



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 3, 2021

To: Carly Wells (cwells@mcrpd.us) and the Board of the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Parks District (info@mcrpd.us)

Re: Request from Solid Waste of Willits to use MCRPD H2 20 property as a proposed waste transfer station

The proposed use of this property for a waste transfer station is inappropriate. This property has 11 sensitive natural communities and at least 4 rare plant species widely scattered on the property. Out of the 586 acres, 89% (518 acres) is covered by sensitive natural communities. Attached are 2 maps showing the sensitive vegetation on the Hw. 20 MCRPD property.

This public property has had two major incompatible uses proposed; first a golf course, then an off-road vehicle park. Much time and money has been spent. This is a third very incompatible proposal. In order for this proposal to move forward a full EIR will need to be done to address environmental issues.

We recommend that the Board deny this request.

Please do not hesitate to contact us (conservation@dkycnps.org,) if you have questions regarding our comments, or if we can be of assistance in developing recommendations for protecting rare plants and sensitive natural communities.

Respectfully,

Renée Pasquinelli
Renée Pasquinelli, Conservation Co-Chair (North)

Dr. Peter Baye, Conservation Co-chair (South)

Teresa Sholars
Teresa Sholars, Rare Plant Coordinator and Vegetation Chair
Dorothy King Young Chapter, California Native Plant Society¹

Protecting California's native flora since 1965

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Dorothy King Young Chapter P. O. Box 577, Gualala, California 95445



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¹The mission of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is to protect California's native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations through application of science, research, education, and conservation. CNPS works closely with decision-makers, scientists, and local planners to advocate for well-informed policies, regulations, and land management practices. A formal cooperative agreement between CNPS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is the backbone of California's rare plant and vegetation status review programs. The data compiled and shared by both organizations are used throughout the environmental review process. The Dorothy King Young (DKY) Chapter of CNPS focuses on protecting and providing education about the native plants and natural communities within coastal Mendocino County and we often work directly with local and Sacramento-based CDFW science staff.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR BOTANICAL EXPERT REVIEWERS

Renee Pasquinelli, MA

Renée Pasquinelli is a retired California State Parks Senior Environmental Scientist. During her career, she spent over 20 years in the Mendocino (and Sonoma Mendocino Coast/Russian River) District managing park natural areas, planning and implementing restoration projects, addressing park related environmental impact issues through CEQA, particularly those that affect rare plants and sensitive natural communities, and reviewing and preparing written comments on timber harvest plans and development projects that posed a threat to State Park lands. Environmental restoration work that she managed emphasized the role of natural processes in ecosystem recovery, and included control of invasive species on forest (redwood, bishop pine, Mendocino cypress), coastal headland, and dune environments. Her training and responsibilities also included wildland fire management and she served as the District's Resource Advisor for wildland fire events. As a State Park Senior Environmental Scientist and as a conservation volunteer for the California Native Plant Society, she actively participated in formal vegetation surveys to document and classify Mendocino Cypress Woodland and coastal headland natural communities for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Vegetation Classification system. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Sonoma State University, with emphasis and course work in plant ecology and fire ecology.

Teresa Sholars, MSc

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Teresa Sholars is Professor Emeritus of Biology and Sustainable Agriculture, College of the Redwoods, where for over 40 years she has taught students about ecology of mushrooms, lichens, native plants and vegetation on the Mendocino Coast. She is also retired from 40 years as a part time Botanical and Ecological Consultant on the Mendocino Coast. She has been involved with surveying and mapping rare plants and vegetation as a volunteer for CNPS and CDFW for decades. She actively participated in formal vegetation surveys to document and classify Mendocino Cypress Woodland and coastal headland natural communities for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Vegetation Classification section. She is a CNPS Fellow, and author of *Lupinus* in the second edition of The Jepson Manual, Jepson eflora, Arizona Flora and co-author for the Flora of North America *Lupinus*. Currently she is an Adjunct Professor, Curator of the Herbarium and Natural History Collection at the Mendocino Coast Campus, of Mendocino College in Fort Bragg. She is one of the co-author's of Reed Noss' book "The Redwood Forest, History, Ecology and Conservation of the Coast Redwood" and co-author with CDFW Clare Golec on a paper "Rare Plants of the Redwood Forest and Forest Management Effects". She also was coauthor with Andrea J. Pickart on the chapter on vegetation of coastal northern California in "California's Botanical Landscapes". She holds a master's degree in Ecology from UC Davis where she worked on the Mendocino pygmy forest and has completed 6 years in the PhD program at UC Berkeley in systematic botany.

Peter R. Baye, Ph.D.

Peter Baye is a coastal ecologist and botanist specializing in conservation and management of vegetation in coastal ecosystems. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario, Department of Plant Sciences, Canada, in 1990. He began applied studies of New England dunes and barrier beach ecology as an undergraduate at Colby College, Waterville, Maine in the late 1970s. His Thomas J. Watson fellowship research (1982) explored beach, dune and marsh complexes in Canadian Maritime Provinces, Great Britain. In California, he worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, as a senior ecologist specializing in environmental assessment of regulatory wetland projects (1991-1997). He prepared multi-species endangered species recovery plans for coastal species and ecosystems at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento office, from 1997-2002. He was a contributing author of regional coastal habitat plans in San Francisco Bay, including the San Francisco Bay Wetland Ecosystem Habitat Goals Project (1999) and its science update (2015). As an independent consultant, Peter continued applied restoration and management planning work on coastal ecosystems and rare/endangered species recovery, including estuaries, beaches, lagoons, streams and riparian habitats, in the Bay Area, North Coast, and Central California Coast,

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with emphasis on adaptation to climate change and sea level rise. He has taught wetland plant short courses at San Francisco State University, where he also served as an advisor for graduate research on aquatic plants. His other botanical work includes ethnobotanical and historical ecology research for Sonoma State University Anthropological Studies Center, scientific peer review of coastal conservation and species recovery plans, and leading field trips. He has actively managed 40 acres of redwood forest for recovery of biological diversity over 20 years, and botanizes thousands of acres of adjacent mixed redwood forest under nonprofit conservation forestry.

Attachments:

1. Map of sensitive vegetation on MCRPD property on Hw 20 2018
2. Bios Map showing the sensitive vegetation (green and blue-gray) on MCRPD property on Hw 20 2021

cc: Jenn Garrison, Sr. Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife,
jennifer.Garrison@wildlife.ca.gov
Rhiannon.Korhummel Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
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