September General Meeting  
Tuesday, September 20th, 7:30 pm

Annual seed packaging workshop for the October 8th Plant sale
Come socialize while helping to prepare for the chapter plant sale!

October General Meeting  
Tuesday October 18th, 7:30 pm

Monica Bond, Center for Biological Diversity: Endangered Habitat
What’s going on with the Endangered Species Act?
Is it working? Is it endangered?

Upcoming meetings:
Tuesday, November 15: Carl Wilcox, Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy Team
Endangered species here in Sonoma County – protecting vernal pool habitat

Tuesday, December 20: Annual Wreath-Making workshop

Fall Native Plant Sale, October 8!
Volunteer for setup or for the sale

This year's native plant sale promises to be the best yet, but is always dependent upon an energetic and capable team of volunteers. While we always have veteran workers who return year after year to help out, we are also always looking for new volunteers of all ages. The annual sale funds many of our chapter's activities including scholarships, restoration work, and educational outreach, and so is one of the most important chapter events you can participate in.

Here is a list of the varied plant carriers, horticulturists cashiers, membership table, delectable goodies), set-up cleanup on Sat. beginning volunteers to help label and the sale. To volunteer, please 823-1821. Your participation this year's sale!

jobs you can choose from: (plant selection advisors), refreshment table, bakers (of (on Fri. from 5-8 pm), and about 1 pm. We also need price plants the week before call Judy Hartwig at can help ensure the success of

Iris douglasii photo by Betsy Livingstone

Calendar

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<td>Cal-IPC Symposium, CSU Chico</td>
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<td>10/7</td>
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*General meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center, 2050 Yulupa Avenue, Santa Rosa
**Milo Baker Chapter Board meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday nine months of the year at the Environmental Center, 404 Mendocino Ave, Suite A, Santa Rosa. Next meeting is September 13. Anyone interested in the work of the chapter is welcome to attend!
President's Corner

This month I’m turning my usual space over to fellow board member Bob Hass so this important information is brought to the forefront. —Reny Parker

GUEST EDITORIAL
by Bob Hass
Conservation Co-chair

Public Policy Should Be Chapter Priority

Talking with policymakers is not nearly as much fun as going on a spring wildflower hike, holding a broom bashing party, or potting seedlings for the chapter’s annual plant sale. However, unless we succeed in protecting our remaining wild areas from the pressures of development, sometime in the future our children, or our children’s children may no longer get to enjoy the natural beauty we still take for granted in Sonoma County.

Those who have lived in the area a long time are keenly aware of this threat. They remember when the ridgelines above Santa Rosa and Sonoma were undeveloped, when valley oak grasslands and vernal pool habitat predominated throughout the county, and when one was as likely to spot a cow grazing in a field as grapes ripening in a vineyard. The natural beauty and tranquility of the area compelled many of us to move here in the first place. Yet it is precisely this quality of life that is most at risk today.

According to the County Administrator’s Office, between 1999 and 2004 the population of Sonoma County increased by 19,200 residents or 4.2%. Most of these 19,000 live within the city limits of our nine cities. The City of Santa Rosa led the growth, adding 18,400 residents or 14% of its total population. The average countywide annual growth rate between 2000 and 2004 was 1%.

While urban growth slowly gobbles up some open space, the biggest threat to large tracts of native habitat in Sonoma County comes from vineyard conversions. For example, the largest current proposed conversion of 1,900 acres, ironically called “Preservation Ranch,” is for a new vineyard in the Gualala River Watershed. While the California Department of Forestry (CDF) sometimes allows coniferous and mixed evergreen forests to be cut down and replaced with new vineyards, oak woodlands and chaparral are even more vulnerable to vineyard conversions.

Unlike woodlands that contain a conifer component, which is considered “commercial” timber, no government agency regulates oak woodland and chaparral conversion, and no Environmental Impact Report or EIR is required before oaks and other native plants can be removed. We know that oak woodland and chaparral are among the most diverse terrestrial ecosystems in California. Oak woodlands alone provide critical habitat for approximately 2,000 plants, more than 100 birds, 60 mammals, 80 amphibians and reptiles, and 5,000 insect species (Source: Bruce Pavlik, botanist, Mills College).

The pressure to cut down both redwoods and oaks and replace them with vineyards has been documented by the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department, which oversees planning for the county. It reported recently “The acreage of conversion requests [conversion of forestland to other uses, primarily vineyards] currently pending at CDF in 2005 is greater than all the conversions approved over the last decade.”

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The two main goals of CNPS, both at the state and chapter levels, include conservation (preserving California’s native flora) and education (increasing public understanding of it). Public policy work occurs at the intersection of these two areas, and is essential to accomplishing either one. It involves a variety of tasks. Key among them are conducting research, preparing policy positions backed by good science, and communicating this information to policymakers and the public in individual meetings, in written correspondence, and in public hearings. Because this is no small task and necessitates building relationships with policymakers, community groups, and the media over an extended period of time, it is best accomplished by a team of volunteers rather than by one individual.

At this point you may be wondering, “Well, what types of projects do you need help with?” Most of the public policy help that our chapter needs is on local projects. For example, this past month we needed volunteers to mobilize chapter members to contact their county supervisor and urge a “yes” vote on “Option 3” of the Sonoma County General Plan Update that provides relatively strong protections against forest conversions. You could also have attended a Board of Supervisors meeting to show your support for that policy. Help is also needed to formulate official chapter recommendations on priorities for the County Open Space District’s new land acquisition plan. In addition, the county’s oak tree ordinance is quite weak, and we need volunteers to research the wording of tree ordinances in other counties and assess the feasibility of getting a stronger ordinance passed in Sonoma County. In addition, we want to prepare and post regular “Action Alerts” on the chapter website so Milo Baker members can take action on local environmental issues in a timely manner.

You need not be experienced in doing this type of work to volunteer. We can teach you how to do it. The most important thing is that you recognize its importance and be willing to commit a few hours each month to help out. I am hopeful that after reading this editorial, some Milo Baker Chapter members will contact me and volunteer to be part of our new chapter public policy team. If you are interested, please call or email me at 707-938-8868; b_hass@comcast.net.
There will be many have plenty of plants for our sale. Of our May and August potting workshops insures that we will each other, and to add new plants to our gardens. The success Tell your friends about the sale!

There will be many shrubs--Artostaphylus 'Howard McMinn', A. 'Emerald Carpet', and A. 'Pt. Reyes'; Ceanothis 'Yankee Point'; Ribes sanguinum glutinosum (pink flowering currant) and Ribes malvaceum (chapparral currant); and two species of shrubby monkeyflower, Mimulus bifidus (azalea-flowered monkeyflower) and M. aurantacus (common goldenflowered monkeyflower) and many shrubby sages such as Salvia clevelandii 'Winifred Gilliman', S. c. 'Alan Chickering', S. leucophylla 'Pt. Sal', and the very successful ground cover, S. 'Bee's Bliss' (a hybrid of S. sonomensis and S. apiana).

There will be some delightful herbaceous perennials such as Penstemon heterophyllus, Achillea borealis 'Pink Island Form', Asarum caudatum (wild ginger), 'Calistoga', Catalina' and 'U.C. Hybrid' varieties of Epilobium canum (Zauschneria), lots of Iris douglasiana, Sisyrinchium californicum (yellow-eyed grass) Aquilegia formosa (Columbine) and Dicentra formosa (bleeding heart). Aristolochia californica (Dutchman’s pipevine), which attracts the pipevine swallowtail butterfly, will be available. Carex barbara (basket sedge) is a new addition to our sale and will be of interest to those who want gardens that feature plants used by the CA Indians. We will also have liners of Arctostaphylus groundcovers donated by Shooting Star.

Once again we have ordered bulbs from Brent and Becky's Bulbs. After four years experience, we know which of their bulbs grow well in our Sonoma County gardens. We ordered our old favorites with one new addition - Lilium pardalinum, orange Leopard lily, bulbs. We have never offered them before and we think that they will be very popular. Look for Triteleia oxiodes 'Starlight' has an umbel of yellow star-like flowers. It is not native to Sonoma County, but the bulbs that we purchased last year were so successful and beautiful, that we wanted to offer them again. Harvest Brodiaea or Triteleia laxa 'Queen Fabiola', (variety 'Queen Fabiola') has large dark blue flowers) grows in Sonoma County and blooms in early summer at the same time as the Calochortus (Mariposa lily). We ordered two types of Calochortus--C. luteus 'Golden Orb' (native to Sonoma County) and C. superbus. Calochortus grow in open grassy areas and are perfect for a sunny spot in the garden that doesn't get much summer water. The Firecracker Brodiaea or dickelostemma icta-'maia is a spectacularly showy plant with clusters of showy, deep red, tubular shaped flowers. There will also be the beautiful blue Camas lily (Camassia quamash), which prefers those vernaly wet areas. Every year our member Vicky Wilson harvests our own special Sonoma County Brodiaea elegans from her Windsor garden. Thanks to Vicky for all her hard work.

The bulbs will be at the seed and bulb table, which is located on the left as you walk into the South entrance of the dining room at the Vet's Building. The seeds will be packaged at the September meeting. I have heard from our member, Rainbow, who is going to give us the following lily seeds: Lilium kelloggi, L. pardalinum var. shastense and var. wigginsii, L. parvum, L. rubescens, and L. waightianum. I have had great success growing lilies from seed and would encourage everyone to give it a try. The Lilium pardalinum var. shastense that I planted in 2003 bloomed this year.

This is just a partial listing of the plants that will be for sale. There is always something new and unusual at the sale. The chapter website will be kept up-to-date, so check there to see if the plants that you need will be available. If you have a special request give me a call - 833-2063.

If you helped with the sale last year, Judy Hartwig (823-1821) will be calling you soon to ask you to volunteer again this year. Give her a call if you are new and want to help. This is a huge group effort and WE NEED YOU!!!

Mark your calendar for October 7 and 8, which are the two big days. On Friday afternoon, the 7th, we will move all of the plants into the Santa Rosa Vet's Hall beginning at 5 PM and on Saturday we will sell them from 9AM to 1PM. Our last 6 sales have been spectacularly successful and since our members are our best customers, please plan to come early and shop long and hard!!

In the October newsletter there will be information on the plant collection centers in Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, and Fulton; if you have questions call me at 833-2063 or e-mail at lizpar8993@aol.com or call Mary Aldrich at 539-9005. Mary, Becky Montgomery, and I will be pricing and labeling plants the week before the plant sale. We would appreciate your help if you can spare a few hours in the morning.

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**Calochortus superbus** photo by Betsy Livingstone
**Welcome New Board Members!**

Welcome new newsletter editor (as of this issue) Heide Klein. Michelle Jensen will assist her in the editing position.

I've been a member of CNPS Milo Baker chapter for 1.5 years, but have been interested in botany since I was about 12. I used to try to ID plants at that age using pictures in field guides for the specific area I was collecting (I've learned a lot since then - and usually ID plants with keys now, thanks mostly to Steve Barnhart). I've been a flower gardener since age 4, and recently have developed an appreciation for gardening with natives. I'm looking forward to taking on the position of editor for the Milo Baker chapter because it will give me a sense of helping to spread the word about the importance of preserving and enjoying native plants. And I might even make a few more 'plant nerd' friends!  

My name is Michelle Jensen and I am going on my third year as a CNPS member. I am currently working as an intern at the North Coast Region Water Quality Control Board while attending the Santa Rosa Junior College full-time. Next fall I will be transferring to UC Davis to obtain a Plant Biology degree with a minor in Entomology. When I am not in the office or buried under homework I can be found romping through the woods, searching for curious insects, or gazing through my lupe at beautiful flowers. I am looking forward to aiding Heide Klein as the Assistant Editor of the Milo Baker Chapter's newsletter!

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**Chapter Treasurer Position Open**

Marianne Perron, our current treasurer is leaving the position after the fall plant sale in October, while staying on as a board member. I've enjoyed Marianne's company while carpooling to board meetings, so I am happy she will remain on the board.

If you have bookkeeping experience and can volunteer a few hours a month, Milo Baker chapter could use your talents. Duties include managing the chapter’s receipts and bills, keeping records of our book/poster/t-shirt inventory and attending chapter board meetings every other month. The treasurer also helps the chapter prepare an annual budget in January. State duties are only quarterly sales tax transfers and an annual report. This volunteer position will typically only take a few hours of your time each month plus a weekend when we have our big event: the Fall Plant Sale in Oct. The chapter currently uses QuickBooks (PC), knowing this program is a plus, but not necessary; it's easy to learn.

If you want to become more involved in our chapter, work with a great group of people while expanding your knowledge and skills, this is the opportunity for you. For more information on the position contact: Marianne Perron mariannesp@earthlink.net. Or contact Ruby Herrick rdherr@yahoo.com 887-8542, or Reny Parker reny@renyswildflowers.com

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**Chapter Field Trips**

Marin chapter has kindly invited us to go with them on this trip. The hike won't be difficult, but wear your boots anyway. Bring a lunch.

Sunday, Sept 11, 2005 at 10 AM. Mt Burdell to Hidden Lake. Rare plant expert Doreen Smith will help us identify the trees and shrubs of Novato’s Mt Burdell oak woodlands. Take San Marin Drive exit, west off...
101. Turn right (North) at San Andreas Drive, to the end. Plenty of parking available.
Milo Baker attendees may meet at Noah's Bagels off 101 on McDowell next to the Safeway, east of the freeway onramp at Washington in Petaluma at 9:30.

I am in the process of organizing a trip to see our three preserves with the preserve stewards in attendance. Check your newsletter next month for details, or leave me your e-mail address for the earliest information.

ML Carle, Field Trip Organizer

Conservation Report

Restoration/Conservation/Forestry/Invasive Exotics/Political Presence

Public Hearings and Comments Due Dates set for Critical Habitat designation and Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy-

September and October are busy months for public comments regarding species conservation efforts on the Santa Rosa Plain.

On Thursday, September 8, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will hold public hearings at the Flamingo Hotel, 4th Street and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa, to take comments on the proposed designation of Critical Habitat for the Sonoma County population of the CA tiger salamander.

An afternoon session, 1-3pm and an evening session, 6-8 pm are scheduled. Final written comments on the designation are due by Monday, October 3.

In its statement published in the August 2 Federal Register, FWS prefers a local cooperative effort, such as the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy (Conservation Strategy) to the mechanisms prescribed under the Endangered Species Act.

The Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy also addresses the preservation needs of the four endangered vernal pool plant species, Blennosperma bakeri, Lasthenia burkei, Limnanthes vinculans and Navarretia leucocephala ssp plieantha. The designation of Critical Habitat for the CA Tiger salamander gives us the opportunity to comment on the condition and needs of the four endangered vernal pool plant species and their habitat.

In addition to the FWS Critical Habitat hearings and comments deadline, on Monday, September 12, a set of public hearings and comments will be scheduled for the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy There will be two sessions, at 7pm and 9 pm, on Monday, September 12 at the Santa Rosa Veterans’ Auditorium.

The deadline for final written comments on the Santa Rosa Plain Conservation Strategy is Saturday, September 17. Comments should be mailed to: Ed Brauner, P.O. Box 551168 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96155 or emailed to edbrauner@earthlink.net.

Perhaps an additional public hearing will be held for the Implementation Plan component of the Conservation Strategy.

Please visit the Conservation webpage of the Chapter website, cnps.org. We will be providing current information on the hearings and suggest concerns to raise in public comments. The Chapter's Santa Rosa Plain Study Group will meet at least once prior to the October 3 comments deadline. Watch cnpsmb.org for future Study Group meeting dates.

Sandra Cleisz sancli@earthlink.net
John Herrick joherr@earthlink.net

Navarretia leucocephala ssp. plieantha © 1998 Dean Wm. Taylor

Docent-led Laguna Walks

Docent led walks in the Laguna are scheduled in September for Wednesday, September 7 at 5:30 pm (magical evening light) and Saturday, September 24 at 9:15 am (taste native grapes). Sponsored by the Laguna Foundation, we will learn about wetlands ecology and the history of the Laguna. Meet and park behind the Youth Annex, 425 Morris St, Sebastopol. Free to Foundation donors, $5 all others. For further information and to reserve a space, contact Mary Abbott, 527-9277, x2 or mary@lagunafoundation.org. To learn more, visit: www.lagunadesantarosa.org

Cal-IPC Symposium 2005

"Prevention Reinvention: Protocols, Information, and Partnerships to Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants”, October 6-8, 2005, CSU Chico.

SRJC Classes of Interest

SRJC is offering in the Fall 2005, NRM 102: Selection and Propagation of Native Plants for Restoration. Topics include: seed collection, storage, and germination; guidelines for ecologically sound collection and restoration; identification of local native species. Includes overview of ecological restoration and how restoration nurseries grow appropriate restoration species. The class will be at the SRJC Shone Farm. CNPS members Jay Pedersen and Karen Tillinghast will be co-teaching the course. SRJC Class#3660 Monday 2-5pm: 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, plus two Saturdays 9am-2:30pm: 10/8, 10/15

Cotati Creek Critters

Help the Cotati Creek Critters to plant 2,000 native trees over the next two years along Cotati’s reach of the Laguna de Santa Rosa!

We will be launching our new grant-funded project, and celebrating the Grand Opening of “Ladybug Lot”, a City lot which will become our center of operations, on Saturday, September 17 at Ladybug Lot, adjacent to the Laguna channel...
Fall in the Native Garden

What Season Is It Anyway?

September at the end of summer is a lovely time of year, offering warm days and even some warm nights. Our tomatoes hang ripe on the vine. We can look forward to our fall harvest and the exciting opportunities in our garden as our pumpkins get ever larger.

Even though we have had no rain for months much is happening in the world of plants. The deciduous trees are beginning to show their fall colors as some flowers continue blooming to provide for the still active bees. Other plants have gone to seed to feed the birds that have not yet migrated south for winter. It’s a great time to be out in the garden, especially here in California.

Traditionally one thinks of fall as harvest time and indeed it is for many crops. However, fall is also planting time for winter crops and indigenous plants. Indigenous plants thrive when planted while the soil is still warm so that their roots can get established in the native soil before the next summer’s dry season. Planting in the fall allows plants to take advantage of the winter rains so that they that they are ready to grow the following spring and most importantly to be ready for the next dry spell the following summer.

September is a good time to look around your garden to see where some of our lovely drought-tolerant, pest-free native plants could fill in empty spots in your landscape. If you have a large space, consider a native deciduous Big Leaf Maple, Acer macrophyllum. It grows to be 30-50 feet tall and will provide fall color. Western Azalea, Rhododendron occidentale, is wonderfully showy and fragrant shrub growing to 5-15 feet, generally in the shade. For hot, dry, sunny areas, a monkey flower, Mimulus aurantiacus, a 4 foot tall woody perennial, could be the right choice. Monkey flowers come in a variety of colors and look good almost all year round, especially if given a little water or have some shade.

A beautiful plant with stunning red and yellow flowers that could bring you much joy and many compliments is Western columbine, Aquilegia formosa. It grows about 3 feet high and one half feet wide; it does well in a woodland garden. If allowed to go to seed, the columbine seeds will attract many small birds into your yard.

Here’s a hot tip. If you have redwood trees, consider planting a natural redwood understory ground cover, redwood sorrel, Oxalis oregana, under your trees. It stays wonderfully green all year, often has pink or white flowers, and there is some evidence it helps to break down the fallen redwood fronds to recycle the nutrients back into the soil for the health of the redwood trees. Makes sense to me. No one is raking up the fronds in the forest.

September for me is a time to enjoy all that is happening in my garden, to harvest my summer food crops, to plant my winter crops and also a time to think about new additions that could enhance the garden.

If you need help deciding what natives to plant, California Flora Nursery located at Somers and D Street in Fulton has a good selection mostly propagated from local seed. Call the nursery at 528-8813 for directions and hours. The California Native Plant Society will hold its Annual Plant Sale Saturday, October 8, from 9 a.m.-noon at the Memorial Vet’s Hall in Santa Rosa. Go early for the best selection. Bloomers Nursery located at the intersection of 116 and Bohemian Hwy in Monte Rio, carries many native plants and can order more for you. All three will offer good advice if you ask.

Victoria Winkle
Board of Directors – Milo Baker Chapter

President: Reny Parker, reny@renyswildflowers.com, 894.9100
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Suzanne Butterfield, thelastiaeger@earthlink.net, 793.8447
Treasurer: Marianne Perron, mariannesp@earthlink.net, 887.1362
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Education:
Field Trip Coordinator: ML Carle, mlml@svn.net, 792.1823
Hospitality:
Membership: Wendy Born, spores@excite.com, 829.7519
Newsletter Editor: Heide Klein, nemorphila@yahoo.com, 820.1024
Assistant Newsletter Editor: Michelle Jensen, herbgrrl@yahoo.com, 477.1648
Plant Sales: Liz Parsons, lizpar8993@aol.com, 833.2063
Poster & T-Shirt Sales: John Akre, jakre@pon.net, 833.1243
Program Chair: Betsy Livingstone, betsl@sonic.net, 887.8873
Publicity: Pauline Haro, bluelady@earthlink.net
Rincon Ridge Park: Lynn Houser, housers@sonic.net, 568.3230
Southridge Preserve Steward: Jeffery Barrett, barrett8@sonic.net, 573.0271
SCCC Rep.: Wendy Krupnick, wendyk@pon.net, 544.4582
Vine Hill Preserve: Jay Pedersen, shanjay@sonic.net
Volunteer Coordinator: Ruby Herrick, rherr@yahoo.com, 887.8542
Webmaster: Ralph Johnson, webmaster@cnpsmb.org

Newsletter Submissions & Website

✔ Check out the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter on our chapter Web site at: http://www.cnpsmb.org
✔ Send submissions for the newsletter to Heide Klein: nemorphila@yahoo.com

Deadline for inclusion in the October newsletter is September 15, 2005.

NOTE: For newsletter subscription questions or problems, please contact Wendy Born, spores@excite.com

Support Our Local Native Plant Nurseries

Appleton Forestry Nursery
(call for appointment)
1369 Tilton Road, Sebastopol
707-823-3776

Buckeye Nursery
2425 Old Adobe Road, Petaluma
707-559-7081

California Flora Nursery
Somers & D Streets, Fulton
707-528-8813
www.calfloranursery.com

Circuit Rider Productions
(call for appointment)
9619 Redwood Hwy, Windsor
707-838-6641

Mostly Natives Nursery
27235 Highway 1, Tomales
707-878-2009
www.mostlynatives.com

North Coast Native Nursery
(call for appointment)
2710 Chileno Valley Road, Petaluma
THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California’s native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California’s native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all. Membership includes *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants, the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities, and the Milo Baker Chapter newsletter. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US.

Name________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City_______________________________State_______Zip_____________Phone_____________________Email_______________________

CHAPTER AFFILIATION:  □ Milo Baker  □ Other________________________________________(County)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:  □ Student, Retired, Limited Income $20  □ Plant Lover $100
□ Individual or Library $35  □ Patron $250
□ Family or Group $45  □ Benefactor $500
□ Supporting $75  □ Bristlecone $1000

Please make check payable to: THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Mail membership application to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816