



For Immediate Release

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Livermore Tarplant Added to California Endangered Species List

Sacramento, California- August 25, 2016: California Native Plant Society (CNPS) successfully petitioned for endangered status for the rare Livermore tarplant (*Deinandra bacigalupii*), a species known to exist in only three locations within Alameda County.

Two years after Heath Bartosh, Rare Plant Committee Chairman of the East Bay Chapter of CNPS, petitioned the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to list this rare endemic species as endangered, the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to grant the Livermore tarplant endangered status. The Commission praised the thoroughness and sound science that CNPS presented in the petition, and in two motions moved to add it to the list of plants declared to be endangered in California.

Livermore tarplant is the first plant in nearly a decade to be added to the California Endangered Species list.

First described as new to science in 1999, the Livermore tarplant is known from only three occurrences within 90 acres of the Livermore Valley in Alameda County. These occurrences are located in areas that are subject to frequent disturbance, including road construction, off-road vehicle use, and application of herbicides. These challenges, in addition to encroachment and competition by non-native species, threaten the survival of the plant. Fortunately, its new status as a listed species affords the Livermore tarplant the highest level of legal protection in California.

Protecting this plant may benefit the rare habitat where it grows as well. "This native plant species... is growing in specialized habitat," says Heath Bartosh. The sensitive alkali meadows and grasslands where it lives are also home to other California Rare Plant Rank species.

"On their own, individual plant species may seem insignificant to some, but they are part of a larger ecosystem in which other plants and animals rely," according to Aaron Sims, CNPS Rare Plant Botanist. "The life history of the Livermore tarplant is still being understood and protecting it from extinction will allow us to learn more about how it interacts with the ecosystem."

California Native Plant Society is a statewide organization that advances the understanding, appreciation, and protection of California's native plants and habitats through scientific activities, education, and conservation. CNPS is also a membership organization with nearly 10,000 members in 35 chapters throughout California and Baja who promote its mission at the local level. For more information, please visit cnps.org.



*The Livermore tarplant,
(Photo by Heath Bartosh)*