



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Newly Established Preserve to Provide Protection for Brodiaea

San Diego Habitat Conservancy to manage Sonata Property Open Space Preserve

Carlsbad, CA — Things are looking up for two sensitive plant species in the genus *Brodiaea* thanks to the creation of Sonata Property Open Space Preserve. This preserve serves as a safe haven for thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*) and Orcutt's brodiaea (*Brodiaea orcuttii*) as well as sensitive habitats such as alkali and freshwater marsh, southern willow scrub, and grassland.

The 2.98-acre open space preserve has been permanently preserved as offsite mitigation for the La Costa Town Center Residential, Office, and Commercial Development Project. In the early stages of planning, these two sensitive species of brodiaea were found at the development site. Rather than abandon the project or destroy the plants, all brodiaea individuals found at the development site were translocated to the preserve, which was specifically chosen to provide the best possible habitat conditions for the species.

Thread-leaved brodiaea is listed as endangered by the state of California and as threatened by the federal government. While Orcutt's brodiaea is not a listed species, its numbers have declined significantly over the last century and it is eligible for listing by the state. Both of these perennials are only found in southern California, typically in grassland communities, where loss of habitat due to urbanization is an ongoing threat to the remaining populations.

Merkel and Associates recently completed all restoration efforts thus triggering the start of San Diego Habitat Conservancy's (SDHC's) long-term management obligations which will include biological surveys to assess the condition of the habitat and provide any necessary remediation, such as removal of invasive plants and trash, to ensure the long-term viability of the sensitive resources and wildlife present onsite.

SDHC was established in 2000 and manages a number of open space easements throughout the San Diego region, preserving and managing sensitive habitat and species that are unique to our southern California environment. SDHC strives to share our knowledge and appreciation of our natural environment with the San Diego community, encouraging participation in the stewardship of our region's precious open space. The **MISSION** of SDHC is *to conserve and manage sensitive habitats and species while inspiring land stewardship through education and outreach.*

For more information please contact Don Scoles at (619) 365-4839 or via email at dons@sdhabitat.org.