition also mentions that seeds can persist in the soil for more than one year and that establishment of plants is associated with areas that have less thatch and more exposed soil.

3.1.1 Department Assessment

The Department considers the information provided in the petition on the life history of diamond-petaled California poppy to be adequate for assessing this petition component.

3.2 Range and Distribution

This section summarizes the information in the petition regarding the species' range and distribution and provides a detailed distribution map (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)). A species' range for the purposes of CESA

and this petition evaluation is the species' range within California (Cal. Forestry Assn. v. Cal. Fish and Game Com. (2007) 156 Cal.App.4th 1535, 1551). Range describes the general geographical area in which a species occurs. Distribution describes the actual sites where individuals and populations of the species occur within the species' range. Section B on page 4 of the petition provides information on the range of diamond-petaled California poppy. Section C on page 4 of the petition provides information on its distribution. Section L, Figure 2 on page 22 of the petition provides a distribution map, which has been provided as Figure 1 of this petition evaluation.

The petition describes diamond-petaled California poppy as a California endemic of the western San Joaquin Valley, eastern San Francisco Bay Area, Inner North Coast Ranges, eastern Outer Southern Coast Ranges, and Inner Southern Coast Ranges. The petition states that diamond-petaled California poppy's range comprises approximately 9,416 square kilometers (3,636 square miles), and that it occurs in Alameda, Contra Costa, Colusa, Kern, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, and Stanislaus counties at elevations of 0 to 975 m (0 to 3,200 ft). The petition states that diamond-petaled California poppy is known from 12 occurrences that were documented between 1868 and 2015, but the species identification at one of the occurrences is uncertain. One occurrence is noted in the petition as being north of the San Francisco Bay Area, seven are noted as being between the San Francisco Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley, and four are in the South Coast Ranges east of San Luis Obispo. The petition also mentions that diamond-petaled California poppy's range and habitat are not highly restricted so the species likely occupies some additional, undocumented sites.



Figure 1. Map of the range and distribution of diamond-petaled California poppy as provided in Figure 2 of the petition. Occurrences from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) are labeled with CNDDDB occurrence numbers. Some occurrences consist of multiple polygons.

3.2.1 Department Assessment

Range and distribution of diamond-petaled California poppy are presented in the petition based primarily on data from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB); however, no discussion is provided on the completeness of the information presented including whether the CNDDDB data represents the complete range and distribution of the species, whether additional information on range and distribution is available for the species that is not reflected in the CNDDDB data, or whether any survey efforts have been made to confirm or ascertain the full range and distribution of the species. Without further discussion explaining why the information provided in the petition is a scientifically defensible assessment of the range and distribution of the species, the Department is unable to properly determine whether the petition provides a reasonable explanation of the range and distribution of the species, or whether other petition components that rely on knowing the range and distribution of the species have been properly assessed.

The Department has some additional, readily available information from the CNDDDB not presented in the petition. The CNDDDB updated its information on diamond-petaled California poppy in October 2025 and added three additional occurrences of the species for a total of 15 documented occurrences. While this additional, readily available information contributes to our current knowledge on the range and distribution of diamond-petaled California poppy, this information does not compensate for deficiencies in data in the petition for these topics. The information presented in the petition, considered alongside readily available information from the Department, is not adequate for assessing the range and distribution of diamond-petaled California poppy.

3.3 Habitat

This section summarizes the information in the petition regarding the kind of habitat necessary for species survival (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)). Section F on page 7 of the petition provides information on the kind of habitat necessary for diamond-petaled California poppy survival.

The petition states that diamond-petaled California poppy occurs in valley and foothill grasslands with topography that varies from steep slopes to flats with vernal pools. The petition mentions that clay-rich soils are prominent and are frequently noted on the labels of diamond-petaled California poppy herbarium specimens. The petition also includes a list of plant species that grow with diamond-petaled California poppy.

3.3.1 Department Assessment

The Department considers the information provided in the petition on the kind of habitat necessary for survival of diamond-petaled California poppy to be adequate for assessing this petition component.

3.4 Abundance and Population Trend

This section summarizes the information in the petition regarding the species' abundance and population trend (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)). Section D on page 4 and 5 of the petition provides information on the abundance of diamond-petaled California poppy. Section A on page 3 of the petition provides information on the population trend of diamond-petaled California poppy.

The petition summarizes information on the abundance of diamond-petaled California poppy at six CNDDDB occurrences with population sizes ranging from fewer than 10 to more than 1,000 individuals at each occurrence. The petition states that range-wide monitoring of diamond-petaled California poppy has not been conducted and, thus, a rigorous estimate of the total number of plants cannot be made. The petition estimates the area of occupied habitat to be less than 17 hectares (42 acres) based on CNDDDB polygon data.

The petition states that, based on information from the CNDDDB and land cover mapping from the U.S. Geological Survey, diamond-petaled California poppy has a decreasing population trend because of loss and degradation of occupied habitat at eight or more of the 12 sites where the species has been observed. The petition lists eight occurrences that are either possibly extirpated, not observed during the most recent site visit, or have a fair population viability in the CNDDDB and reports two occurrences that are likely to have experienced degradation or loss of habitat based on land cover mapping. The petition states that the species may have had additional, undocumented habitat losses, population reductions, or both that occurred before the distribution of diamond-petaled California poppy was well documented.

3.4.1 Department Assessment

Abundance of diamond-petaled California poppy is provided in the petition based primarily on population estimates reported in the CNDDDB; however, no discussion is provided on the completeness of the information including whether there have been efforts to estimate population sizes at all occurrences, whether the population estimates are historical or recent, and whether the population estimates are based on complete or partial surveys of the occurrences. Area of occupied habitat is estimated in the petition as an indicator of abundance using CNDDDB polygon data which the Department

considers to be an inappropriate use of CNDDDB data. CNDDDB polygons are typically mapped to include a buffer that represents the locational accuracy of the data and therefore should not be used to determine area occupied by the species.

Population trend of diamond-petaled California poppy is determined in the petition to be declining based on: 1) the number of CNDDDB occurrences that are designated as possibly extirpated, not observed during the most recent site visit, or with a fair population viability, 2) the use of CNDDDB polygon data overlaid on land cover mapping to report the extent of any overlap between the CNDDDB polygon data with development or agriculture, and 3) the historical and ongoing changes to grasslands. No discussion is provided in the petition on the completeness of the information, including whether any recent efforts have been made to update information on the presence and condition of diamond-petaled California poppy occurrences or whether population declines at some occurrences have resulted in a decline throughout the species range. The petition uses CNDDDB polygon data overlaid on land cover mapping to report on the extent of overlap between CNDDDB polygons with development or agriculture to determine additional occurrences that may be experiencing a declining population trend. CNDDDB polygons are typically mapped to include a buffer that represents the locational accuracy of the data, and the petition does not indicate if development or agriculture shown on aerial imagery overlapped with the portion of the CNDDDB polygon that was previously occupied by the species or within areas that were once appropriate habitat for the species. In addition, the statements in the petition about changes to grasslands likely causing additional, undocumented habitat losses, population reductions, or both to diamond-petaled California poppy are too general and do not specifically identify impacts to habitat likely to have contained diamond-petaled California poppy.

The Department has some additional, readily available information from the CNDDDB not presented in the petition. The CNDDDB was updated in October 2025 which resulted in three additional occurrences of diamond-petaled California poppy being added to the CNDDDB. One of the three additional diamond-petaled California poppy occurrences has abundance data. While this additional, readily available information contributes to our current knowledge on abundance of diamond-petaled California poppy, this information does not compensate for deficiencies in data for these topics. The information presented in the petition, considered alongside readily available information from the Department, is not adequate for evaluating the abundance and population trend of diamond-petaled California poppy.

3.5 Threats

This section summarizes the information in the petition regarding the factors affecting the ability of the species to survive and reproduce, and the degree and immediacy of

threats (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)). Section G on pages 7 through 11 of the petition provides information on factors affecting the ability of diamond-petaled California poppy to survive and reproduce (threats). Section H on pages 11 through 13 of the petition provides information on the degree and immediacy of threats to diamond-petaled California poppy.

The petition lists several prominent range-wide threats to diamond-petaled California poppy: agricultural and developed land uses, climate change, and invasive species. The petition also mentions that erosion/runoff, foot traffic/trampling, grazing, and recreational use have been observed by botanists as additional threats affecting occurrences based on CNDDDB data.

The petition describes agricultural and developed land uses as major threats to diamond-petaled California poppy because these land uses have been directly eliminating, fragmenting, and increasing threats to the remaining habitat. The petition notes that according to the CNDDDB and the interpretation of land cover mapping in the petition showing agriculture and development in relation to CNDDDB occurrences of diamond-petaled California poppy, some occurrences have been extirpated or impacted by agricultural and developed land uses.

The petition states that climate change directly and indirectly threatens diamond-petaled California poppy by altering growing conditions, water availability, and frequency and intensity of disturbances. The petition also notes that climate change can alter interactions of the plant with pollinators, dispersers, fungal symbionts, seed predators, herbivores, and competitors. The petition states that the magnitude of climate change impacts on diamond-petaled California poppy is uncertain but may be substantial, particularly because of the species' rarity, habitat specificity, and distribution in relatively small and isolated areas.

The petition states that invasive species are likely a significant, range-wide threat to diamond-petaled California poppy. The petition lists several invasive plant species that co-occur with diamond-petaled California poppy at multiple sites, and states that invasive species are spreading in the species' range. The petition states that infestations of invasive species can directly affect the conditions or resources diamond-petaled California poppy relies on, thereby reducing abundance and making the species more vulnerable to extirpation from other causes.

The petition states that without additional management actions, there is a moderate to high likelihood that diamond-petaled California poppy will be extirpated from much of its range or become extinct. The petition says that this will occur because: most occurrences are threatened and the severity of some threats is increasing, the species has been documented at only a small number of sites that are also small in area, and

most sites occupied by the species are unprotected and not managed for the conservation of the species.

3.5.1 Department Assessment

Factors affecting the ability of diamond-petaled California poppy to survive and reproduce, and the degree and immediacy of threats, are presented in the petition based primarily on threat data reported in the CNDDDB. Threats listed in the CNDDDB can be representative of various types of threat data, including current threats, future threats, past threats, threats affecting a small portion of the site, threats in one year but not another, etc. The petition also presents climate change as a threat to diamond-petaled California poppy that is not listed in the CNDDDB. None of these threats are described in adequate detail in relation to diamond-petaled California poppy and the petition does not provide information on the degree and immediacy of these threats for the species.

The petition uses CNDDDB polygon data overlaid on land cover mapping to see if there is any overlap between the CNDDDB polygon data with development or agriculture to determine additional occurrences that may be experiencing threats. CNDDDB polygons are typically mapped to include a buffer that represents the locational accuracy of the data, and the petition does not indicate if development or agriculture shown on aerial imagery overlapped with the portion of the CNDDDB polygon that was previously occupied by the species or within areas that were once appropriate habitat for the species. Further discussion is needed on the use of aerial imagery to provide an accurate reflection of the degree of threat that development and agriculture are currently having on diamond-petaled California poppy.

The petition also mentions small number and size of occupied sites, and lack of protection and management, as additional reasons why diamond-petaled California poppy is likely to be extirpated from much of its range or become extinct. The petition has not shown that diamond-petaled California poppy's distribution and number of sites have been fully assessed and has not accurately represented the size of the occupied sites. The petition also does not discuss what the unprotected lands with diamond-petaled California poppy are being used for and how that land use is threatening, or potentially threatening, the species.

The Department has some additional, readily available information from the CNDDDB not presented in the petition. The CNDDDB updated its information on diamond-petaled California poppy in October 2025 and added three additional occurrences of the species and updated seven existing occurrences; some of these additions/updates include additional threat information. While this additional, readily available information contributes to our current knowledge of the threats diamond-petaled California poppy may be experiencing, this information does not compensate for deficiencies in data in

the petition for these topics. The information presented in the petition, considered alongside readily available information from the Department, is not adequate for assessing the factors affecting the ability of diamond-petaled California poppy to survive and reproduce or the degree and immediacy of threats to diamond-petaled California poppy.

3.6 Existing Management

This section summarizes the information in the petition regarding the impact of existing management efforts on the species (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)). Section I on pages 13 through 16 of the petition provides information on the impact of existing management efforts on diamond-petaled California poppy.

The petition states that management of diamond-petaled California poppy has been very limited, has not sufficiently addressed threats to the species, and consequently has not resulted in significant conservation of the species. The petition describes the impact of several management categories including legal protection, preservation and seed banking, management and monitoring, restoration, and surveys and research.

The petition describes diamond-petaled California poppy as having no legal protections but notes that the species is addressed by two conservation plans, the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP), which is a habitat conservation plan (HCP) and the East Contra Costa County HCP/Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). The petition states that under the SJMSCP, neither temporary disturbance nor permanent loss of habitat occupied by diamond-petaled California poppy is allowed except with additional approvals. The petition states that under the NCCP permit for the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP, diamond-petaled California poppy is a “no-take” plant and all impacts to it must be avoided. The petition also notes that diamond-petaled California poppy has a CRPR of 1B.1 and should be treated as a special-status species during environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The petition states that one occurrence of diamond-petaled California poppy is on protected land and three others are partially protected. The petition mentions that seeds of diamond-petaled California poppy have been collected and placed in long-term storage at California/Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and at University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley.

The petition notes that one occurrence of diamond-petaled California poppy is on land managed to maintain habitats, and that land managers routinely implement avoidance and minimization measures for habitats. The petition describes three occurrences as being on land with management that provides partial protection for diamond-petaled

California poppy. The petition mentions that none of the diamond-petaled California poppy occurrences are the subject of formal monitoring.

The petition states that no efforts have been made to restore or create habitat occupied by diamond-petaled California poppy. The petition discusses how surveys were performed to confirm the continued existence of the species in the 1990s, but most occurrences have not been surveyed by a botanist for the past 20 years. The petition also discusses how range-wide surveys of potential habitat have not been conducted to search for additional, undocumented sites. The petition states that a study has investigated the population dynamics and habitat associations of diamond-petaled California poppy, but research has not been conducted on the species' genetic diversity, pollination, dispersal, establishment, growth, mortality, interactions with other species, or most other aspects of its ecology, and therefore understanding of the species' ecology is based primarily on observations by botanists and understanding of the ecology of related and similar species.

3.6.1 Department Assessment

The Department considers the information provided in the petition on impact of existing management efforts on diamond-petaled California poppy to be adequate for assessing this petition component.

3.7 Future Management

This section summarizes the information in the petition regarding suggestions for future management (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)). Section J on pages 16 and 17 of the petition provides suggestions for future management of diamond-petaled California poppy.

The petition provides a list of suggestions for future management including:

- list the species under CESA and prepare a recovery plan for it,
- include the species as a focal species in regional conservation investment strategies and as a covered species in NCCPs,
- preserve occupied sites in perpetuity,
- develop and implement site-specific monitoring and management plans,
- manage extant populations to prevent the spread of invasive species and eradicate existing infestations,
- implement compatible grazing practices,
- implement measures to prevent impacts from recreational activities,
- coordinate and share information among organizations working to conserve the species,

- coordinate with and support private landowners implementing conservation practices in occupied habitat,
- restore degraded, occupied habitat,
- establish additional populations,
- conduct surveys to improve data on distribution and abundance,
- document genetic diversity, and
- investigate the species' pollination and population ecology and habitat requirements to inform conservation and management.

3.7.1 Department Assessment

The Department considers the information provided in the petition on suggestions for future management of diamond-petaled California poppy to be adequate for assessing this petition component.

3.8 Availability and Sources of Information

This section summarizes the information in the petition regarding availability and sources of information (Fish & G. Code, § 2072.3; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1, subd. (d)(1)). Section K on pages 17 through 21 of the petition provides the sources of information used in the diamond-petaled California poppy petition. Digital copies of references cited were also provided to the Commission and Department.

3.8.1 Department Assessment

The Department received digital copies of references cited in the petition and considers this to be adequate to address the availability and sources of information mentioned in the petition for diamond-petaled California poppy.

4 OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2073.5, the Department also evaluates petitions in relation to other relevant information the Department possesses or receives. The Department evaluated readily available information relating to diamond-petaled California poppy that is available from the Department's document library and the CNDDDB, including data housed in the CNDDDB's unprocessed data layer. Regional Department staff were contacted to determine if additional information on the species was readily available and in the possession of Department staff. Any relevant information from these sources is mentioned within the "Department Assessment" section for each petition component.

To the extent the Department was able to review other relevant information in its possession as it relates to the petition, the Department concluded that none of the additional information compensates for data deficiencies in the petition. If the Commission accepts the petition for consideration, regardless of the Department's recommendation, all reasonable attempts will be made by the Department to notify affected and interested parties and to solicit data and comments on the petitioned action (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.4). At that time, the Department will commence a review of the status of the species and produce a written peer-reviewed report, based upon the best scientific information available to the Department, which indicates whether the petitioned action is warranted (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.6).

5 SUFFICIENCY OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMISSION

The Department evaluated the petition components set forth in Fish and Game Code section 2072.3 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 670.1, subdivision (d)(1) for sufficiency of information pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2073.5. Based upon the information contained in the petition and other relevant information, the Department determined there is not sufficient information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted (Fish & G. Code § 2073.5).

In this petition evaluation, the Department has assessed the information in the petition for each petition component individually; however, sufficiency of the petition as a whole is ultimately determined by looking at all petition components taken together. The Department considers scientifically defensible information on range and distribution to be critical for determining sufficiency of the petition. For diamond-petaled California poppy, the Department has determined that information is lacking for the following petition components: range, distribution, abundance, population trend, factors affecting the ability of the species to survive and reproduce (threats), and the degree and immediacy of threats. Due to the lack of adequate information on these petition components, the Department does not consider the information in the petition to be sufficient as a whole for assessing whether listing diamond-petaled California poppy under CESA may be warranted and recommends the Commission reject the petition and not consider it further under CESA.

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