Delegate’s Report  
September 11-13, 2015  
Catie Bishop

Saturday  
**CEQA**: Gordon Lepig from the north Coast Chapter who works for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife gave us a CEQA overview. CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) is the strongest environmental document in the nation. Its purpose is to inform the government and public of significant environmental impacts created by public and private projects. In most cases it allows for mitigation if significant impacts are probable. CEQA is not triggered in all proposed projects. The level of significance dictates which documents need to be filed. His Power Point slide show is available in full. Let me know if you want a link.

**THC**: Peter Baye, who worked for the Corps of Engineers, gave us a presentation on the similarities and differences between filing CEQA documents and filing a THC (Timber Harvest Plan). It turns out they don’t have much in common. CEQA has much more stringent requirements than the THC. His presentation is also available.

Laura Camp and Andrea Williams talked about the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan Committee contains members from the Board and Chapter Council. They passed around a draft of the final plan to all delegates to take to their Boards for comments. Chapters will now have 45 days to send comments about the plan. Please send your comments to me.

These 3 topics took up the entire day at the Conservation Conference on Saturday. The Chapter Council business was on Sunday.

Sunday  
**Board of Director’s Report**: Glen Holstein reports that CNPS is in good shape financially with many bequests received.

--Gordon Lepig was appointed as a new representative on the Rare Plant Committee.

--David Varner will be moving to Colorado soon, and leaving his Board liaison position. He hopes to belong to the Native Plant Society in that state who have expressed an interest in modeling itself after CNPS.

--He discussed the potential merger with Calflora. The Board has decided it is now or never to move on this. There should be a decision by the December CC meeting.

**President’s Report**: Laura Camp thanked all the people on the Strategic Plan Committee for their diligence. The adoption of a Strategic Plan is one of the highest duties of the Chapter Council, and should be evaluated for relevance more frequently than every 10 years. There should be a CC meeting focused on this each year.

--There will be open Board positions this year. It is a self-nominating process, and everyone should seriously consider it. Contact David Bigham for more information.

**Executive Director Report**: Dan Gluesencamp related that this September CC meeting is the closest one to the 50 year anniversary of CNPS, as the letter is dated August 1965.

--He is reminding the Chapters that in regards to the Strategic Plan, they are to discuss with their Boards the Goals and Strategies, the actions will come later.

--Dan says we may be coming up on another El Nino wet year, and that may bring us another fabulous wildflower year like 1997-98. The book “The Best Spring Ever” was written about that year, and the State office is urging Chapters to order more books from the State to sell as a part suggesting places to go to see the best wildflower displays.

--CNPS has received a donation from the estate of Freda King for $250,000. Her husband was a world-renowned expert on lilies who came to California to collect, and was helped by CNPS. We must have made quite an impression on him! Dan is asking for suggestions as to how to spend (or save) the money.

**Program reports**: Horticulture still has no new Director yet. Caroline Garland is currently drafting plans to take out lawn and plant natives on the State Capitol grounds. CNPS is working with cities like Long Beach who are wanting to be the “greenest native plant city”.


--Calscape is becoming an important tool for finding native plants suitable for any particular area. Dan is urging everyone to use the site, and tell people about it.
--A Rare Plants manager has been hired, Mona Robison.
--Dan recommended Chapters give out more student research grants. And Joan Stewart suggested we should also give grants to small community colleges.
--Dan is thinking of hiring a new Communications Director after a recent magazine article in Harpers that suggests CNPS is not focusing in the right direction.

**Phytophtora**: Bill Waycott and Jim Bishop spoke about the phytophthora problem in California. This latest non-native water mold has been damaging nursery plants including many natives. It is easily spread via watering practices and “dirty” pots. There is a committee formed to put a policy in place for Chapters to follow when obtaining and growing natives for their plant sales. It is important not to spread this pathogen to the native environment, as it is potentially more dangerous than the sudden oak death brought on by another non-native water mold of the same genus. A draft of the new policy is being circulated to delegates. Let me know if you want to see it during this 60-day comment period.