

## Invasive Task Force Meeting

December 6, 2018, 1:30 PM

### Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center

**In attendance/Introductions:** Pat Matthews (Botany Society, ABDNHA, CALIPC), Chris McDonald (UC Cooperative Extension, Nat'l Resources Advisor), Mason Hyland (California State Parks), Joe Woods (Volutaria Volunteer, CALIPC), Sicco Rood (Research Associate at UCI Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center), Steve Schoenig, (CAL-IPC), Larry Hendrickson (Senior Park Aide, California State Parks), Don Stang (Seasonal Resident and Weeder), Austin Yu (Environmental Services Intern, California State Parks), Colorado Desert District resources crew.

- CAL-IPC = California Invasive Plant Council
- V = Volutaria
- SM = Sahara Mustard

Approved minutes. Solar Farm manager has changed. Joe Woods wants to contact new solar farm manager.

**Pat Matthews:** had 2 weed walks so far. Thimble trail, a lot of SM, worked for an hour and then a sweep for Volutaria. Mason adds that V germinated in Coyote Canyon. He found 7. Pat found 4 in Coyote canyon. No V out in the badlands.

**Chris McDonald:** County meeting found new Volutaria weed rating has been moved from a Q to an A. Once it's A rated, it gives the Ag Commissioner's full quarantine ability. County has received some funding to continue with roadside work, and continue with nursery inspections. Still working on what can be released and what can be held behind. Needs to come up with a reasonable estimate. Pat asks what is their jurisdiction. Active nurseries. Licenced or abandoned nurseries, don't know whether they are licenced or not, so don't know whether it falls under County jurisdiction (says Joe). Lot of grey areas, attorneys cautious. Joe says the problem is 100's of acres of nurseries, but have only 1 hour or two, and they may not see all of it, as it would take days to do thorough inspection. Chris: Goal for county is to be out here according to timing of the plants. Joe says the Commissioners office are not used to doing this repeated inspections and they've been underfunded, and major acreages. Chris says it is true, it will take several years where they'll be able to quarantine everything. Joe says they want to make sure they've got enough legal standing and enough funding. Law says you can't have an A rated weed spread off your property. You need to make sure it stays on your site, you should get rid of it, but it doesn't necessarily say you, "must get rid of it". They can inspect and quarantine the entire or part of the nursery depending on the size of the infestation. Then those palms or plants can't be sold, and must be pulled back. Mason asks if they can have research grade inspections by Calflora or Cal IPC. Chris says they're still setting up protocols to say what defines an infestation. But we're not going to have pure weed free plants unless you wash the roots off each plant. It's not uncommon for inspectors to look for various fungal, infections, etc. Best tool they have is the quarantine at the end of the day. Consumer will be able

to select weed free certified plants. New population of barb goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*) has been discovered in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park on a disturbed road side. Coastal V still being managed. One in Chula Vista, scheduled for treatment. Second year for Chula V. Fourth year of treatment for the Newport population. The Naval Base Point Loma population is being treated. Keeping an eye out on how fast the populations will start dropping to see how it extrapolate to our area. SM should be doing well with this new rainfall. Still plenty of viable seed. SM really needs about 3-4 years of drought (last week's rains amounted to approximately an inch around the valley and badlands area).

**Mason Hyland:** talked about Coyote canyon up just a little south of desert gardens (known population sites), 2 different sized plants some larger rosettes of V. Right now helping Pat with her weekly weeding. And hoping Thursdays as well with crews to do surveys. It is going to be important to really canvas that area with crews (10 feet apart) doing large transects. Important to get every single plant out for complete removal. The other thing is this data collection component with the suite weed manager will help us all stay on the same page, which will help provide the functionality across the park and seeing the bigger picture. Mason also leaving the park for a new position up north in 2 weeks. It helps to have recently added a new environmental science intern with good botany experience. This will help with the Botany society. The new intern is also good with GIS. Seed mortality study, did never get 100% seed mortality. But got into the high nineties. Could never get the V to germinate very well, might have very specific germination requirements. Mason was hoping to move away from disposable plastics with his new barrel method. Taking more responsibility for weed seed management, finding efficient time and cost efficient ways to kill the seeds. Overall the data from their pilot project leaving them in these barrels has been good, and Mason recommends all SM goes into the Park's barrels and encourages the public to use the park's barrels.

**Joe woods:** is doing an informal SM/V disposal trial in the field. Pat is asking what is the most important priority to do what is the best thing to do with these 2 specific plants. Keeping it out of the park big priority, and keeping it from being transported out of the county east towards and into AZ, and determining the extent of it's eastward migration. Add to that the highly trafficked areas, such as statues, and private properties. Joe asks are there houses we didn't get cooperation from. Pat says there are some properties that are infested. Worries about the weeds spreading out of Borrego Valley into the east, Imperial, Las Vegas, and beyond. Chris says it's hard to tell folks way east of Borrego that they need to keep looking out for these potential weeds for the next 10 years. Joe talks about the Borrego Water District and the Borrego Airport who also need to do a little of their own weeding. Chris mentioned the WHIPPET mapping tool (for setting population-level priorities) Early detection rapid response list is uploaded to weed manager.



