



December 8, 2015

The Chaparral Lands Conservancy  
Attn: Mr. David Hogan  
P.O. Box 141  
Mount Laguna, CA 91948

**Subject: Orcutt's Spineflower (*Chorizanthe orcuttiana*) Rare Plant Survey Results**

Mr. Hogan:

This letter presents the results of Orcutt's spineflower (*Chorizanthe orcuttiana*) surveys conducted by Rocks Biological Consulting for The Chaparral Lands Conservancy (TCLC) in the County of San Diego, California in April 2015. Orcutt's spineflower was detected in five populations at two survey locations during the 2015 surveys.

Surveys were conducted at nine preserve locations from April 1 through April 23, 2015 (Table 1) in suitable habitat as shown in maps provided by TCLC. Five previously undocumented Orcutt's spineflower populations were located at two preserve locations in the north-coastal City of San Diego: Gonzales Canyon and Sorrento Hills (aka Carmel Mountain-West). Both of these sites are owned by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and are preserved as open space. The Gonzales Canyon location is also part of the Pacific Highlands Ranch Natural Resources Management Plan area.

The Gonzales Canyon populations occur in openings within Diegan coastal sage scrub habitat (*Artemisia californica-Eriogonum fasciculatum* Alliance). In 2015, Orcutt's spineflower were observed at two discreet subpopulation locations totaling approximately 1,200 plants within an approximately 250 square meter area.

The Sorrento Hills populations occur in openings within southern maritime chaparral habitat (*Ceanothus verrucosus* Alliance). In 2015, Orcutt's spineflower was observed at three discreet subpopulation locations totaling approximately 125 plants within an approximately 150 square meter area.

All five populations were observed on similar sandy soils but in varying aspects and slopes. One Gonzales Canyon population was found on a gently sloping ridge-top with a southwest aspect while the other was on a moderately sloping hillside with a west aspect. The Sorrento Hills populations were found on gentle to moderately sloping patches of sandy soil on steep ridge-tops with south and east aspects. All populations are found in high quality, relatively undisturbed habitat with some cryptogamic soils and few weeds. Populations were noted to co-occur with several species at both sites, including *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* var. *linifolia* (Del Mar sand aster); *Chorizanthe procumbens* (prostrate spineflower), *Camissoniopsis*

*bistorta* (California sun cup), *Cryptantha intermedia* var. *intermedia* (Nievitas cryptantha),  
*Stipa coronata* (giant stipa) and *Cardionema ramosissimum* (tread lightly).

Three of the five populations are subject to pedestrian and or equestrian use on nearby paths which could adversely impact the small, fragile populations and associated cryptogamic soils. Access control is recommended for both sites.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (619) 843-6640 if you have any questions or concerns about this report.

Sincerely,



Jim Rocks  
Principal Biologist

Enclosures:    Survey Dates and Personnel  
                     Site Photos  
                     SDMMP Monitoring Forms for Species Observances

Table 1. Survey Dates and Personnel

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## 2015 Orcutt's Spineflower Surveys Site Photos



Photo 1. View of Orcutt's Spineflower habitat at Gonzales Canyon (occurrence #1)



Photo 2. View of Orcutt's Spineflower habitat at Gonzales Canyon (occurrence #2)





Photo 3. View of Orcutt's Spineflower habitat at Sorrento Hills.



Photo 4. View of Orcutt's Spineflower habitat at Sorrento Hills.





Photo 5. View of Orcutt's Spineflower habitat at Torrey Pines Extension.



Photo 6. View of survey area at Torrey Pines Main. Orcutt's Spineflower was not observed.





Photo 7. View of survey area at Overlook Park. Orcutt's Spineflower was not observed.



Photo 8. View of survey area southwest of the Manchester Preserve. Orcutt's Spineflower was not observed.





Photo 9. View of survey area at San Elijo Bluffs. Orcutt's Spineflower was not observed. Note infestation of Perennial veldtgrass (*Ehrharta calycina*)



Photo 10. View of survey area at Village Park west. Orcutt's Spineflower was not observed.





Photo 11. View of survey area at Village Park east. Orcutt's Spineflower was not observed.



Photo 12. View of survey area at Saxony. Orcutt's Spineflower was not observed.