



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
Sacramento, California 95825-1846



In Reply Refer To:  
81420-2008-TA-1115-2

MAY 01 2008

Mr. Alan Ehrgott  
American River Conservancy  
P.O. Box 562  
Coloma, California 95613

Subject: High Priority Land Acquisitions for the Protection of Five Listed Plants  
Found on Gabbro Soils, El Dorado County, California

Dear Mr. Ehrgott:

On April 8, 2008, the American River Conservancy (Conservancy) met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to prioritize potential land acquisitions for the long-term protection of the endangered Stebbins' morning glory (*Calystegia stebbinsii*), Pine Hill ceonothus (*Ceanothus roderickii*), Pine Hill flannelbush (*Fremontodendron decumbens*), El Dorado bedstraw (*Galium californicum ssp. Sierrae*), threatened Layne's butterweed (*Packera layneae*), California rare species El Dorado mules ears (*Wyethia reticulata*) and Red Hills soap root (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*), and California sensitive species Bisbee Peak rush-rose (*Helianthemum suffrutescens*), plants found on gabbro-derived soils in western El Dorado County. During this meeting we discussed several properties, that if owners were willing sellers and the Conservancy secured sufficient funds, would complement the lands already preserved, add to the number of protected plant populations, and would move us closer to reaching goals defined in the Service's 2002 *Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills*.

At this point in time, two acquisitions rank in the Service's highest priority level, the Weiner Property (167 acres, APN 070-011-18) and the Carriage Hill Properties (four 5-acre parcels, APNs 070-261-77, 070-261-79, 070-261-80, 070-261-81). The Service has based our prioritization on the following factors: 1) sellers are willing; 2) the number of species known to occur on the parcels (5 of the 8 species); 3) the sizes and densities of these populations; 4) these parcels contain populations of El Dorado bedstraw or Stebbins' morning glory or both -- species which are underrepresented in the current Pine Hill Preserve (Preserve) lands; 5) the locations of the parcels with respect to the Cameron Park Unit of the Preserve; and 6) adding these parcels to the Preserve will likely improve management options for the existing protected lands.

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