

California Native Plant Society

Supervisor Greg Cox
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101
Greg.Cox@sdcountry.ca.gov

September 22, 2008

RE: County Vegetation Management Practices (Agenda Item 5, Sept. 24, 2008)

Dear Chairman Cox and Members of the Board:

The San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the item County Vegetation Management Practices (Agenda Item 5, Sept. 24, 2008).

We support the recommendations of staff to spend more time to collect information on the best way to proceed. We would like to request that the County form a task group that includes professionals in wild land management, scientists who have studied the effect of various practices on the long-term health of natural ecosystems, and local environmental leaders. We request that this process use the best science available, and that no actions be taken that might degrade natural habitats and offer little or no protection to homes from wildfires. We also request that an Environmental Impact Report be developed before any decisions are made to remove vegetation from any wild land areas outside of approved fuel-management zones near structures.

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and how to conserve them and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship. CNPS has been active for many years in developing the County's land use plans and our members donate hundreds of volunteer hours to ensure that San Diego's current and future residents and visitors will be able to enjoy our County's unique and beautiful landscapes. We look forward to working with you to preserve this asset.

Sincerely,

Carrie Schneider, Conservation Chair
San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society
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Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora