CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

Project: Propagation and Reproduction of the Metcalf Jewelflower **Date:** August 21, 2007

Nature of Action: Provide $74,721 to the University of California at Davis to determine the optimal conditions for propagation and reproduction of the endangered serpentine endemic Metcalf Jewelflower (*Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *albidus)* of Santa Clara County and genetic assessment of its taxonomic status.

Location: The research will focus on the nine extant populations of the Metcalf Jewelflower, in the Coyote Ridge area of Santa Clara County. The extant populations are all within a 20-mile stretch from south of San Jose to Anderson Lake, which lies to the northeast of Morgan Hill.

Exclusion Category: B (2): Research activities, such as nondestructive data collection and analysis, monitoring, modeling, laboratory testing, calibration, and testing of instruments or procedures and non-manipulative field studies.

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

1.	This action or group of actions will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.	No ✓ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
2.	This action or group of actions will have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	No ✓ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
3.	This action will have significant impacts on public health or safety.	No ✓ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
4.	This action will have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking	No ✓ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

5.	This action will have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___
6.	This action will establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects..	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___
7.	This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects.	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___
8.	This action will have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by bureau or office	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___
9.	This action will have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___ On June 21, 2007, Reclamation initiated informal consultation with the Service on the activities for projects in the CVPCP and the HRP for Fiscal Year 2007. The Service concurred on August 21, 2007 that the projects, including this Metcalf jewelflower project, are not likely to adversely affect listed species.
10.	This action threatens to violate Federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___

of the environment.

11.	This action will have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 2898).	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___
12.	This action will limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___
13.	This action will affect Indian Trust Assets (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITAs)	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___
14.	This action will contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)	No_✓_Uncertain__Yes ___

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion _✓_ EA ___ EIS ___

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

The study consists of three components that will collect fundamental biological data necessary for conservation, management, and potential reintroduction of the Metcalf Jewelflower of Santa Clara County. These three study components will seek to accomplish the following:

1. Local Adaptation: Determine which soil characteristics of serpentine outcrops best foster growth of the Metcalf Jewelflower and explore the degree to which individual populations of this species are locally adapted to particular serpentine outcrops. Evaluate the degree of local adaptation of this species to a highly complex series of serpentine soils at existing and extirpated populations. Fulfilling this objective will require development of germination and propagation protocols, a top conservation priority for this endangered species. The results will help identify the essential soil characteristics necessary to maximize plant performance across the species' range. Examination of soil chemistry of potential reintroduction sites and a test of plant performance on these soils will also be carried out.

2. Reproductive Biology: Characterize the reproductive biology of the Metcalf Jewelflower including the level of outcrossing and primary pollinators, both essential components to maintaining existing populations and successfully establishing reintroduced populations. Successful completion of this objective will include substantial seed banking, which is another top conservation priority for this species.

3. Taxonomic Status: Closely explore the taxonomic status of the Metcalf Jewelflower using a genetic investigation of the target species and its closest relatives, *S. albidus* ssp. *peramoenus* (Species of Concern) and several geographically adjacent populations of *S. glandulosus* ssp. *glandulosus*, which have been recently classified as its closest relatives. To date, no thorough DNA based assessment of taxonomic status has been completed for this species.

Prepared by:

Douglas Klemsmith Date: 8-22-07
Environmental Specialist

Regional Archeologist concurrence:

see attachment

_____ Date: _____

ITA Designee concurrence:

see attachment

_____ Date: _____

Concurrence:

_____ Date: 8-30-07
CVPCP/HCP Program Manager

Approved:

_____ Date: 9-4-07
Regional Environmental Officer

From: Adam Nickels
To: Kleinsmith, Douglas
Date: 8/31/2007 4:15:13 PM
Subject: CEC Propagation of Reproduction of the Metcalf Jewelflower

Project No. 07-SCAO-309

Doug,

The proposed undertaking to provide funding to the University of California Davis to study propagation and reproduction of the Metcalf Flower has no potential to affect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The proposed action is administrative in nature and will result in no potential to affect historic properties.

I concur with line 7 of the CEC titled Propagation of Reproduction of the Metcalf Jewelflower Dated 8/21/07

Location: Santa Clara California

Exclusion: B(2)

This concludes the section 106 responsibilities for this action. Please include a copy of this concurrence with the CEC file. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adam Nickels

Adam M. Nickels
Archaeologist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way, MP-153
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-978-5053
anickels@mp.usbr.gov

CC: MP-153

From: Patricia Rivera
To: Kleinsmith, Douglas
Date: 8/31/2007 11:42:59 AM
Subject: Re: CVPCP 2007 CECs ITA Requests

Doug,

I have reviewed the six Categorical Exclusion Checklists for the CVPCP projects per your request . All are studies, plans, or community outreach with no construction, land purchase or surface disturbance.

The Pine Hills Preserve fuels reduction plan: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 3 miles ESE and it is the Shingle Springs Rancheria.

The Tipton kangaroo rat relocation study: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 28 miles ENE and it is the Tule River Reservation.

The California tiger salamander genetics study: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 35 miles WNW and it is the Lytton Rancheria.

The Alameda County private ranches outreach: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 38 miles WNW and it is the Lytton Rancheria.

The riparian brush rabbit genetics study: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 26 miles SSW and it is a Public Domain Allotment.

The propagation and reproduction of the metcalf jewelflower study: The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA to the proposed site is approximately 35 miles SE and it is the a Public Domain Allotment.

Patricia

>>> Douglas Kleinsmith 8/23/2007 2:50 PM >>>

Patricia,

Attached are ITA requests for the six Categorical Exclusion Checklists for the CVPCP projects. All are studies, plans, or community outreach with no construction, land purchase or surface disturbance.

Doug