NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL STRENGTHENED

The regular 2014 California Legislature session ended August 29. Only 3 of the 6 bills supported by CNPS passed. AB-2402 Noxious Weed Management has been approved by the Governor. AB-2104 Common Interest Developments: Water-Efficient Landscapes and AB 2193 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (as of Sept. 4) await his action. He has until September 30 to approve, veto or allow them to become law without his signature.

Among other provisions relating to noxious weed management, AB-2402 amends the Food and Agricultural Code to create within the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund the “Noxious Weed Management Account.” Sixty percent of the funds in that account will be made available, on a grant basis, to eligible weed management areas or county agricultural commissioners for the control and abatement of noxious and invasive weeds. To be eligible for grant funding from the Noxious Weed Management Account grantees must submit an integrated weed management plan. It is of special interest to CNPS members that such a plan must, as one of its goals, “Protect the biodiversity of native ecosystems.”

AB-2402 requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to designate and provide staff support for a committee to oversee administration of the noxious weed control program. It specifies that the committee include an equitable number of representatives of many public and private groups, including “Environmental groups.”

Although the noxious weed control program is designed primarily for the protection of farms crops and rangelands, it includes protection of native plants and ecosystems.

If Governor Brown approves or allows AB-2104 or AB-2193 to become law, a further report on their provisions will follow in the October Pipevine.

**************************************************************************************************

The full text of bills and the Legislative Analyst’s summary are available on the California Legislature Information website (Click Link Here).

CNPS positions on bills are available at CNPS Legislative Report (Click Link Here).
Overview of CNPS Legislation Program (Click Link Here).