

December 4, 2015

To: Dave Holbrook, Senior Planner, County of San Mateo
San Mateo County Planning and Building
455 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

Proposed development of Juliana & Vallemar, Moss Beach also known as Vallemar Bluff (PLN2015-00380).

Dear Dave,

As the Rare Plant Chairperson in San Mateo County, for the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) we are concerned about the proposed development of Juliana & Vallemar, Moss Beach, also referred to as Vallemar Bluff (Planning Case File No. PLN2015-00380, <http://planning.smcgov.org/six-residences-juliana-vallemar-moss-beach>). This proposal would greatly disturb and eliminate much of the coastal prairie grassland and rare plant habitat on the bluff top. A map showing rare plants and habitat is attached. A small section of the bluff, the western edge is San Mateo County Property, a part of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. (APN-037-087-050)

This year the California Native Plant Society documented the rare plants that occur on the Vallemar bluff top and we discovered a new population of *Agrostis blasdalei* (BLASDALE'S BENT GRASS). This species is very rare in San Mateo County with only one other population documented near Franklin Point. We also documented *Castilleja ambigua* ssp. *ambigua* (JOHNNY-NIP), *Hosackia gracilis* (HARLEQUIN LOTUS), and *Leptosiphon croceus* (COAST YELLOW LEPTOSIPHON) occurrence #2.

Leptosiphon croceus (COAST YELLOW LEPTOSIPHON) is a very rare plant. There are two other historical occurrences #1 and #3 documented along the San Mateo Coast. Other botanists and I have looked for these occurrences for a number of years and have not found them. These two occurrences are now presumed extinct and a report was sent to CNDDDB documenting this. The Vallemar Bluff, occurrence #2 occupies a very small area between the cliff edge and a local trail on San Mateo County property, this is the last known remaining extant population in the world.

The proposed development of Vallemar Bluff in Moss Beach would destroy much of the rare coastal prairie grassland and rare plant habitat on the bluff top (see the attached VallemarBluff-parcels map and proposed development plan map). There would be very little habitat left for the *Leptosiphon croceus* (COAST YELLOW LEPTOSIPHON) and *Agrostis blasdalei* (BLASDALE'S BENT GRASS) to spread as the bluff tops erode. If this plan is approved most of the coastal prairie and rare plant habitat will be lost. It is important that the County of San Mateo have a management plan for the preservation of the rare plants and habitat that occur on the County property.

It is hoped that these biological factors be considered before development of the Vallemar Bluff. Attached are the field survey forms submitted for the 4 rare plants occurring on the Vallemar Bluff.

Sincerely,

Toni Corelli, Botanist
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