



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

December 6, 2019

Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Comments regarding needs assessment for three properties to be added to the Pine Hill Ecological Preserve (agenda item 19-1617)

To the Board of Supervisors:

We strongly support the recommendation by Long Range Planning to fund a needs assessment on three properties to be transferred into the Pine Hill Ecological Preserve. We also support the use of preserve funds for the assessment and the much needed remediation and maintenance required on these properties.

Increased human use in recent years has led to the accumulation of hazardous waste and trash and unauthorized vehicle and other uses, e.g., camping, on portions of these properties. These uses are causing damage to the ecological values associated with these properties. We worked with the County and others last year to undertake a clean-up operation in the Cameron Park Unit, but this was not sufficient to solve the problems.

We also ask that the needs assessment evaluate invasive plants, in particular stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*), which our members increasingly are finding in habitat for the Pine Hill plants. This plant can be spread by people and vehicles. Containment and removal of this plant requires special attention since the seeds are easily spread.

We urge you to approve these funds and to move expeditiously to complete the needs assessment, to undertake needed remediation and maintenance, and to transfer the properties into the ecological preserve. When these properties are within the preserve we can continue to work together as partners to ensure that the rare plant values on these properties are protected and enhanced.

Please contact me if you have any questions about these comments (530-295-8210; britting@earthlink.net).

Sincerely,

Susan Britting, Ph.D.
Conservation Chair, El Dorado Chapter, CNPS