

ADDENDUM TO MUSCI NATURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT BIOLOGICAL
RESOURCES RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY AND SPECIAL STATUS PLANT
RECONNAISSANCE DATED AUGUST 31, 2014 FOR NAPA COUNTY APN
035-470-020

In response to Napa County Planning's request for a "discussion and recommendation of any minimum buffers or setbacks that should be observed from populations of native grasses found on-site and project activities including stockpiles," we find that conservation of and setbacks from individual or small groups (5-10) bunchgrass plants serve little purpose as their seeds are small and easily distributed via wind and wildlife. In addition, the grass has been long established in the immediate area. An abundant seed source is present in area soils and generated every year by nearby plants. The already approved mitigation measure of including the native bunch grass in the cover crop for the already approved vineyards should further improve the continued existence of the grasses in and around the project area. There is no value in establishing setbacks or buffers around individual plants and little value in similarly protecting small bunches of the grass. Retention of the herbaceous vegetation associated with the oak overstory remaining on the parcels and in the surrounding area should provide adequate seed sources and long term habitat for the bunchgrasses of concern.

Although each plant may be long lived, survival of a specific individual plant rarely determines the viability of a population. It is the long term retention of self-sustaining oak woodlands and mixed evergreen forests in Napa County that will determine the future of native bunchgrass populations.



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& Environmental Services