



Fall 1997

Vol.7, No.2

Insignis

Newsletter of the Alta Peak Chapter
California Native Plant Society

Calendar

- Sep 6-7
Sat-Sun CNPS State Board meeting and
Conservation Conference
San Francisco, 415-731-3028
- Sep 13
Sat 9:30 Hike to Jordan Peak Lookout
Tule Oak Land Trust
Meet at Quaking Aspen
Campground, above Springville
For info, call 539-2482
- Sep 20
Sat Colony Mill Road Walk, KLT
Sequoia National Park
Jay O'Connell & Nate Stephenson
For info call 561-1124
- Sep 27**
Sat 10-4
12 noon **Chapter Plant Sale**
Three Rivers Arts Center
Chapter Board Meeting, Open to
All Alta Peak Chapter Members
North Fork Drive, Three Rivers
- Oct 4-5
10-2 East Bay Chap Plant Sale
Merritt College, Oakland
For info call 510-376-4095
- Oct 10**
Fri 9am **Dry Creek Mine Law Suit**
Superior Court Hearing
Courthouse, Visalia, CA
- Oct 10-12
Fri-Sun CalEPPC Symposium '97
"Reaching Out & Keeping Out"
Exotic Pest Plant Control Council
Concord Sheraton
For info call 714-888-8347
- Oct 21-24 Society for Ecological Restoration
6th Annual Conference
San Luis Obispo
- Nov 8
Sat Oak Workshop with Pam Muick
Tule Oak Land Trust
11-7 Walk at Circle J North Ranch
7pm Program @ Springville Mem. Bldg.
- Nov 15
Sat Native American Plant Use
Clara Charley, Wuchumni Tribe
Kaweah Land Trust Program
Call 561-1124
- Dec 6
Sat CNPS Board of Directors Mtg.
UC Berkeley Faculty Club

Alta Peak Chapter Plant Sale September 27 Sat 10-4

Three Rivers Arts Center, North Fork Dr.

Native plants for sale will be provided by Intermountain Nursery in Prather, which has been propagating local native plant species for the last 17 years. This nursery is the only native plant nursery in the central California foothill area. Their plants are particularly suited to the climate and the soil in this area.

You may pre-order plants with the enclosed order form and receive a 25% discount. Advance orders must be received by September 15 and a 50% deposit is required. Advance orders may also be picked up on Friday, or Saturday during the plant sale, or arrangements can be made to pick plants up at Janet Fanning's home later in the week.

Volunteers needed for plant sale!

The Chapter needs a lot of help on Friday, September 26, to receive plants, put labels on plants and put out posters and books for sale. Call Janet Fanning for exact times at 561-3461. On Saturday help is needed to record sales and offer information about growing natives. No expertise is required for this help! Call Janet at 561-3461 to sign up, please call early and offer your support for the Chapter!

Chapter Board Meeting & Pizza Lunch September 27 Sat 12 noon

Three Rivers Arts Center, North Fork Dr.

All Chapter members are invited to this Board Meeting to be held along with the Plant Sale. Topics for our agenda include planning Spring Field Trips, nomination of 1998 Board of Directors, the Dry Creek Mine law suit status and other conservation issues, and other issues brought forth by our members. The Chapter is still in need of active help from our members. We need help in planning Chapter programs, writing a native plant landscaping column and other features for our newsletter, finding a liaison for our Tule River Branch, work on invasive/exotic plant issues and planning educational children's activities. Please RSVP with Janet for pizza lunch.

Oak Workshop with Pam Muick Nov 18 Saturday Springville

Sponsored by the Tule Oak Land Trust, a workshop on the "Care and Feeding of Our Foothill Oaks" will be given from 11-2 at the Circle J Ranch, 41463 Yokohl Drive in Springville, led by Pam Muick, co-author of *Oaks of California* and Executive Director of the Solana County and Farmland Open Space Foundation. She will also be giving a presentation at 7pm at the Springville Memorial Building. Alta Peak Chapter will have an information table and offer her books for sale at the evening program. Bring lunch and water for the walk at the Circle J Ranch. For more information about this program or other activities of the Tule Oak Land Trust, contact Elli Norris at 539-2482.

The quantity of acorn meal cooked and eaten by Indians is almost beyond belief. At a ceremony for the dead, held near Bald Rock, Tuolumne County, California in early October, 1907, the preparation of the acorn food for the mourners and guests was begun several days in advance. Two cooking places and five leaches, each about [four] feet in diameter, were in...operation for several days. On the opening day I counted at the cooking place about 50 huge baskets, each holding from one to two bushels, full of freshly cooked acorn mush (nup'-pah). The mush is so heavy that the services of two strong women were required to lift each basket and place it in the large conical burden basket on the back of a third woman, who slowly carried it to the roundhouse where the ceremony was held...The total quantity of acorn mush and bread made for this ceremony must have exceeded a ton in weight.

---C. Hart Merriam, from *National Geographic*, 1918.

excerpted from *Oaks of California*
by Pavlik, Muick, Johnson and Popper.
© 1991 Cachuma Press

Porterville Area Valley Oak Census Sep 6 & Sep 27 9-12

Meet at Veteran's Park, Porterville. The oak census, organized by the Tule River Parkway Assoc., will attempt to locate all the valley oaks in and around the Porterville area. Trees will be measured and put into a database. Property owners will be given information on how to best care for their oaks. If you want more information or plan to volunteer call Catherine Capone at 783-0201.

Society for Ecological Restoration 6th Annual Conference October 21-24

San Luis Obispo Veteran's Building

The 6th annual conference of SERCAL will be held in the historic downtown of San Luis Obispo. Keeping with a theme of "Restoration as Process through Philosophy, Ecology and Community", the conference offers a variety of speakers and topics. The keynote address for the 1st plenary session on "Water and Restoration in the 21st Century" will be given by Marc Reisner, well known for his historical account of water development in the American West, *Cadillac Desert*, as well as *Game Wars*, the profile of legendary under-cover wildlife agent Dave Hall. Other speakers include Diana Jacobs, senior ecologist with the California State Lands Commission, who was the principal contributor to *California's Rivers: a Public Trust Report*, published in 1993, Dick Daniel the assistant director in charge of the CalFed Bay-Delta Ecological Restoration Program, and Bruce Herbold, an EPA fish biologist who assisted with the development of water quality standards for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary.

The 2nd plenary session will be a discussion of topics, including: The Importance of Local Genetics in Restoration, Genetic Structure in Native Grasses, Lessons from the World of Commercial Forestry, and a National Native Ecotype Registry. Concurrent sessions will include: Creative Community Partnering for Restoration, Riparian and Freshwater Wetland Restoration, Mined & Arid Land Restoration, Oak Woodlands: Protection Enhancement, & Creation, and Rehabilitation and Restoration of Off-Road-Vehicle Impacts.

On Tuesday, Oct 21, workshops will include: Cal. Grassland Restoration/Reconstruction Techniques, Using Prescribed Fire for Vegetation Management, Aquatic Ecology and Water Quality Monitoring, Revegetation and Restoration Planning: The Basics, and Soils and Geomorphology: the Basics for Ecological Restoration.

Space is limited for all workshops and pre-registration is required. Conference fee is \$80 (before Sept. 15) and workshop fees are \$50-155. Contact Susan Clark, 2701 20th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 or call 805-634-9228.

Conservation Report

by Elsie Cort

The Dry Creek law suit will be heard in Dept. 6 of the Superior Court of the State of California on October 10, 1997 at 9 am, Judge Conn presiding. Here are some excerpts from the Petitioners' (Dry Creek Citizens Coalition, The Audubon Society, and the California Native Plant Society) Brief prepared by J. William Yeates, attorney:

"This case is about protecting the environmental quality of what appears superficially as simply an arid little draw above Lemon Cove. This arid canyon is drained by aptly named Dry Creek. Revitalized by a winter storm this dry stream rushes forth and washes down boulders, cobbles, and gravel--what geologists call alluvium. On this alluvial floodplain a unique native plant community dominated by the western sycamore established itself. Today, from Hog Spring Canyon to just about Dry Creek's confluence with the Kaweah River, this sycamore alluvial woodland enjoys an environment that is scoured by winter and spring floods and parched by a pitiless summer sun. Few other plants are willing to compete for this space.

Until recently, it was not known that sycamore alluvial woodland is unique to California, that here, along Dry Creek, is ten percent of what remains in California...While this case is about protecting a unique California plant community and its associated wildlife, the case also presents the tension between the desire to protect what is extraordinary or uniquely Californian in our landscape and natural resources, and the need to exploit the state's resources for its economic well-being. This tension is not unique to Tulare County, or to California, it exists throughout that broad geography known as the West.

Wallace Stegner, the late Pulitzer Prize winning author, described the West as 'hope's native home'. Since the time of the '49ers, California has been a place where hope springs eternal. It is a landscape of great expectations. As a 19-year old, the late historian Frank Waters was offered an opportunity to leave Colorado and move to California, as enticement his friend promised: 'You won't have to buy an overcoat to wear in sunny California, and whenever you get hungry, all you have to do is pick oranges off

the trees along the street'. Reflecting on the 'boom and bust' West he knew, Stegner cautioned: 'Too often, when they have been prosperous, the western states have been prosperous at the expense of their fragile environment, and their civilization has too often mined and degraded the natural scene while drawing most of its quality from it'. Still Stegner believed 'westerners' would: 'eventually, perhaps within a generation or two, they will work out some sort of compromise between what must be done to earn a living and what must be done to restore health to the earth....'

In this case, the tension is found in the proposal by....Artesia Ready Mix Concrete, Inc. to mine the alluvium from the streambed of Dry Creek, converting a one-half mile stretch of the natural stream into a reclaimed lake, and destroying forever the sycamore alluvial woodland within the mine project site.

(cont'd on page 4)

Rivers are the natural roads into the rain forest. The first European explorers to visit the jungles of South America, Africa, and Asia traveled along the watercourses and saw the forest as I was now seeing it--a riot of vegetation growing down to the river's edge. In fact, the word *jungle* is derived from *jangala*, a Sanskrit word meaning "impenetrable." As I had discovered in the interior of the forest in French Guiana the year before, however, this impenetrability was an illusion.

The river was an obstacle course of rocks, logs and rapids, but our guides were superb. So sophisticated is their knowledge of the river that the Maroons have twenty-three words to describe different types of rapids....

...Evening was coming and the heat began to subside. The nocturnal forest, like a slumbering giant, slowly came to life. Locusts called, frogs chirped, and a few mosquitoes circled our heads when we passed close to the riverbanks. Blue and yellow macaws flew from one shore to the other. Tiny squirrel monkeys chattered angrily in the trees lining the rivers, as if protesting our intrusion. From deeper within the forest came the booming roars of the red howler monkeys, an unearthly din that one explorer imaginatively likened to the sound of a jaguar making love to a dragon....

....The farther south we flew, the less well known was the landscape. According to the pilot, one river beneath us had yet to be named.

from *Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice--An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rain Forest*
by Mark J. Plotkin, © 1993, Viking Penguin.

Alta Peak Chapter 1997 Plant Pre-Sale Order Form

A 25% discount will be given to CNPS members who pre-order plants. Order forms must be received by Sep15. Mail form and check to Janet Fanning, 41118 Blossom Dr., Three Rivers, CA 93271.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Yes, I will be able to help with the plant sale on Friday _____ and/or Saturday _____

Trees

Quantity here ↓

<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Big leaf maple	gal	6.00
<i>Aescolus californica</i>	Buckeye	deepgal	7.00
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White alder	deepgal	7.00
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	Incense cedar	gal	6.00
<i>Eraxinus depetela</i>	Ash	gal	5.50
<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i>	Jeffery pine	deepgal	5.00
<i>Pinus lambertiana</i>	Sugar pine	deepgal	7.00
<i>Pinus murrayana</i>	Lodgepole pine	deepgal	7.00
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Pacific Ponderosa pine	deepgal	7.00
<i>Pinus sabiniana</i>	Gray or Foothill pine	deepgal	7.00
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	Western Sycamore	gal	6.00
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking aspen	deepgal	7.00
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Blue oak	deepgal	7.00
<i>Quercus garryana breweri</i>	Oregon oak	deepgal	7.00
<i>Sequoiadendron gigantea</i>	Giant sequoia	gal	5.50
<i>Styrax japonicus</i>	Snowdrop bush	deepgal	7.00
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California bay	gal	6.00

Shrubs

<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	Dr. Hurd manzanita	gal	5.50
<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	Emerald carpet manzanita	gal	5.50
<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	Pacific mist manzanita	gal	5.50
<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	Woods compact manzanita	gal	5.50
<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	Howard McMinn manzanita	gal	5.50
<i>Arctostaphylos uva ursi</i>	Radiant bearberry manzanita	gal	5.50
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Pigeon point coyote bush	gal	5.50
<i>Brickellia californica</i>	Brickellbush	gal	5.50
<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Spicebush	gal	5.50
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	Tree anemone	gal	6.00
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Button bush	gal	5.00
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Redbud	gal	5.50
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Burgandy desert willow	gal	6.00
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush	gal	5.50
<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>	Pipstems	gal	7.00
<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Virgin's bower	gal	7.00
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Dogwood	gal	6.00
<i>Ericameria arborescens</i>	Golden fleece goldenbush	gal	5.50
<i>Ericameria cuneata</i>	Goldenbush	gal	5.50
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	Cal buckwheat	gal	5.50
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Sulphur flower (wild buckwheat)	gal	5.50
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	Golden yarrow	gal	5.50
<i>Fremontodendron</i>	Cal glory flannelbush	deepgal	8.00
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Christmas berry toyon	gal	6.00
<i>Keckkiella breviflora</i>	Penstemon-like shrub	gal	5.50
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Compacta barberry	gal	5.50
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Skunk brush	gal	5.50
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry	gal	5.50
<i>Rosa californica</i>	Cal rose	gal	6.00
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Interior rose	gal	6.00

Alta Peak Chapter 1997 Plant Pre-Sale Order Form

<i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	Blackcap raspberry	gal	5.50
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White sage	gal	5.50
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Whirly blue sage	gal	5.50
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black sage	gal	5.50
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	Blue to lilac sage	gal	5.50
<i>Salvia sonomensis ssp</i>	Dara's choice sage	gal	5.50
<i>Salvia sonomensis clevelandii</i>	Cleveland sage	gal	5.50
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Blue elderberry	gal	6.00
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	Apricot globe mallow	gal	5.50
<i>Vitis californica</i>	Cal wild grape	gal	6.00
<i>Yucca whipplei ssp. casspitosa</i>	Our Lord's Candle	gal	6.00
Perennials			
<i>Anemopsis californica</i>	Yerba mansa	gal	6.00
<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i>	Columbine	gal	5.50
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Columbine	gal	8.00
<i>Arabis sparsiflora arcuata</i>	Rock cress	gal	5.50
<i>Artemesia ludoviciana</i>	Silver wormwood	gal	5.50
<i>Asarum lemmonii</i>	Wild ginger	gal	8.00
<i>Fragaria platypetala</i>	Mountain strawberry	gal	5.50
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	Alumroot	gal	6.00
<i>Hypericum anagaloides</i>	Tinker's penny	gal	6.00
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Blue flax	gal	5.50
<i>Mentzelia lindleyi</i>	Blazing star	gal	5.50
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	Coyote mint	gal	6.00
<i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i>	Scarlet buglar	gal	5.50
<i>Penstemon laetus</i>	Beardtongue	gal	5.50
<i>Penstemon newberryi</i>	Beardtongue	gal	5.50
<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western sword fern	gal	9.50
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Coulter's matilija poppy	gal	9.00
<i>Senecio sflaccidus</i>	Ragwort	gal	5.50
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-eyed grass	gal	5.50
<i>Solanum xantii</i>	Nightshade	gal	5.50
<i>Woodwardia fimbriata</i>	Chain fern	gal	9.50
<i>Zauschneria</i>	Hurricane point	gal	5.50
<i>Zauschneria</i>	Select matthole fuchsia	gal	5.50
<i>Zauschneria californica</i>	California fuchsia	gal	5.50
<i>Zauschneria californica etteri</i>	Fuchsia	gal	5.50
<i>Zauschneria canum latifolium</i>	Fuchsia	gal	5.50
Wild grasses			
<i>Agrostis sp.</i>	Bent grass	gal	4.00
<i>Carex lenticularis</i>	Sedge	gal	4.00
<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	Squirrel tail	gal	4.00
<i>Elymus glaucus</i>	Blue wild rye	gal	4.00
<i>Festuca californica</i>	Cal fescue	gal	5.00
<i>Juncus</i>	Rush	gal	5.00
<i>Melica californica</i>	California oniongrass	gal	4.00
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deergrass	gal	5.00
<i>Stipa cernua</i>	Needlegrass	gal	4.00
<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	Purple needlegrass	gal	4.00

Total _____ Less 25%* SubTotal _____

Sales tax 7.75% _____

Total amount _____

50% inclosed _____

* CNPS member pre-order discount only. Members will receive a 10% discount on plants, books and posters purchased on the day of the plant sale itself. **Make checks payable to CNPS.**

Legislative Report

by Marilyn Messa

Endangered Species Recovery Act of 1997
On July 31, 1997, Rep. George Miller (D-CA) introduced HR 2351, the Endangered Species Recovery Act (ESRA) of 1997, on behalf of himself and a bipartisan group of 52 co-sponsors. This legislation is based in part on the language of the Endangered Natural Heritage Act, bill language which was developed and favored by a wide-range coalition of conservation and environmental organizations. Reaction to Miller's bill has been positive among environmentalists.

A variety of excellent background factsheets, and outlines regarding ESRA are available on the Internet. (For example see: www.defenders.org/esa-8.html). Supplementing this type of information, the Environmental Resources Information Network has established an ESRA web page of primary source documents. This web page provides easy access to the full text of the bill, in both plain text and PDF formats. Also provided is access to the current legislative status of the bill in the House of Representatives. Mr. Miller's remarks to the House upon introduction of the bill, excerpted from the Congressional Record, are also available. Access the ESRA web page at:

www.essential.org/erin/esra.html

New Citizens Guide to CEQA Book

CEQA, The California Environmental Quality Act, is California's most basic environmental protection law. This law encourages citizen involvement in the environmental review process, but the legal process can be tedious and complex. This updated, easy-to-read booklet provides step-by-step instructions on how to challenge a project using CEQA, and contains the necessary legal citations to support any activist effort. Written by J. William Yeates for the ordinary, concerned citizen, *The Citizens Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act* is a valuable tool for any Californian who wants to take an active role in protecting the state's precious natural environment. Copies are \$15 each, order 20 or more at \$12 each, or 100 or more at \$10 each. Available from the Planning and Conservation League Foundation at 926 J St., Suite 612, Sacramento, CA 95814. Call 916-444-8726.

CalEPPC Symposium '97

Oct 10-12 Concord

In a little over five years, the California Exotic Pest Plant Council (CalEPPC) has become the clearinghouse for information and action regarding invasive exotic plants in California's natural areas. Through its quarterly newsletter, its working groups and annual symposiums, CalEPPC is linking people to address this major environmental threat. The latest research, early warnings, new initiatives, technical facts, practical control methods, policy issues and success stories---all are being shared through CalEPPC.

You are invited to attend the event of the year for people concerned with challenge of invasive, non-native plants in California's natural areas. An exceptional group of speakers will bring you up to date on the latest developments and provide methods that you need to be effective in this fast-changing field. Knowledgeable management of wildland weeds is not only essential for ecosystem preservation, it is a key requirement in nearly every ecological restoration or mitigation project. A formal proceedings of the Symposium will be available for a nominal charge. For reservations or for more info, call Sally Davis at 714-888-8347 or email: sallydavis@aol.com.

Arundo (Giant Reed) Survey

We are conducting a survey of *arundo donax* (Giant Reed) distribution throughout California and are interested in observations you may have made. The goal is to compare streams or other habitats where it is abundant, where it is absent, and especially where it is present but not excessively invasive. Our goal is to determine what ecological factors may be either promoting its invasion or inhibiting its expansion. If you have noted populations, or also know of areas where control efforts are taking place, please contact us so we can incorporate this information into our mapping work. We hope to have a good discussion of Arundo at the CalEPPC meeting in October.

Tom Dudley & Carla D'Antonio
510-643-3021, UC-Berkeley
email: tdudley@socrates.berkeley.edu

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Send items to: Alta Peak Chaper

PO box 245

Three Rivers, CA 93271

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Tom Dudley & Carla D'Antonio
510-643-3021, UC-Berkeley
email: tdudley@socrates.berkeley.edu

Insignis Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for Spring '98 issue-----Jan 5, 1998

Send items to: Alta Peak Chaper

PO box 245

Three Rivers, CA 93271

Board of Directors Alta Peak Chapter

President/Treasurer	Janet Fanning	41118 Blossom Dr., Three Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-3461
Conservation/Newsletter	Catherine Cort	PO Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-4671
Legislation/Public Outreach	Marilyn Messa	PO Box 174, Three Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-3479
Historian	Gwen Warner	PO Box 71, Three Rivers, CA 93271	209-561-0407
Rare Plant Chair	Jenny Marr	DWR, 3374 E Sheilds Ave #A7, Fresno, CA 93726	209-741-1980
Tule River Branch Liaison	Gia Martynn	PO Box 926, Springville, CA 93265	209-539-1406

Membership Update

Thank you to the following people for showing their support of the Alta Peak Chapter by joining, renewing their membership, or subscribing to **Insignis**.

New members: Mary Merriman, Ken Olsen **Renewals:** Gia Martynn, Mary Merriman, Bill Tweed, Rob Hansen, Larry Otter, Barbara Brydolf, Gary Adest, Matt Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. James Gessner, Gloria Jeffs, Elli Norris, Ellen and Tom Pittinger, Charles E. Stearn, Maggie and Brad Bloetscher, Marilyn Messa, Charles Sheltz, Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Scow, Jr., and Gwen Warner.

Membership Information

If you have received a complimentary copy of this newsletter and would like to join CNPS, dues are \$20 for student, retired or limited income; \$35 individual; or \$45 for a family membership. Send dues to CNPS 1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814.

If you wish to receive this newsletter without joining CNPS, send \$5 for a two-year subscription to Alta Peak Chapter, PO Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

Insignis is printed on recycled paper.

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c/o Alta Peak Chapter
PO Box 245
Three Rivers, CA 93271