

Appendix L4

Addendum to the Spring 2010 Rare
Plant Survey Report, Ocotillo Wind
Energy Facility Project
(CACA 51552)

Memorandum

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To: Mr. Jon Davidson

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Date: October 18, 2011

From: W. Larry Sward, Senior Scientist

Subject: Addendum to the Spring 2010 Rare Plant Survey Report, Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility Project (CACA 51552)

Message:

The spring 2010 rare plant survey report for the Ocotillo Wind Energy Project¹ (OWEF) reported the occurrence of 25 individuals of jack-ass clover (*Wislizenia refracta* ssp. *refracta*). This was noteworthy as it represented a significant range extension for this species, and it is considered a sensitive species by the California Native Plant Society².

This observation warranted additional scrutiny because of its significance. I conducted further analysis by closely inspecting the photos of this taxon taken at the OWEF project site on 1 April 2010. This analysis revealed that the jack-ass clover reported at the project site was Mojave stinkweed (*Cleomella obtusifolia*), a non-sensitive species. The vegetative structure, leaf shape, and overall plant size of these two taxa are very similar. What distinguishes these two Genera are the fruit: jack-ass clover has nutlets (Photo 1) and Mojave stinkweed has a capsule (Photo 2).

The photos taken at OWEF in April 2010 revealed a capsule (Photo 3). For this reason we conclude that jack-ass clover does not occur at OWEF and the correct identification for this species is Mojave stinkweed.

¹ Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. 2010. Ocotillo Wind Energy Project, Spring 2010 Rare Plant Survey Report CACA #51552. November 10. 11 pp., plus appendices.

² List 2.2: 2.:Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere. .2: Fairly endangered in California.

Memorandum (cont.)

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The flowering period for jack-ass clover is April to November³. The flowering period for Mojave stinkweed begins in the same month but ends in October⁴. The plants at OWEF were observed at the very beginning of the flowering period, when available fruits were scarce and immature. This contributed to the misidentification of these individuals.

Enclosure:

Photos: Mojave stinkweed (*Cleomella obtusifolia*) and jack-ass clover (*Wislizenia refracta* ssp. *refracta*)

CC: Cedric Perry

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³ <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/detail/1793.html>

⁴ http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/get_JM_treatment.pl?Cleomella+obtusifolia



Photo 1.

Jackass clover (*Wislizenia refracta* ssp. *refracta*).
17 April 2004. Indian Creek area,
Mojave National Preserve,
San Bernardino County, California
Photo from Cal Photos (used by permission).



Photo 2.

Mojave Stinkweed (*Cleomella obtusifolia*).
8 April 2004. Indian Creek area,
Mojave National Preserve,
San Bernardino County, California
Photo from Cal Photos (used by permission).



Photo 3. Mojave Stinkweed (*Cleomella obtusifolia*).

1 April 2010. Near Ocotillo, northeastern part of Ocotillo Wind Energy Project Study Area,
Imperial County, California