



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Rare Plant Species Now Protected in Eastern San Diego County: San Diego Habitat Conservancy now manages the Upper 600 Tule Wind Mitigation Site

Boulevard, CA - San Diego Habitat Conservancy (SDHC) is now managing the 600-acre Upper 600 Tule Wind Mitigation Site, located in McCain Valley, near the unincorporated communities of Jacumba and Boulevard. The preserved land serves as mitigation for construction of the Tule Wind Project, which includes wind turbines, transmission lines, and access roads. The site sits within the In-Ko-Pah Mountains and is bounded to the west by the Laguna Mountains. Undeveloped land owned by the federal government, as well as additional lands owned by Tule Wind surrounds the site.

The Upper 600 Tule Wind Mitigation Site preserves multiple vegetation types, including several types of chaparral habitat, upper Sonoran subshrub scrub, big sagebrush scrub, southern willow scrub, and open coast live oak woodland. The site provides potential habitat for the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly, as well as at least ten species of rare plants, including Tecate tarplant (*Deinandra floribunda*), sticky geraea (*Geraea viscida*), desert beauty (*Linanthus bellus*), and Jacumba milkvetch (*Astragalus douglasii* var. *perstrictus*). An enhancement effort is underway to further increase the number of Jacumba milkvetch onsite and to decrease the amount of non-native invasive plants. SDHC's ongoing management duties will include rare plant surveys, removal of invasive plants, and limiting the effects of human intrusion on this conserved land.

SDHC was established in 2000 and currently manages 26 open space preserves throughout the San Diego region, for a total of nearly 1,800 acres. Our focus is to preserve and manage sensitive habitat and species that are unique to our southern California environment. SDHC strives to share our knowledge and appreciation of our natural environment with the San Diego community, encouraging participation in the stewardship of our region's precious open space. The mission of SDHC is to *conserve and manage sensitive habitats and species while inspiring land stewardship through education and outreach.*

For more information please contact Don Scoles at (619) 365-4839 or via email at dons@sdhabitat.org.