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March 26, 2007

Laurel Way Joint Venture
John M. Ward and Associates
912 Elm Street
San Carlos, CA 94070

Re: Rare Plant Survey for the Laurel Way properties located at the west end of Laurel Way, Redwood City, California

Dear Mr. Ward,

At your request, TRA Environmental Sciences, Inc. (TRA) conducted a rare plant survey for fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*), a California Native Plant Society list 1B plant at the Laurel Way properties in Redwood City, California. The rare plant survey was recommended as a follow up survey to the Biological Site Assessment completed by TRA in October 2006. The recommendation states:

Because there is potential for the CNPS 1B plant, fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*), to occur onsite, a survey should be completed during the next bloom period (March or April of 2007) of the plant. Prior to completing surveys onsite, a known population should be visited to ensure the survey is conducted when the plant is in bloom. If fragrant fritillary is not detected during the survey, no further surveys are recommended. If it is detected, California Native Plant Society and California Department of Fish and Game should be consulted on how to minimize impacts to fragrant fritillary due to project activities.

Setting/Project Description

The Laurel Way Joint Venture is a group of private property owners that together possess 21 parcels which cover approximately 5-acres in the Emerald Hills along Laurel Way in Redwood City, San Mateo County. The properties are all currently undeveloped. The majority of the properties consist of ruderal grassland and California bay / oak woodland. A steep ravine and drainage separates eight parcels to the northwest from the 13 parcels to the southeast. Of the 21 parcels, 19 are proposed for development, anticipating the eventual creation of 19 single-family homes. The properties are situated at an elevation of approximately 250 feet. Land to the east, south and north of the properties has been urbanized (Redwood City), while land approximately 0.7 miles to the west encompasses natural open space within Edgewood County Park. These properties will be referred to hereafter as the study area.

Methods

On March 21, 2007, TRA biologists, Terese Kastner and Patrick Kobernus surveyed both a reference site and the study area for fragrant fritillary. The reference site was a location within Edgewood County Park where the plant is known to occur. Both surveys were completed on foot. Suitable habitat within the study area was surveyed for approximately one hour.

Results and Recommendations

Fragrant fritillary was detected immediately upon arrival at the known location site at Edgewood County Park. Over ten plants were observed in full bloom and served to create a search image for surveying the study area.

Fragrant fritillary is typically found in moist areas, often with serpentine soils, in valley and foothill grasslands. Although grassland habitat is present within the study area, it is dominated and densely covered with non-native grasses. Within the ruderal grassland, a few patches of native grasses were found that included purple needle grass (*Nassella pulchra*) and blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*).

No fragrant fritillary was observed at the study area and no serpentine soils were observed either. Even though the lack of serpentine soils does not preclude fragrant fritillary from occurring within the study area, it greatly decreases the potential for it to be found there.

In summary, fragrant fritillary was not detected at the study area during its known bloom period and is not expected to occur based on the habitat conditions present.

This completes the recommendation for rare plant surveys contained within the Biological Site Assessment completed by TRA in October 2006. No further rare plant surveys for fragrant fritillary are recommended at this time.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TERESE KASTNER" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terese Kastner
Associate Biologist