



Friends of Sausal Creek

PROMOTING WATERSHED AWARENESS

Helping the Endangered Pallid Manzanita

July 9, 2018

In the spring on 2017 Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) was awarded a \$9,592 grant from the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission. This funding supported our organization's work to ensure the survival of the endangered pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*).

FOSC educated community members and engaged people in helping to preserve this endangered species through:



- Leading a Pallid Manzanita Walk at the Chabot Space and Science Center (CSSC) and Big Trees colonies on Endangered Species Day (May 19, 2017)
- Creating and supporting the 2017 Pallids Crew, a recurring group of volunteers at the CSSC colony who removed competing vegetation around the pallid manzanitas and collected monitoring data for the Year 2 Monitoring Report; an educational component about the species was built into each monthly workday
- Launching the 2018 Pallids Crew with a monitoring training day to continue to refine monitoring techniques for the Year 3 Monitoring Report; the training was led pro bono by Golden Hour Restoration Institute staff
- Working with three Boy Scouts on Eagle Scout projects to construct fencing to protect the CSSC colony; all three projects are still in the works
- Working with CSSC and East Bay Regional Park District to design and install a pallid manzanita interpretive panel at the Chabot colony (in process)
- Leading the annual vegetation management workday at the Big Trees colony and conducting annual monitoring data
- Presentation at the 2018 FOSC State of the Watershed meeting on the species and the work to help it survive
- Providing updated maps of the pallid manzanita protection areas and sanitation protocols to Oakland Fire Department



- Coordinating with CSSC to assist with two field trips to the pallid manzanita colony for their Champions of Science after school program (field trips took place after the grant period in May 2018)

This grant also enabled FOSC to fulfill reporting requirement for research permits with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

- A progress report and a final report were submitted for FOSC's 5-Year permit which covered an experimental outplanting of pallid manzanita plants at the FOSC Native Plant Nursery and presented the monitoring data at the Big Trees colony.
- With data collected by the Pallids Crews volunteers and FOSC's staff, supported by the pro bono assistance of Golden Hour Restoration Institute, FOSC completed the Year 2 Monitoring Report for CSSC's submission to CDFW.

Finally, this support enabled FOSC to pursue an opportunity under a private landowner's Incidental Take Permit to draft a Propagation and Outplanting Plan identifying two priority sites for pallid manzanita outplanting in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. CDFW approved FOSC's plan and the City of Oakland approved the priority sites, and FOSC entered into a contract with the permit holder to establish six new pallid manzanita plants in the next five years. Without the Commission's support, it would have been difficult for FOSC to have the organizational capacity to pursue this opportunity to expand the species population and increase its resiliency.

We are grateful to the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission for supporting our ongoing efforts to help save the endangered pallid manzanita through restoration and public education programs and advocacy. We are excited by the progress we are seeing especially on the Chabot campus—2017 monitoring found 108 live seedlings at this colony. Thank you for your help.

