

A photograph of a natural landscape featuring a variety of native plants. In the foreground, there are several tall, thin stems with clusters of small, light purple flowers. The background shows a dense thicket of green shrubs and trees, with a soft, hazy light filtering through the foliage. The overall scene is a lush, natural environment.

Native Plant Ordinance Workshop 1

March 24, 2025

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Agenda



Introductions



Background/History



Workshop Goals and Objectives



Review ranked/recommended existing data resources (Group Exercise)



Review draft outline of ordinance (Group Exercise)



Brainstorm ideas for incentive program (Group Exercise)

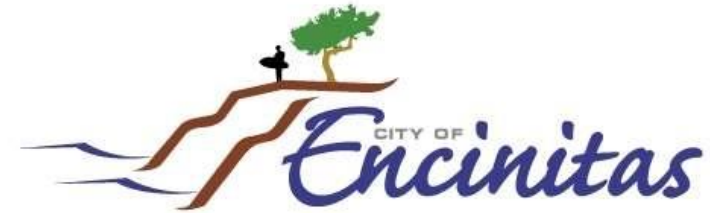


Next Steps

Project Team Introductions

City of Encinitas

- Sara Cadona, Project Manager
- Patty Anders, Planning Manager



Consultant Team

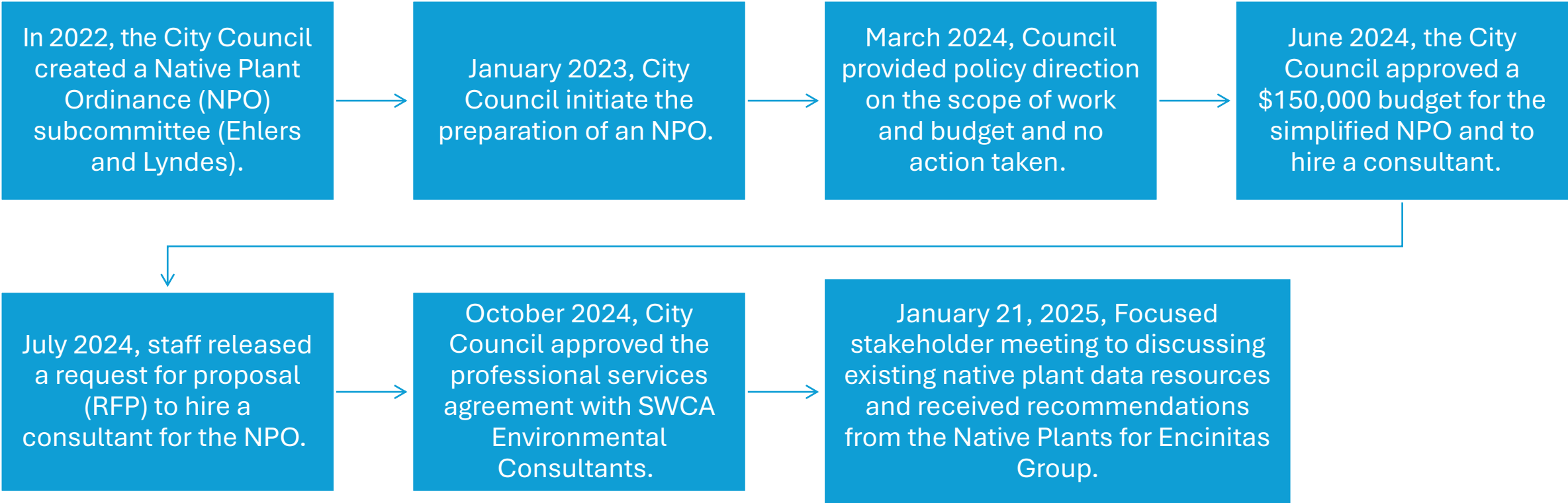
- Lindsay Teunis, SWCA, Restoration Ecologist
- Shirley Innecken, SWCA, Senior Biologist
- Jennifer Montgomery, Schmidt Design Group, Landscape Architect
- Patrick Montgomery, Native West, Nursery Professional



SCHMIDT
DESIGN
GROUP



Background



Workshop 1 Goals

Per City Council Direction:

1. Review recommendations for the existing native plant lists (now referred to as data resources) and discuss which data resources shall be included in the native plant ordinance (NPO).
 - a) May contain one or more resources that have been created and maintained by other professional organizations.
 - b) No new plant palette will be created.
 - c) No modifications to the existing data resources.
2. Review and discuss draft outline of ordinance.
3. Receive community feedback on incentive program ideas.

**Review the top four(4)
existing native plant
data resources**

CalScape

Calflora Search for Plants

UC Davis -- California Center
for Urban Horticulture (WUCOLS)

USDA Plants Database



Calscape

California Native Plant Society

<https://calscape.org/search>

Calscape Pros:

- User-friendly and comprehensive
- Professional-quality
- Scientifically-sound
- Multi-variable search

Calscape Cons:

- Doesn't include non-natives
- Limited to a 10-mile search radius

Consultant Recommendation:

- Recommend as primary resource for defining natives
- Use secondary resource as supplements

The screenshot shows the Calscape search results page. At the top, the Calscape logo and name are displayed. Below the logo, there are navigation links: "Find native plants", "Design & Inspiration", "Find nurseries", "Care for your garden", "Find landscape professionals", and "About us". The search bar contains the text "I'm searching for e.g. lupinus, Oak, Black sage" and "near address, city, or zip". A "Search" button is visible. Below the search bar, there are filter options: "Filter by" (with a "Reset all" link), "Open all" and "Close all" buttons, and several filter categories: "Nursery availability", "Plant Type", "Sun", "Water", "Special Uses", "Soil Drainage", "Ease of Care", "Attracts Wildlife", "Size", and "Flower Color". The search results are displayed in a grid format, showing 8551 total results. The results are sorted by "Botanical Name". The first row of results includes: Pacific Silver Fir (*Abies amabilis*), Santa Lucia Fir (*Abies bracteata*), Balsam Fir (*Abies concolor*), and Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*). The second row includes: Subalpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Subalpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *lasiocarpa*), Balsam Fir (*Abies magnifica*), and California Red Fir (*Abies magnifica* var. *magnifica*). The third row includes: Shasta Red Fir (*Abies magnifica* var. *shastensis*), Noble Fir (*Abies procera*), Ramshaw Meadows Abro... (*Abronia alpina*), and Sand Verbena (*Abronia latifolia*).



Calflora: the nonprofit wild plant database

<https://www.calflora.org/search.html>

Calflora Pros:

- Comprehensive, with multi-variable search and palette save options
- Includes a planting guide
- Multi ecological-parameter search by address

Calflora Cons:

- Less user-friendly than other databases
- More taxonomist/professional botanist-centric

Consultant Recommendation:

- Not recommended for primary resource, could be secondary

Calflora PLANTING GUIDE TOOLS

More Criteria low water riparian shade

Check for wild plants:

- in the same ecoregion
- in the same county
- within 10 miles

Plants that grow with:

Scientific Name Common Name

Click on the map to choose a new location, or enter an address.

Encinitas, CA SEARCH

274 plants Group by lifeform

- Grass 36
- Annual Herb 74
- Perennial Herb 102

Abronia maritima
Sticky sand verbena
Perennial herb

Abronia umbellata
Beach sand verbena
Perennial herb

Acmispon glaber
Deerweed
Perennial herb

WUCOLS Pros:

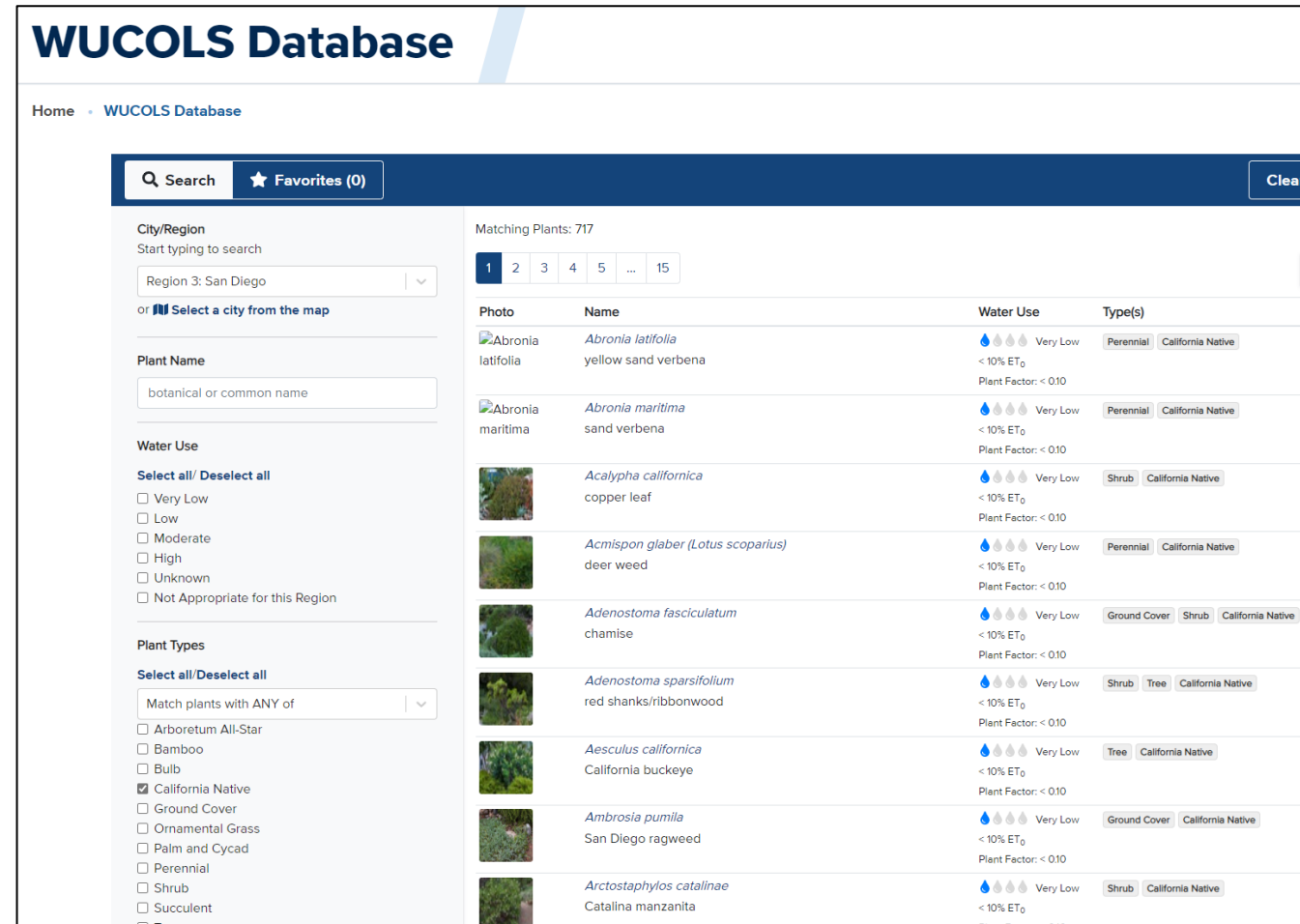
- Searchable by City/Region, Plant Name, Water Use, and Plant Type (including CA Native)
- User-friendly interface
- Indicates native plants (vs. Non-native)

WUCOLS Cons:

- No option to create an account and save lists online
- Limited query options when only the common name is known
- Sorts alphabetical and by water use (could lead to confusion)

Consultant Recommendation:

- Use as a support resource



WUCOLS Database

Home • WUCOLS Database

Search Favorites (0) Clear










City/Region
Start typing to search
Region 3: San Diego
or Select a city from the map

Plant Name
botanical or common name

Water Use
Select all/ Deselect all
 Very Low
 Low
 Moderate
 High
 Unknown
 Not Appropriate for this Region

Plant Types
Select all/Deselect all
 Match plants with ANY of
 Arboretum All-Star
 Bamboo
 Bulb
 California Native
 Ground Cover
 Ornamental Grass
 Palm and Cycad
 Perennial
 Shrub
 Succulent
 Tree

Matching Plants: 717
1 2 3 4 5 ... 15

Photo	Name	Water Use	Type(s)
	<i>Abronia latifolia</i> yellow sand verbena	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Perennial California Native
	<i>Abronia maritima</i> sand verbena	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Perennial California Native
	<i>Acalypha californica</i> copper leaf	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Shrub California Native
	<i>Acmispon glaber</i> (<i>Lotus scoparius</i>) deer weed	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Perennial California Native
	<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i> chamise	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Ground Cover Shrub California Native
	<i>Adenostoma sparsifolium</i> red shanks/ribbonwood	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Shrub Tree California Native
	<i>Aesculus californica</i> California buckeye	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Tree California Native
	<i>Ambrosia pumila</i> San Diego ragweed	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Ground Cover California Native
	<i>Arctostaphylos catalinae</i> Catalina manzanita	Very Low < 10% ET ₀ Plant Factor: < 0.10	Shrub California Native



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE <https://plants.usda.gov/>

USDA Pros:

- Includes native and naturalized plants
- Detailed species-specific information
- Includes invasive species and endangered plants
- Fact sheets and plant guides

USDA Cons:

- Search queries cannot be combined (e.g., State and Duration searches)
- Nationwide (too broad)
- Is not very user-friendly

Consultant Recommendation:

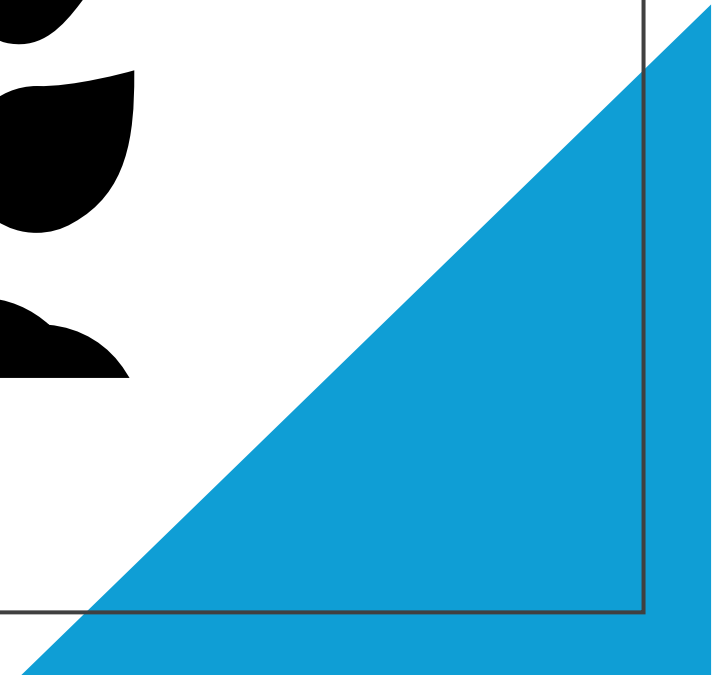
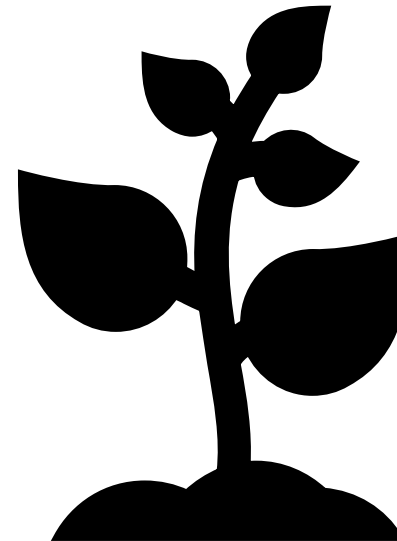
- Not recommended for primary list sources, could be secondary

The screenshot shows the PLANTS Database website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'PLANTS Database Home', 'Topics', 'Team', 'Downloads', 'Partners', 'Related Tools', 'Help', and 'Release Notes'. Below the navigation bar is a search input field with the text 'Scientific Name' and a search button labeled 'Search'. To the left of the search results, there is a sidebar with various search filters: 'Characteristic Search', 'Duration Search', 'Fact Sheets/Plant Guides', 'Group Search', 'Growth Habit Search', 'Image Search', 'Invasive/Noxious Search', 'Priority Search', 'State Search', and 'Wetland Search'. The main content area displays the 'PLANTS Database' title and a subtitle 'Plant List of Attributes, Names, Taxonomy, and Symbols'. It indicates 'Showing 12 of 12 results' for the search term 'white sage'. A list of search results is shown, including SAAPC, SAAP2, SAAPA, ARLU, ARLUA, ARLUC8, ARLUE, ARLUI2, ARLUL2, ARLUM2, ARLUR, and ARLUS. Each result includes a scientific name and a common name. A 'View Profile' button is visible on the right side of the page. Below the search results, there is a large image of a plant with red flowers and green leaves. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'New PLANTS Website' with a welcome message and a link to 'What is PLANTS'.

Any additional feedback on the top four (4) existing native plant data resources?

Reminder of Viable List Attributes:

- Complies with Council direction
- Updated Regularly
- Based on good science (documented/references)
- Regionally specific options (zip code, county, etc.)
- User-friendly by general public
- Shows native and non-native
- Added bonus for landscaping and other valuable info



Draft Ordinance- Applicability

- Ordinance is applicable to the following types of projects:
 - New subdivision or new multi-family, mixed-use, mobile home park, commercial, or light industrial sites.
 - All City owned and operated property.
 - Redevelopment or existing projects that are replacing 75% or more of the existing landscaping.
- Single family residences, accessory dwelling units (ADU), and junior accessory dwelling units (JADU) are **exempt**.

Reviewed during entitlement/discretionary permit application.

Draft Ordinance- Definitions

Native Plant:

- Shall mean any plant known (specimens, seeds, cuttings, etc.) to occur in California prior to European contact. These plants evolved in California over a very long period, and are the plants that have co-evolved with animals, fungi and microbes, to form a complex network of relationships. Native cultivars (i.e. select native plant specimens propagated for landscaping purposes) and naturally occurring hybrids of native plants will also be considered native for the purpose of the ordinance.

Southern California Native Plant:

- Shall mean a plant or plants that have been identified from the native plant resource(s) *per new* EMC Section 23.27.030.5.a, as determined from the project's site address.

Invasive Plant Species:

- Shall mean any plant listed on either of the following lists: San Diego County Weed Management Area Watchlist and California Invasive Plant Council (CaIPC) list containing one of the following ratings: high, moderate, alert, and watch.

Draft Ordinance- General Requirements

Overall percentage required for native plants:

- The total square footage of all landscaped areas on the project site, shall be planted to consist of a minimum of 50 percent of southern California native plants.

Native plant percentage required for landscapes adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas, and open space:

- 100 percent southern California native plants within the first 15 feet abutting the area or required setback.
- 75 percent of southern California native plants within the next 10 feet abutting the area or required setback.

Diversity of plant types:

- Proposed plant palettes shall include a diversity and mix of species, form, blooming period, life cycle.

Draft Ordinance- Installation Requirements and Recommendations

Site Preparation:

- Removal of unwanted plants shall occur prior to planting installation.
- Landscaping areas that previously had unwanted weeds may install weed cloth beneath the soil and mulch the area to suppress any unwanted plants.

Soil Preparation:

- Landscaping areas that contain native plants shall use native soils, or soils labeled as “Native Soil Mix”, or “Well-Draining Mix for Drought-Tolerant Plants”.
- Soils that are standard potting soil, compost-heavy mixes, or peat-based shall be prohibited.

Planting:

- If the ground is dry, deep watering is recommended a day or two prior to planting.
- It is recommended to plant native plants during the rainy season/cooler months (late fall to early spring).



Group Discussion on Draft Ordinance

Brainstorm Incentive Programs

What are some good ways to incentivize property owners to replace their existing landscaping with native plant landscaping?

Financial
Incentives

Community
Engagement

Other Ideas

Next Steps



WORKSHOP 2



ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION



PLANNING
COMMISSION



CITY COUNCIL

Sign up for updates on the City's Native Plant Ordinance webpage. [Encinitasca.gov](https://www.encinitasca.gov)