



Plant Palette Recommendations for the North Bayshore Precise Plan

Project # 3640-01

Prepared for:

The City of Mountain View
Community Development Department
Planning Division
500 Castro Street, 1st Floor
Mountain View, CA 94041
Attn: Martin Alkire
Principal Planner

Prepared by:

H. T. Harvey & Associates

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Introduction

Native vegetation in the North Bayshore area of Mountain View, California provides a wide range of benefits to wildlife and people. Emphasizing the use of native plants in this urban landscape can create ecological synergy with adjacent natural ecosystems and water resources, and increase wildlife and human benefits in the urban environment. For example, native vegetation can provide wildlife habitat functions that are otherwise absent or reduced in the urban setting, and thereby increase bird and beneficial insect populations. These functions include the provision of food resources, shelter, and nesting sites, as well as the protection of ecosystems from invasive species. Native landscape plantings, especially upland species, can use less water than many nonnative alternatives. A predominance of native vegetation in the urban landscape, when appropriately connected to pedestrian/bicycle pathways and adjacent natural areas, can also improve the human experience of the natural world.



Aesculus californica California buckeye

This beneficial effect of nature on humans is referred to as biophilia, and an increasing body of research indicates that the benefits are real and measurable in terms of increased productivity and reduced stress.

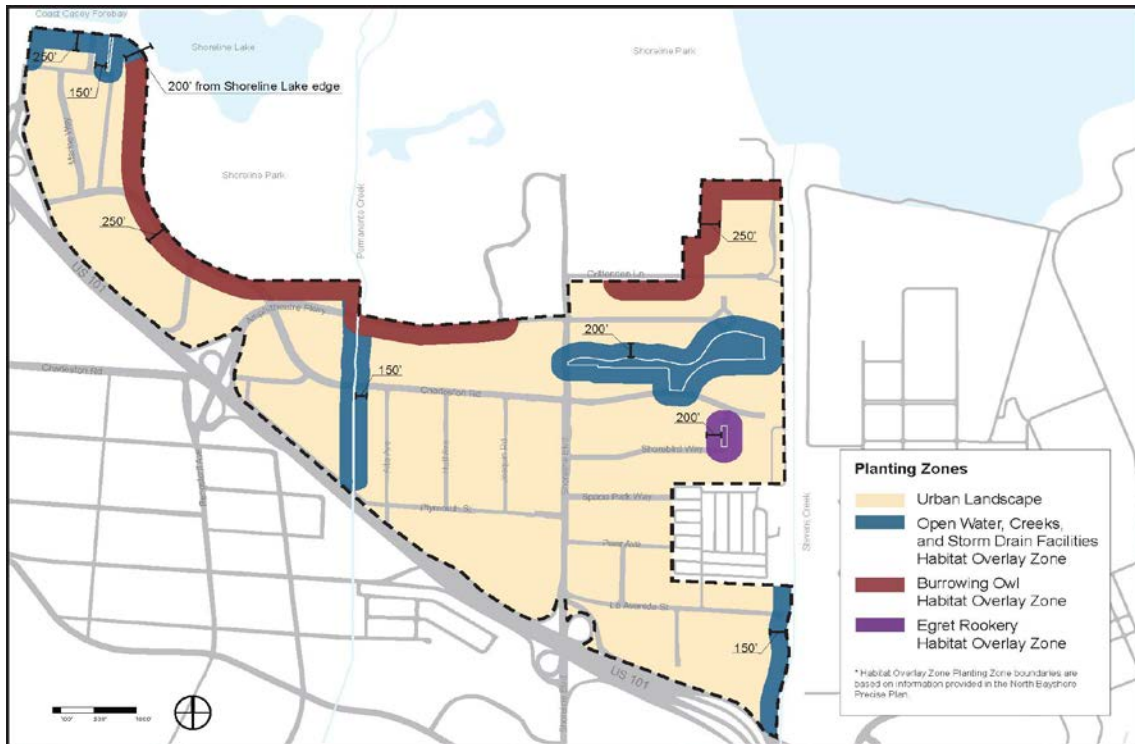
The plant palette for the North Bayshore Precise Plan area was developed by H. T. Harvey & Associates restoration and wildlife ecologists in collaboration with the City of Mountain View. The purpose of the palette is to assist landscape design projects with meeting the intent of the North Bayshore Precise Plan's habitat and biological resources objectives (City of Mountain View 2014). These objectives, outlined in Chapter 5 of the North Bayshore Precise Plan, are as follows:

- Expand existing habitat in the North Bayshore area
- Improve the quality of existing habitat areas
- Ensure that future development results in net benefits to wildlife inside and adjacent to North Bayshore

The plant palette includes a versatile suite of plant species that can be used to increase native vegetation and improve wildlife habitat quality and extent throughout the North Bayshore area. Although many nonnative landscape plants have some value to wildlife, California native plant species provide the most appropriate sources of food, shelter, and nesting sites for local wildlife populations. Therefore, primarily California native species were selected for this plant palette, and many are locally native to the San Francisco Bay shoreline and Santa Clara Valley. A small number of nonnative plant species were included because they can provide habitat value to wildlife in conjunction with native vegetation and are commonly found in regional ornamental landscaping.

Planting Zones

The North Bayshore Precise Plan area is divided into four planting zones for the purpose of these plant palette recommendations, consistent with the “Habitat and Biological Resources” chapter of the North Bayshore Precise Plan. The plant palette recommends species suitable for each of these planting zones. These planting zones consist of the urban landscape and three distinct habitat type areas, referred to in the North Bayshore Precise Plan as Habitat Overlay Zones (HOZs): open water, creeks, and storm drain facilities HOZ; burrowing owl HOZ; and egret rookery HOZ. Each HOZ has specific standards and guidelines to address sensitive habitat features located in the plan area, and each HOZ has a corresponding planting zone. Chapter 5.1 of the North Bayshore Precise Plan presents additional detail on each HOZ (City of Mountain View 2014). The following sections provide additional plant palette recommendations for each planting zone.



Planting Zone Locations

Urban Landscape

Much of North Bayshore Precise Plan area is made up of the urban landscape planting zone, where plantings are expected to occur in landscaped areas between buildings and roads. To maximize habitat values, plantings in the urban landscape zone should be dominated by native species, and at least 80% of the total surface area to be planted should consist of native species.

Open Water, Creeks, and Storm Drain Facilities HOZ

The planting zone for the open water, creeks, and storm drain facilities HOZ consists of buffers of various distances around existing water features. Plantings in this zone shall include multilayered herbaceous and woody vegetation to provide wildlife habitat and 100% of the plantings in each vertical structure layer (overstory, midstory, and understory) shall be native species.

Burrowing Owl HOZ

The planting zone for the burrowing owl HOZ consists of a buffer adjacent to Shoreline Park where there is an ongoing burrowing owl monitoring and management program. Plantings in this zone should neither provide perches for avian predators of burrowing owls nor create dense woody cover that could hide mammalian predators; therefore, plantings in this zone shall be herbaceous species, and 100% of the plantings should be native.

Egret Rookery HOZ

The planting zone for the egret rookery HOZ consists of a buffer around a regionally significant egret rookery. Plantings should provide minimal cover for mammalian predators and be chosen to avoid entanglement of young birds that have fallen from nests; therefore, plantings shall be herbaceous species, and 100% of the plantings should be native.

Landscape Design Standards and Guidelines

The plant palette is intended to be consistent with the North Bayshore Precise Plan landscape design standards and guidelines found in Chapter 5.4 of the plan (City of Mountain View 2014). The following list summarizes these standards and guidelines:

- The presence of invasive species can reduce habitat value and facilitate the spread of additional invasive plant and wildlife species; therefore, they should not be planted in the plan area.
- Native plants should be used, and nonnative plants may be used only if they support habitat useful to native wildlife.
- Native plants should be grown from propagules collected from local populations found in the San Francisco Bay Area counties (Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano).
- Use of high-water-use plants (such as turf) and water features should be minimized, and most of the plantings should be low-water-use plants and salt-tolerant plants compatible with irrigating with recycled water.
- To the greatest extent possible, plantings should be installed in multilayered clusters, with groundcover, shrub, and tree canopy layers overlapping in the same area to maximize habitat structure.



Overlapping Canopy Layers

Landscape Design Considerations

Native plant species are uniquely adapted to the habitats where they occur. This ecological knowledge along with an understanding of existing nearby habitat structure and function, should be incorporated into landscape design to inform plant species selection and layout. Therefore, landscape design for native species requires specialized expertise and it is recommended that landscape plans be developed with expertise from landscape architects and restoration ecologists who are familiar with California native plants and their response to environmental conditions in the urban landscape. In addition, there are numerous site-specific conditions to consider when selecting native plant species in the urban landscape. It is recommended that project landscape architects and restoration ecologists consider site-specific planting conditions including:

- Soil texture, chemistry, and nutrient availability
- Soil rooting zone volume
- Groundwater availability and surface water hydrology
- Drainage (surface and subsurface)
- Supplemental irrigation
- Anticipated maintenance
- Public safety considerations

This plant palette includes many species adapted to natural areas in the North Bayshore area. However, even regionally adapted species may not be tolerant of the site-specific conditions that may be encountered in the planting zones (e.g., on the shaded north side of buildings, in the full sun between hardscape surfaces, on compacted clay soils). Therefore, it is important for successful plant establishment that landscape designers select plants from this palette that are suitable for their project-specific site conditions and design objectives.

Salinity levels in site soils and in recycled water that may be used for irrigation may limit successful plant establishment in the North Bayshore area. It is recommended that landscape plan designers determine whether salinity levels in site soils and recycled water are suitable for proposed plantings and whether design elements to ensure good drainage are necessary. It is also recommended that landscape designers consult with the City of Mountain View on the salinity of recycled water available for irrigation.

Applicants and landscape plan designers are responsible for the site-specific public safety considerations of planting the species in this plant palette in the urban setting.



Quercus lobata - Valley Oak

This palette includes a versatile suite of plants known to provide beneficial habitat values to wildlife, but it is not necessarily exhaustive for all regionally appropriate native plant species or for all species with wildlife value in the North Bayshore area. Proposed planting plans may include species not included in this plant palette. Any additional proposed species should be evaluated in terms of how they support the North Bayshore Precise Plan habitat and biological resources objectives to expand and improve existing habitat and result in net benefits to wildlife. Applicants should provide supporting documentation of the wildlife habitat values provided by additional proposed plant species, along with documentation that these species are either California native or non-invasive species.

Plant Palette

Plant Palette for the North Bayshore Precise Plan Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Planting Zone				Characteristics				Natural Habitat Type				Value to Wildlife		Wildlife Value Observations	
		Urban Landscape	Open Waters, Creeks, and Storm Drain Facilities HOZ	Burrowing Owl HOZ	Egret Rookery HOZ	Herbaceous or Woody	Life Cycle	Water Use Classification of Landscape Series (WUCOLS)	Shade Tolerance	Salinity/Recycled Water	Observed to Tolerate	Mixed Oak Woodland	Mixed Riparian Woodland	Wetland/Bioswale	Meadow/Grassland	Birds	Hummingbirds

UNDERSTORY (Approximately 1-3 feet at maturity)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE																						
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	x	x	x	x	H	P	L		S						x			x	x	flowers attract many birds and bees	
<i>Agrostis exarata</i>	spike bentgrass	x	x	x	x	H	P	na							x	x						
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	columbine	x	x	x	x	H	P	L	ST				x		x				x		attracts bees	
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	thrift sea pink	x	x	x	x	H	P	M								x				x		
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	mugwort	x	x			H	P	L	ST											x		
<i>Asclepias californica</i>	California milkweed	x		x	x	H	P	L											x	x		
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	narrow leaf milkweed	x		x	x	H	P	L											x	x		
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	showy milkweed	x		x	x	H	P	L											x	x		
<i>Baccharis glutinosa</i>	marsh baccharis	x	x			H	P	na							x	x			x	x	host and nectar source for butterflies	
<i>Berberis pinnata</i>	California barberry	x				W	P	M								x			x	x	some species may be invasive (<i>B. darwinii</i>)	
<i>Bromus carinatus</i>	California brome	x	x	x	x	H	P	na	ST	S/R			x		x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals	
<i>Calamagrostis nutkaensis</i>	reed grass	x	x	x	x	H	P	M							x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals	
<i>Carex barbarae</i>	Santa Barbara sedge	x	x	x	x	H	P	na	FS						x	x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals
<i>Carex nudata</i>	torrent sedge	x	x	x	x	H	P	na							x	x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	clustered field sedge	x	x	x	x	H	P	M							x	x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals
<i>Carex tumulicola</i>	slender sedge	x	x	x	x	H	P	L							x	x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i> var. <i>griseus</i>	Carmel ceanothus	x				W	P	L					x			x			x	x	mat forming. Attracts insects, food plant for butterfly larvae, nectar plant for birds and adult butterflies	
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	hairgrass	x	x	x	x	H	P	L		S					x	x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals
<i>Elymus condensatus</i>	giant wildrye	x		x	x	H	P	L								x					seeds are food for birds and small mammals	
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	blue wildrye	x	x	x	x	H	P	na	ST	S					x	x					seeds are food for birds and small mammals	
<i>Elymus triticoides</i>	creeping wildrye	x	x	x	x	H	P	L		S			x	x	x	x					seeds are food for birds and small mammals	
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California fuschia	x	x	x		H	P	L	ST			x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	food for hummingbirds and butterflies; attracts bees	
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	seaside daisy	x		x	x	H	P	L				x		x					x	x	flowers attract insects	
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	x				W	P	VL		R	x	x				x			x	x	flowers attract bees and insects	
<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	coast buckwheat	x				W	P	L														
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	golden yarrow	x				W	P	L					x						x	x		
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	x	x	x	x	H	A	VL							x					x		
<i>Euthamia occidentalis</i>	western goldenrod	x	x			H	P	na							x					x		
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California fescue	x	x	x	x	H	P	L	ST	S	x	x			x	x						
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho fescue	x		x	x	H	P	VL		L	x				x	x						
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	red fescue	x	x	x	x	H	P	L		S					x	x						
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	beach strawberry	x		x	x	H	P	M		L					x	x				x		
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	wood strawberry	x		x	x	H	P	M	ST			x	x			x						
<i>Grindelia stricta</i>	gumplant	x		x		H	P	L		S	x				x	x			x	x	long flowering period, provides habitat structure in SF Bay estuaries	
<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	meadow barley	x	x	x	x	H	P	na				x	x		x	x						
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	crevice alum root	x				H	P	M	ST			x						x		x	flowers used by hummingbirds	
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Douglas iris	x	x	x	x	H	P	L	ST			x	x	x	x					x		
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	common rush	x	x	x	x	H	P	M							x	x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals
<i>Juncus patens</i>	spreading rush	x	x	x	x	H	P	L							x	x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals
<i>Juncus xiphioides</i>	iris leaved rush	x	x	x	x	H	P	na							x	x	x					seed provides food for birds and mammals
<i>Lupinus nanus</i>	sky lupine	x	x	x	x	H	A	na								x			x			

Scientific Name	Common Name	Planting Zone				Characteristics						Natural Habitat Type				Value to Wildlife			Wildlife Value Observations	
		Urban Landscape	Open Waters, Creeks, and Storm Drain Facilities HOZ	Burrowing Owl HOZ	Egret Rookery HOZ	Herbaceous or Woody	Life Cycle	Water Use Classification of Landscape Series (WUCOLS)	Shade Tolerance	Salinity/Recycled Water Tolerance	Observed to Tolerate Recycled Water	Mixed Oak Woodland	Mixed Riparian Woodland	Wetland/Bioswale	Meadow/Grassland	Birds	Hummingbirds	Butterflies		Beneficial Insects
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	sticky monkeyflower	x				W	P	VL	ST		x	x					x	x	x	
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	seep monkeyflower	x	x			H	P	H	ST				x						x	
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	coyote mint	x		x		W	P	VL			x	x						x	x	attracts bees
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deergrass	x	x			H	P	L			x									
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i>	foothill penstemon	x				W	P	L				x					x	x	x	attracts bees
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	California blackberry	x	x			W	P	L	ST		x	x	x	x			x		x	
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland sage	x				W	P	L		S	x	x					x	x	x	x
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	purple sage	x				W	P	L		S	x	x					x	x	x	x
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	Sonoma sage	x				W	P	L				x		x					x	x
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	hummingbird sage	x	x	x		H	P	L	ST	S	x	x				x	x		x	food source for nectar eating birds; attracts bees
<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	California bee plant	x				H	P	L	ST			x						x	x	attracts bees
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	blue eyed grass	x	x	x	x	H	P	VL				x		x	x					x
<i>Solidago velutina</i>	California goldenrod	x	x			H	P	M				x							x	x
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	alkali sacaton	x		x	x	H	P	L		S										
<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	purple needlegrass	x	x	x	x	H	P	VL		S		x			x	x			x	seeds and cover for birds; butterfly larvae food source
<i>Symphotrichum chilense</i>	Pacific aster	x	x	x	x	H	P	M			x		x	x	x				x	x
<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	wooly blue curls	x				W	P	VL				x					x		x	attracts insects; excellent nectar source
<i>Wyethia angustifolia</i>	mules ears	x		x	x	H	P	L											x	x
NONNATIVE																				
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	weeping lantana	x				W	P	L		S								x	x	
<i>Lavandula spp.</i>	lavender	x				W	P	L												x
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	x				W	P	L												x
<i>Salvia elegans</i>	pineapple sage	x				W	P	M										x		x
<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	Mexican sage	x				W	P	L		S							x	x	x	x
MIDSTORY (Approximately 3-15 feet at maturity)																				
CALIFORNIA NATIVE																				
<i>Acer negundo</i>	box elder	x	x			W	D	M	ST			x	x				x			food for seed-eating birds and small mammals; good seasonal cover and nesting sites for birds
<i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i>	manzanita	x				W	P	VL or L		S	x	x					x	x	x	x
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	coastal sagebrush	x				W	P	L			x	x					x			foraging and nesting for birds, insects, and mammals
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush	x	x			W	P	L	ST	S	x	x	x				x		x	x
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mulefat		x			W	P	L	ST				x	x			x		x	food and shelter for birds, butterflies, insects, and other wildlife
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	blue blossom	x				W	P	L		S	x	x					x		x	attracts insects, food plant for butterfly larvae, nectar plant for birds and adult butterflies; year-round dense cover for birds
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	western redbud	x	x			W	D	VL	ST	S	x	x	x					x		x
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	Mountain mahogany	x				W	D	VL			x	x							x	x
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	redosier dogwood	x	x			W	D	H	ST	L			x	x			x			fruit for birds
<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	hazelnut	x				W	D	L	ST			x					x			food for nut eating birds and small mammals; seasonal cover and possible nesting sites for birds
<i>Frangula californica</i>	California coffeeberry	x	x			W	P	L	ST	R	x	x	x				x		x	attracts insects, food plant for butterfly larvae, nectar plant for adult butterflies, fruit for birds and small mammals; year-round cover and limited nesting sites for birds
<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	flannelbush	x				W	P	VL												x
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	coast silk tassel	x				W	P	L				x	x				x			x
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	x	x			W	P	L	ST	S	x	x					x		x	attracts bees, food for insects nectar plant for butterflies and birds, fruit for birds and small mammals; moderate year-round cover and nesting sites

Scientific Name	Common Name	Planting Zone				Characteristics					Natural Habitat Type				Value to Wildlife			Wildlife Value Observations		
		Urban Landscape	Open Waters, Creeks, and Storm Drain Facilities HOZ	Burrowing Owl HOZ	Egret Rookery HOZ	Herbaceous or Woody	Life Cycle	Water Use Classification of Landscape Series (WUCOLS)	Shade Tolerance	Salinity/Recycled Water Tolerance	Observed to Tolerate Recycled Water in Mountain View	Mixed Oak Woodland	Mixed Riparian Woodland	Wetland/Bioswale	Meadow/Grassland	Birds	Hummingbirds		Butterflies	Beneficial Insects
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	arroyo willow	x	x			W	D	H	ST	S			x	x		x		x	x	provides resources for insect and catkin eating birds, butterfly larvae and adults, and seasonal dense cover and nesting sites for a variety of birds
NONNATIVE																				
<i>Arbutus x 'Marina'</i>	Marina madrone	x				W	E	L								x	x	x		food for nectar and insect eating birds and adult butterflies; year round dense cover and nesting sites for a variety of bird species
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	red flowering gum	x				W	E	L						x		x	x	x		food for nectar and insect eating birds, nectar for butterflies, and year round cover and nesting sites for a variety of birds
<i>Maleleuca ericifolia</i>	swamp paperbark	x				W	E	L								x	x	x		food for nectar and insect eating birds, nectar for butterflies, and year round cover and nesting sites for a variety of birds
<i>Maleleuca linearifolia</i>	cajeput tree	x				W	E	L								x	x	x		food for nectar and insect eating birds, nectar for butterflies, and year round cover and nesting sites for a variety of birds
<i>Melaleuca stypheliodes</i>	prickly paperbark	x				W	E	L								x	x	x		food for nectar and insect eating birds, nectar for butterflies, and year round cover and nesting sites for a variety of birds
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	New Zealand Christmas tree	x				W	E	L								x	x	x		food for nectar and insect eating birds, nectar for adult butterflies, and year round cover and possible nesting sites for a variety of birds
<i>Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'</i>	Japanese flowering cherry	x				W	D	M								x				food for fruit eating birds and small mammals; limited seasonal cover and nesting sites for a variety of bird species
<i>Quercus suber</i>	cork oak	x				W	E	L		S						x		x		use only if hardier than native oaks. Food for butterfly larvae and acorn eating birds and small mammals, and moderate year-round cover and nesting sites for a variety of bird species

Plant Palette Legend

Scientific Name	According to the Jepson Manual, second edition (Baldwin et al. 2012)
Common Name	Provided for additional detail. May be known by other common names
Urban Landscape	80% of the total surface area to be planted should consist of native species
Open Waters, Creeks, and Storm Drain Facilities HOZ	100% native of the plantings in each vertical structure layer (understory, midstory, and overstory) should be
Burrowing Owl HOZ	100% of the total number of plantings should be herbaceous native species
Egret Rookery HOZ	100% of the total number of plantings should be herbaceous native species
Herbaceous or Woody	H - Herbaceous; W - Woody
Life Cycle	A - Annual; P - Perennial. E - Evergreen; D - Deciduous
Water Use Classification of Landscape Series (WUCOLS)	VL - Very Low; L - Low; M - Medium, H - High. May vary based on site conditions
Shade Tolerance	ST - Shade Tolerant
Salinity/Recycled Water Tolerance	S - Reference indicates moderate or high salt tolerance; R - Reference indicates recycled water tolerance; L -
Observed to Tolerate Recycled Water in Mountain View	Species tolerant of recycled water in the city of Mountain View, based on observations by the City's biologist
Mixed Oak Woodland	Natural habitat type where species would occur
Mixed Riparian Woodland	Natural habitat type where species would occur
Wetland/Bioswale	Natural habitat type where species would occur
Meadow/Grassland	Natural habitat type where species would occur
Birds	Value to wildlife
Hummingbirds	Value to wildlife
Butterflies	Value to wildlife
Beneficial Insects	Value to wildlife
Wildlife Value Observations	Observations by H. T. Harvey & Associates wildlife ecologists

References and Personal Communications

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