

**Locally Significant Plant Species of San Francisco County**  
**Criteria for Determining Significance Index (SI)**

Prepared by Mike Wood, Rare Plant Committee Co-chair, Yerba Buena Chapter, California Native Plant Society  
 version 7/4/2015

Criterion		Standard	SI Score	Notes
1	Rarity Status	Federally or State-listed Endangered, Threatened, Rare, or Candidates for listing	20	Enter highest value. Otherwise, enter 0.
		CNPS List 1, 2 and 3	10	
		CNPS List 4	5	
2	# of SF populations	1-2	10	Number of natural areas at which species is known.
		3-5	5	
		6-10	0	
		≥11	-1	
3	Extirpated	Extirpated from SF	10	If yes, threat criterion is assumed to be high. Enter 0 if extant.
4	Size of Local Populations	if typically few, infrequent, or widely scattered	1	Otherwise, enter 0.
5	Habitat Specificity	If species is restricted to a narrow ecological niche or a rare habitat type in SF	1	For SF, these areas include serpentinitic soils, freshwater and saltwater wetlands, sand of dunes or beaches. Otherwise, enter 0.
6	Life Form	If the species is an annual, biennial, fern or fern ally, or geophyte	1	Otherwise, enter 0.
7	Threat of Extirpation in SF	high	5	Perceived threats to extant populations such as development, invasive species, off-trail travel. Not based on current owner or management.
		moderate	3	
		low	1	
		stable	0	
8	Geographic Range	If SF represents a range extension or discontinuity or the species is otherwise highly restricted.	5	Otherwise, enter 0.
		If SF is at the northern or southern limits of a species' range; the species is restricted to the Bay Area; the species is restricted to 3 or fewer coastal counties; the species is considered relatively uncommon regionally.	3	

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9	Degree of Endemism	Species is endemic to SF	10	
		Species is endemic to CA	1	
		Species occurs outside of CA	0	
10	SF is type locality	SF is type locality for the species	1	Otherwise, enter 0.
11	Wildlife Value	dependent species is rare	10	If species is required for the completion of the life cycle of any listed rare wildlife species. Otherwise, enter 0.

## Locally Significant Plant Species of San Francisco County Significance Index (SI) Thresholds for LSP Rankings

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Rank	Explanation	SI score	Notes
A1	Species with a Significance Index (SI) value $\geq 20$ . <b>Impacts must be analyzed pursuant to CEQA.</b>	$\geq 20$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All federally or state listed species fall into this category.</li> </ul>
A2	Species with a Significance Index (SI) value of 10-19. <b>Impacts must be analyzed pursuant to CEQA.</b>	10-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All CNPS List 1, 2 and 3 species fall into this category or higher.</li> <li>All species with 1-2 occurrences fall into this category or higher.</li> <li>All species thought to have been extirpated from SF fall into this category or higher.</li> <li>All species endemic to SF fall into this category or higher.</li> <li>All species that function as a host plant for <u>listed</u> wildlife species fall into this category or higher.</li> </ul>
B	A High Priority Watch List. Species with a Significance Index (SI) value of 5-9. <b>Analysis of impacts is NOT required pursuant to CEQA.</b>	5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All CNPS List 4 species fall into this category or higher.</li> <li>All species with 3-5 occurrences fall into this category or higher.</li> <li>If SF represents a range extension or discontinuity, or if the species is otherwise highly restricted, it falls into this category or higher.</li> <li>All SF species with a high threat of extirpation fall into this category or higher.</li> </ul>
C	A Second Priority Watch List. Species with a Significance Index (SI) value of 3-4. <b>Analysis of impacts is NOT required pursuant to CEQA.</b>	3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All SF species with a moderate threat of extirpation fall into this category or higher.</li> <li>If SF represents the northern or southern limits for a species, it falls into this category or higher.</li> </ul>
<b>Rank Modifiers</b>			
x	Species previously known from SF County but have not been reported in 20 years or more; presumed extirpated. <b>Impacts must be analyzed pursuant to CEQA.</b>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species assigned to Rank A1 or A2.</li> </ul>
r	Indigenous species presumed to have been extirpated from SF but reintroduced. <b>Impacts must be analyzed pursuant to CEQA.</b>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species assigned to Rank A1 or A2.</li> </ul>
*	Species listed as endangered, threatened, rare or candidates for listing by the USFWS or CDFW, or appearing on CNPS Lists 1, 2 and 3. <b>Impacts must be analyzed pursuant to CEQA.</b>	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species assigned to Rank A1 or A2.</li> </ul>
?	Species for which identification needs verification.	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questionable taxa are noted in the Annotated Checklist and List of Extirpated species.</li> </ul>