

Kathleen Goddard Jones
Route 3, Box 278
Arroyo Grande, California 93420
March 31, 1980

Mr. Roger Calloway
Senior Landscape Planner
Development Division - Room 1449
California State Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

RE: NIPOMO DUNES
Dune rehabilitation
and stabilization
with native plants of
the area.
Pismo State Beach

Dear Roger:

There are two nurseries in San Luis Obispo County located convenient to sand dune areas here: they both specialize in native plants and "cultivars." I have talked with the owners of both about the forthcoming projects of rehabilitating and stabilizing both the Nipomo Dunes of Pismo State Beach and the Morro Bay Dunes of Montana de Oro State Park.

David C. Fross & Paul Hertel, owners of
Native Sons Nursery
El Campo Road, Nipomo Mesa
Route I, Box 427-U
Arroyo Grande, California 93420
(805) 481-5996

John Goetz & Judy Sahm, owners of
Old Creek Nursery
103 Old Creek Road
Cayucos, California 93430
(805) 995-1546

These owners are graduates some years back of Ornamental Horticulture and Bio-Sciences at Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo: very knowledgeable and run good businesses. They have already done propagating of dune natives - and, interestingly enough, both spoke of abronia umbellata (the lavender-pink sand verbena - very common, very sturdy -) as being one of the successful ones in vegetated dune areas.

Both of these nurseries expressed enthusiasm for propagation projects for rehabilitating dune areas with native dune plants of species which presently characterize our various dune habitats. I have told them I would write to you.

As you may remember, I am an amateur botanist. I have a limited background in college taxonomy - and lots of field botany with Cal-Poly professors in the California Native Plant Society - and have spent much time, of course, during the last 18 years in the dunes of San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County.

On a separate sheet I am enclosing what I would refer to as a preliminary list of some of my observations regarding the responsiveness of native dune plants when they are present and voluntarily take over and begin to rehabilitate a damaged dune area in locations where damage has happened to stop.

However, I would like to call particular attention to my observation that in vegetated dune areas usually the first plant to start out and criss-cross over sand damage, in places where ORV's abandon a route, is the abronia umbellata (the lavender-pink sand verbena noted above), together with croton californicus (a spurge that is a sturdy, grey-green creeper - very common), carpobrotus chilensis (the native, magenta-flowered ice-plant; not to be confused with the variegated common ice-plant which is used extensively by Cal-Trans along highways) and with franseria chamissonis var. bipinnatisecta (now renamed, I believe, ambrosia chamissonis, etc. It is the very common Beach Bur: very durable). All these hold sand efficiently. My Preliminary List will show others.

In closing, may I reiterate that there is urgency to plant no more European Beach Grass (ammophila arenaria; also called maram grass). Importantly, it actually smothers all natives...crowds them out and eliminates them completely in its vigorous take-over. It is not a native to this country at all, of course, but an intruder which was introduced to dunes in this part of California. It should be eliminated, but regrettably this is very difficult. I can show you areas where the common Rush (juncus lescurii) together with the dune ice-plant (native carpobrotus chilensis) have long waged, and continue to wage, just about a stand-off battle with the European Beach Grass (Oso Flaco beach/marsh.)

With warmest personal regards to you from both Gaylord and myself.

Kathy

PRELIMINARY LIST
of
Some native plants of the Nipomo Dunes
-Pismo State Beach-

FROM: Kathleen G. Jones
Route 3, Box 278
Arroyo Grande, Ca. 93420
805-489-3707

N.B. My observation has been that many of these plants voluntarily revegetate damaged dune areas when use of the area ceases. This is not true in all cases of dune damage. Some of these listed plants are very common, some are listed as Rare and Endangered, but may propagate readily. All are vigorous, persistent and adaptable.

BEACH:

- Cakile maritima - Sea Rocket (abundant on beaches)
- Cakile edentula - no common name (well distributed, but less abundant than above)
var. californica
- Carpobrotus chilensis - Native Coast Ice-Plant (very abundant. But do not confuse it with Freeway Ice-Plant, not a native)
- Dithyrea maritima - Spectacle Pod
(This coastal perennial used to be somewhat abundant on beaches south of Pismo Beach. It has largely been destroyed by beach traffic. Seeds could be procured from Morro Bay Sand Spit and from dunes of Vandenberg Air Force Base.
This plant should be restored to its native habitat south of Pismo Beach.)

PRIMARY DUNES:

- CARPOBROTUS CHILENSIS - as above
- Abronia maritima - Magenta Sand Verbena (abundant)
- Ambrosia chamissonis var. bipinnatisecta - Beach Bur (abundant) (formerly "franseria")
- Cirsium rathophilum - Surf Thistle (Used to be abundant. Much of it destroyed)

200 YARDS INLAND APPROXIMATELY:

- carpobrotus chilensis - Coast Ice-Plant, as above
- abronia latifolia - Yellow Sand Verbena (abundant)
- ambrosia chamissonis var. bipinnatisecta - Beach Bur, as above
- malacothrix incana - nicknamed Dunedelion (not much of it)

500 YARDS AND MORE INLAND APPROXIMATELY:

- Growing and thriving in open sand: MONARDELLA (CRISP) - PURPLE TASSEL DUNE MINT
- convolvulus soldanella - Beach Morning-Glory
 - lupinus chamissonis - Dune Silver-blue Bush Lupine
 - ambrosia chamissonia var. bipinnatisecta, as above - Beach Bur

Thriving in moist areas between open dunes:

- juncus leseurii - Dune Rushes (abundant)
- fragaria chilensis - Dune Strawberry (less than abundant)
- salix lasiolepis - var. lasiolepis - Arroyo Willow or California Pussy-Willow (abundant)
- myrica californica - Wax Myrtle (abundant tree/shrub and is to be encouraged)
- populus trichocarpa - Black Poplar, Black Cottonwood, Balm of Gilead (good tree, abundant)
- solidago californica - California Goldenrod (abundant)
- phacelia ramosissima (no common names for the several sand dune varieties which are abundant. See page 236, Hoover, Robt. F. Vascular Plants of San Luis Obispo County.)
- equisetum telmateia - Horsetails (good dune stabilizer. See Hoover pp 44 & 45)
- equisetum hiemale var. affine - Horsetails Hoover discusses both these species.

INLAND HEAVILY VEGETATED DUNES:

- Haplopappus ericoides - Mock Heather (abundant)
- Eriogonum parvifolium - Dune Buckwheat "
- Senecio blochmaniae - Comet's Plume "
- Corethrogyne robusta var. filaginifolia "
- stephanomeria virgata - Wreath Flower "
- chorizanthe - several varieties - Turkish Rugging "
- A wide variety of native dune wildflowers, abundant in some areas.