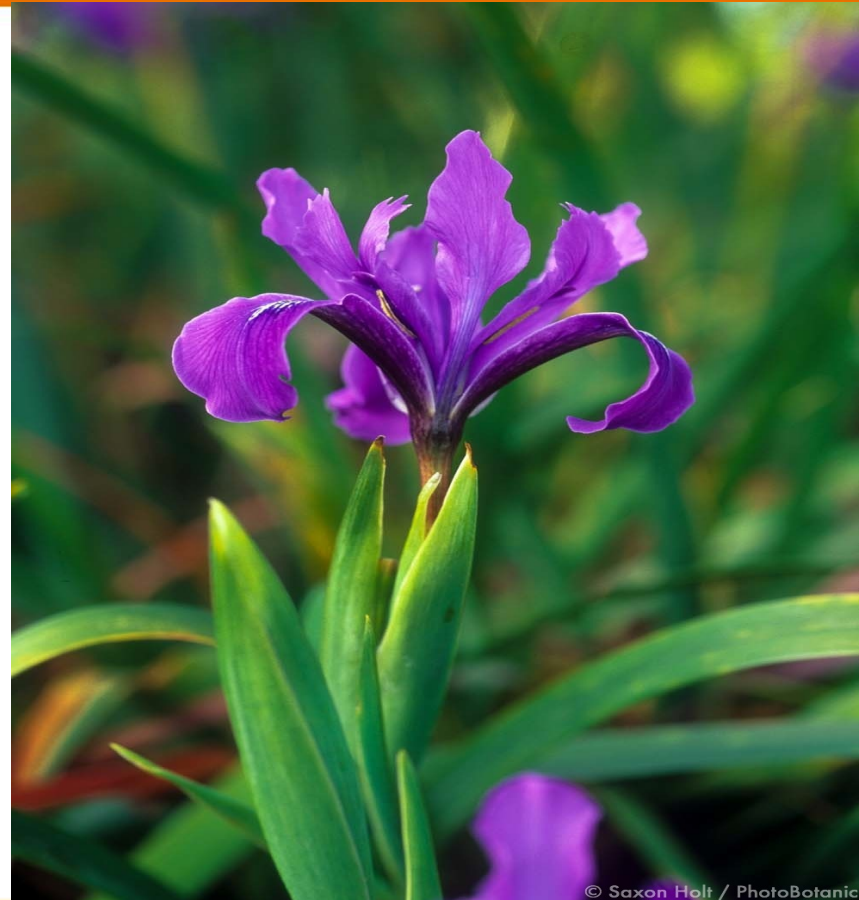


Plant Selection for Beginning Gardeners



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EBMUD Water Conservation Representative
Ann-Marie Benz, CNPS Horticultural Outreach Manager

September 23, 2020

UPCOMING WEBINARS

No Frustration Irrigation

Tuesday 9/29, 1pm - 2pm

Graywater: Laundry-to-Landscape

Thursday 10/8, 1pm - 2pm

Big Gardens in Small Spaces

Thursday 10/15, 1pm - 2pm

Register at:

www.ebmud.com/watersmart





AGENDA

- Why Plant Choice Matters
- California Native Plants
- Installation and Design Considerations
- Finding the Right Plants for Your Garden
- Resources and Rebates

Why Plant Choice Matters





On average, 39% of total residential use goes to outdoor landscaping

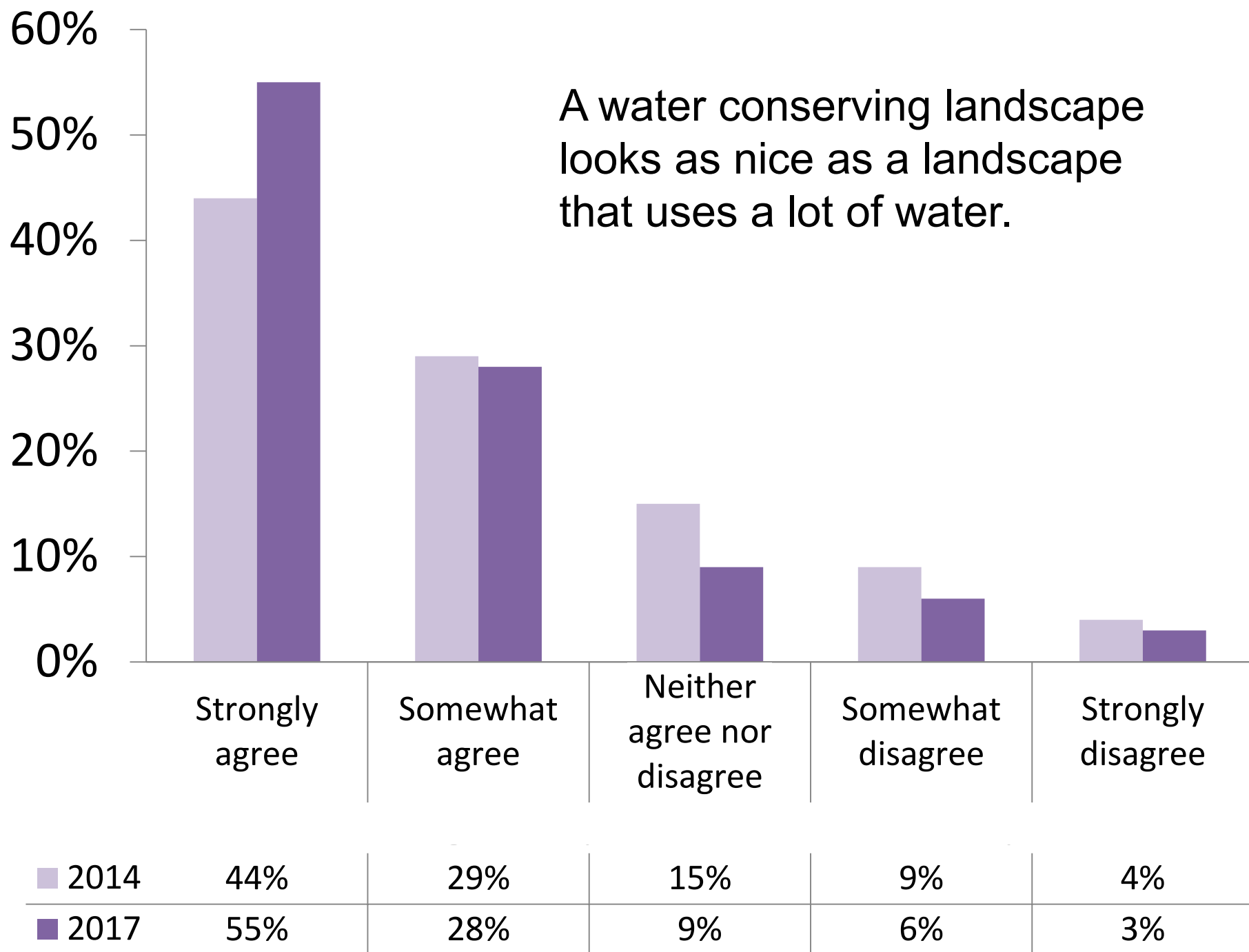


Inspire Others

A photograph of a well-maintained garden. A winding stone path leads through various plants, including tall green grasses, yellow daisies, and purple flowers. In the background, a white wooden bench is situated on a raised platform. A wooden fence runs along the top of the garden.

Multiplier and spillover effect: One rebated lawn conversion on a block can increase the likelihood of more applicants by **7-fold**.

A water conserving landscape looks as nice as a landscape that uses a lot of water.









Minimal benefits (beyond water savings)



Many benefits (with this garden design)



California Native Plants

- What is a native plant?
- Benefits of native plants
- California habitats



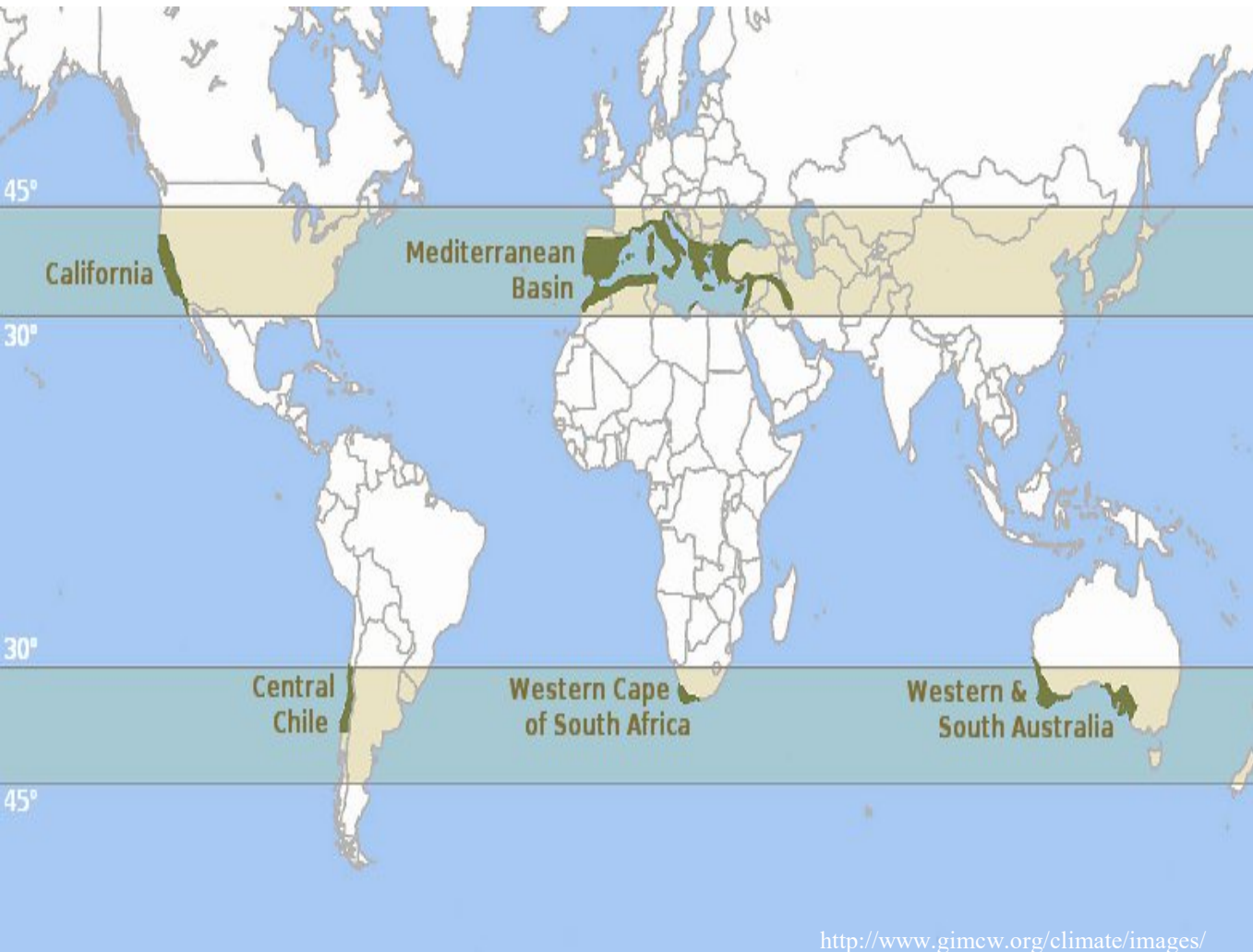
A native plant...



Photo: Tony Tubbs

- ✓ **Grows here naturally**, the plants that were here before European exploration
- ✓ **Co-evolved** with animals, fungi, and microbes to form complex networks
- ✓ **Foundation of native ecosystems**

✓ Adapted to..



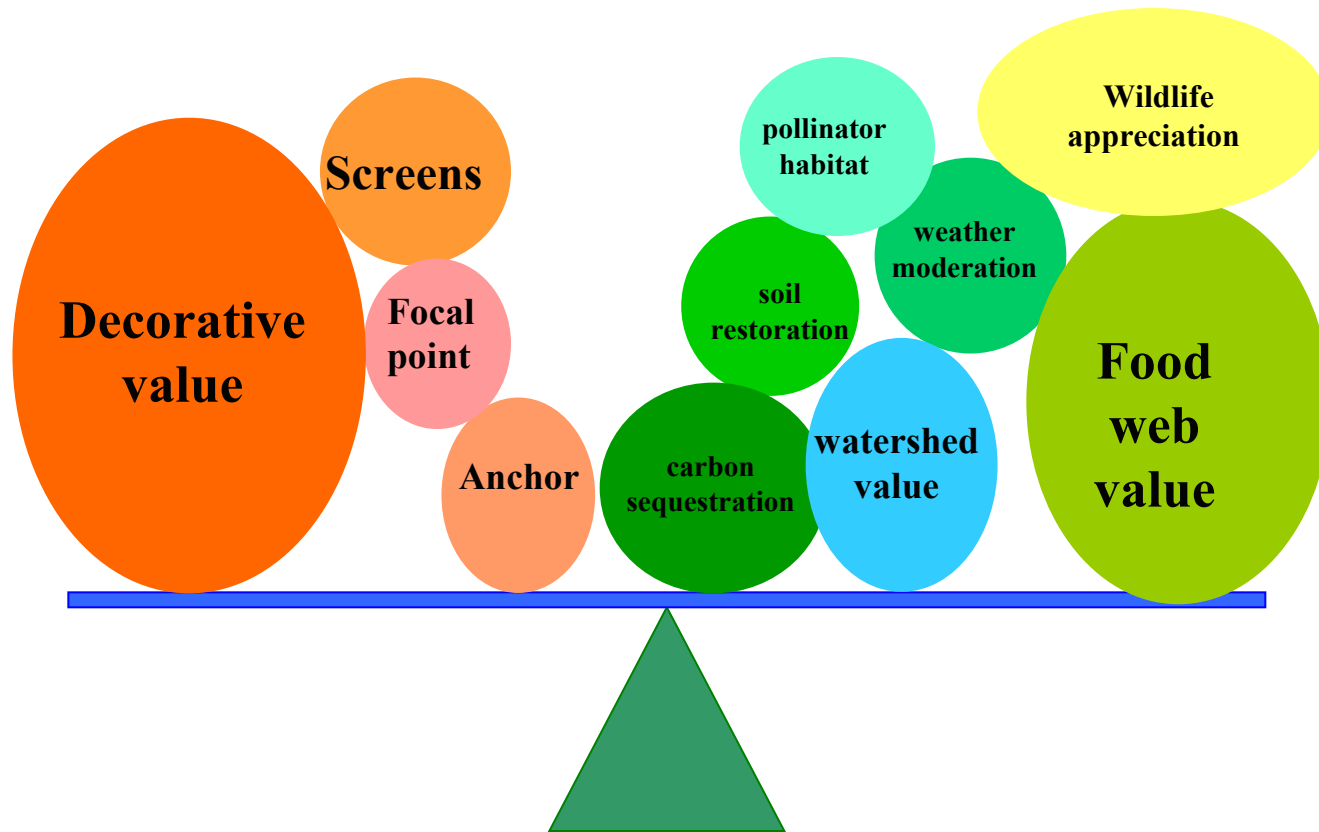
- California's unique Mediterranean climate.
- Of the 5 in the world, CA receives the least amount of rainfall
- Rest during the hot, dry summer and early fall



What is the difference between native plants and other low water use plants?

Non-native, drought friendly plants, even those from other Mediterranean climates, often need supplemental irrigation and care to thrive.

New criteria for designing our landscapes



A photograph of a lush garden with a stream, a house, and various plants. The stream flows through the garden, surrounded by rocks and greenery. A house with a wooden deck and a hammock is visible in the background. The garden is filled with various plants, including a large purple flowering plant, a weeping willow, and a red-leafed tree. The overall scene is a vibrant and healthy garden environment.

Solution?

Convert sterile
suburban
gardens to rich
natural habitat
through the use
of local native
plants!



Native gardens excel at efficiency

- ✓ 83% less water
- ✓ 56% less green waste
- ✓ 68% less maintenance

When planned well and cared for properly, native gardens can achieve these savings!

Reduce harmful runoff

Locally native plants are adapted to local conditions.

Harmful pesticides and other supplements that pollute streams and oceans are not needed.



Support local pollinators

Do you enjoy hummingbird, butterflies, and other beneficial insects?

Planting natives in your garden provides habitat for local pollinators and birds.

Support local wildlife

Native plants
are the
foundation of
our
ecosystems.

Research
shows that
native wildlife
depends on
native plants
to thrive and
survive.



Number of Butterflies and Moth Species Plants Support

Commonly used plants

Acacia	8
Agapanthus	0
Amarylis	0
Borage	0
Calla lily	3
Camphor tree	1
Candytuft	0
Catnip	1
Coreopsis	6
Cotoneaster	7
Crape myrtle	0
Daffodil	2
Daisy	3
English ivy	6

California native plants

Buckwheat	56
California lilac	117
California sage	65
Creambush	38
Currant	122
Goldenrod	55
Lupines	75
Manzanita	68
Native Asters	53
Native honeysuckle	30
Native Penstemmon	30
Native rose	95
Native Strawberry	58
Native Sunflower	60
Oak Tree	270

Source: Douglas Tallamy



Biodiversity, also called biological diversity, the variety of life found in a place on Earth or, often, the total variety of life on Earth. A common measure of this variety, called species richness, is the count of species in an area. (Brittanica)



California is special

An incredibly important place with more native plant species
than any other state.

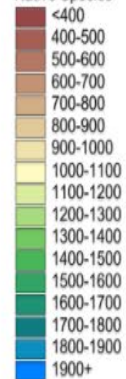


1/3 of our plants
are found nowhere
else on earth!

Biodiversity Hotspot

Already lost 70% of the native habitat

Native Species



A photograph of a dense thicket of native plants with small, reddish-orange, spherical flower heads. Numerous delicate spider webs are draped across the branches and leaves, creating a complex, web-like pattern over the vegetation. The scene is captured in a close-up, slightly low-angle shot, emphasizing the texture of the webs and the vibrant colors of the flowers.

Native plants are the foundation of
ecosystems



Chaparral

Photo: Julie Evens



Coastal Sage Scrub

Photo: Julie Evens



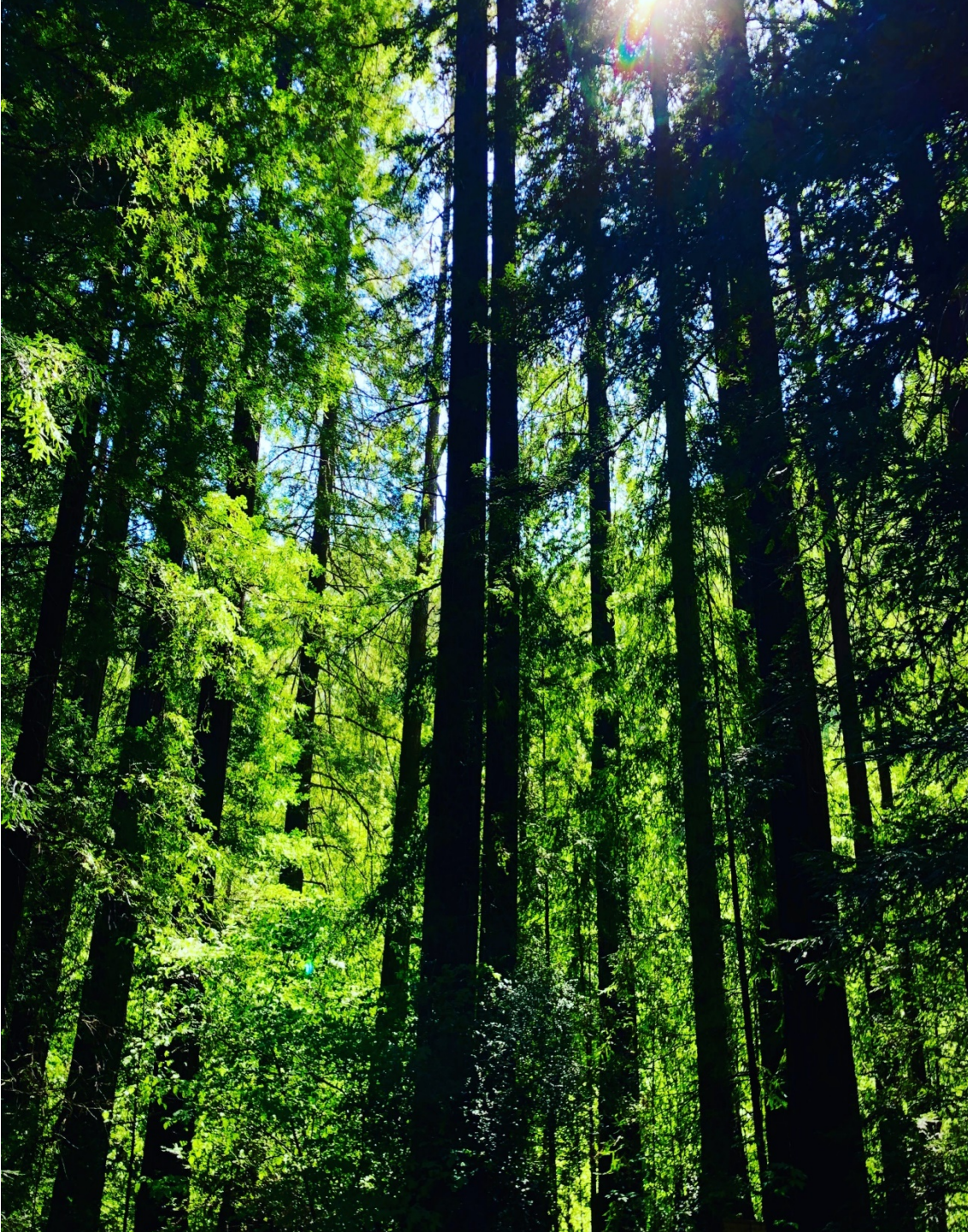
Valley Oak Savannah

Photo: Nancy Buck



Grassland

Photo: David Magney



Mixed Conifer Forest

What habitat do you live in?

Determine the natural habitat of the site prior to urbanization to identify what will work best with the site's microclimate, soil, and biotic factors.



Photo: Megan Wolff



Questions?



Installation and Design Considerations





Converting Lawn is Easy

Sheet
Mulching
is like a
lasagna recipe

Photo: Kristen

What's Soil Got to Do With It?

Do a Site
Analysis
And
Figure Out
Your
Soil Type

Photo: Peyton Ellas



Planting Natives

Plant California natives are in late fall, winter, or early spring

Start with 1 gallon (or smaller) plants

Dig a hole that is twice as wide and half again as deep

Mulch



Leave a few
areas mulch-
free for native
bees

3” Layers

Different
California
native plants
prefer different
types of mulch

Watering

You are
watering the
soil in order to
provide for the
plants' needs

Photo: Jim Brugger



Gardening for pollinators

- ✓ Have 10 different flowering plants that attract pollinators- different colors and flower shapes
- ✓ Plant in groups so there is a mass of the same flower
- ✓ Have 3 different plants in bloom each season

Photo: Kris Ethington

Attracting butterflies and moths



- ✓ Flat landing pad
- ✓ Butterflies are usually brightly colored and moths are more subtle
- ✓ Ants may have a symbiotic relationship with some butterflies

Attracting hummingbirds

- ✓ Tubular flowers
- ✓ Will feed on any flower that produces abundant nectar
- ✓ Will also eat many insects for protein such as mosquitoes

Attracting birds

- ✓ Seeds, berries, nesting material
- ✓ Birds will stick around if there is a water source
- ✓ They are also eating the protein rich insects in the tree
- ✓ Migrations patterns are based on plant communities and cycles

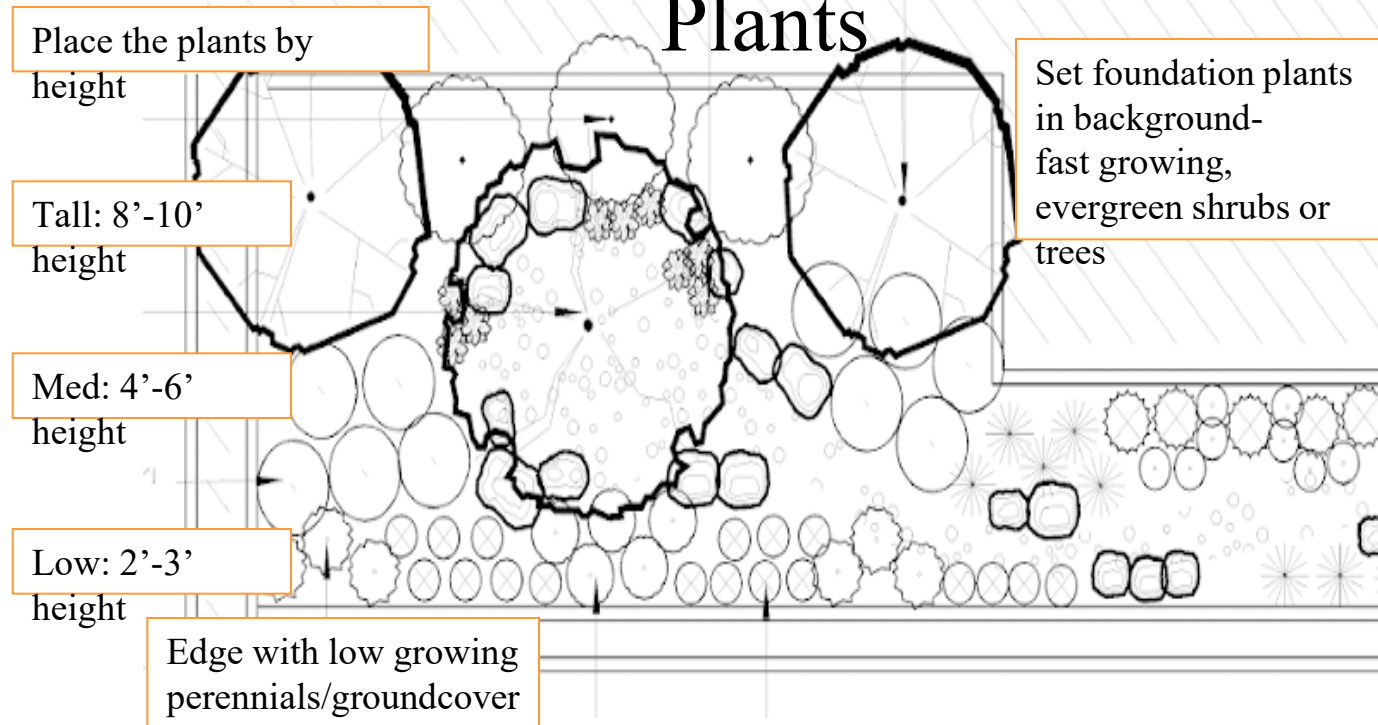
Attracting native bees



Photo: Carl Mautner

- ✓ Most effective pollinators
- ✓ Some areas of sunny bare soil, some branch piles, hollow twigs, rotten logs
- ✓ Avoid using weed cloth
- ✓ In North America:
 - Thousands of sp.
 - 47 Bumble bee sp.
 - 70% nest underground

Tips for Laying Out Plants



- Contour the ground with a dry creek bed or varying sizes of rocks, logs and boulders.
- Scale your plant symbol to accurately reflect the mature width to allow for proper spacing.
- Group plants (other than specimens) in odd numbers: 3, 5, 7, 9
- Don't forget about the understory of trees – great place for shade loving perennials
- Seed wildflowers throughout the dry creek beds to stabilize the slope and give pops of color.

Use shade/sun to identify plant groups

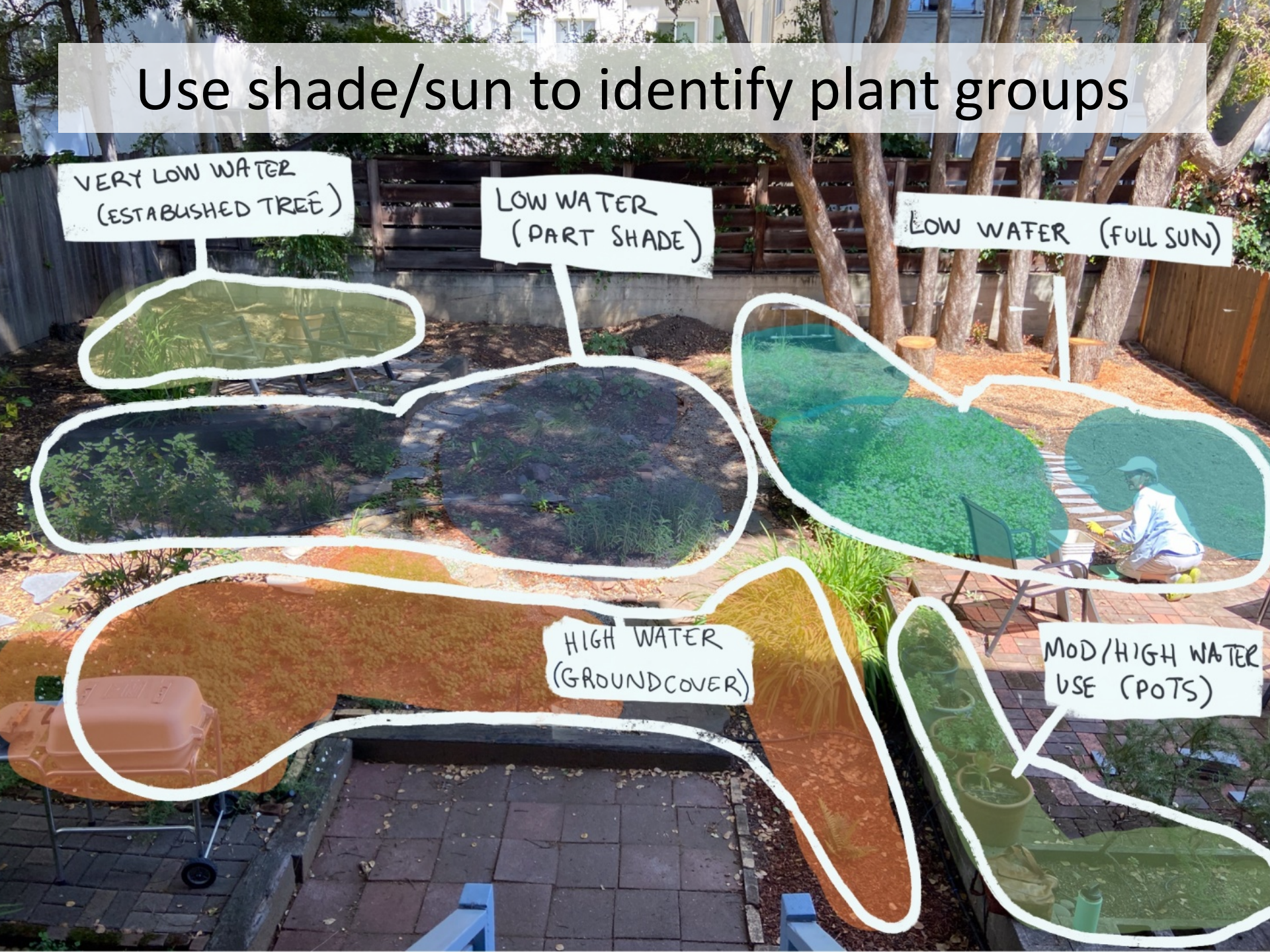
VERY LOW WATER
(ESTABLISHED TREE)

LOW WATER
(PART SHADE)

LOW WATER (FULL SUN)

HIGH WATER
(GROUND COVER)

MOD/HIGH WATER
USE (POTS)



Mix annuals for instant color
Rely on perennials



March 2020



June 2020



Questions?



Finding Plants for Your Garden





Go on a Walk!

Observe what's
doing well and
what you like.

Apps available
to identify
plants using
your phone
camera.



California native plants at the Watershed Nursery in...

45 views • 1 month ago



Gardening with California native plants: Peter and...

Plant Tours & Demonstration Gardens

Bringing Back the Natives
(Virtual)

Bringingbackthenatives.net

Sustainable gardens map

ebmud.com/gardens-near-me

Botanical gardens
UC and Tilden



Free designs resources

Native Planting Guide and Design

Starting a native plant garden doesn't have to be complicated. This easy guide takes the guesswork out of which plants to use where. (Printer friendly version [here](#)).

Gardens for San Lorenzo

You don't need to live in San Lorenzo to use this book: it includes four garden design for various lot types, illustrations, plant lists, estimated costs, and how-to guidance.

Landscape Design Templates

Eight contemporary front yard plans are available for various styles, and can be scaled for landscapes up to 2,500 square feet. Templates are courtesy of the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership.



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
East Bay Chapter
Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

Native Landscape Planting Guide

Starting a native plant garden doesn't have to be complicated. This easy guide takes the guesswork out of which plants to use where. Simply choose one of the garden vignettes below and select from recommended native plants listed on the inside of your guide.

✓ Low Water Use ✓ Pollinator Friendly ✓ Locally Native

Five Easy Project Ideas for your Garden



Wildlife Walkway

Take a stroll through your landscape. Use permeable materials for your pathway, such as stepping stones or decomposed granite. Features: permeable walkway, large boulders.



Homey Habitat

Featuring a bench and bird bath, you can take a seat in this habitat and enjoy all of the bustling activity in your yard! Features: bench, bird bath, boulders.



Colorful Entry

Make a statement in your entryway! Be sure to choose plants with a variety of colors. Features: large pot, decorative round stones.



Pollinator Park

Add excitement to the parkway strip along your driveway by adding plants that butterflies and other pollinators love. Features: stepping stones and contrasting colors.



Living Wall

Designing your space vertically can add life to your yard. Use bold colors, and interesting shapes to make a flat area stand out. Features: rain chain, swale, trellis.

Landscape Design Templates

savingwaterpartnership.org

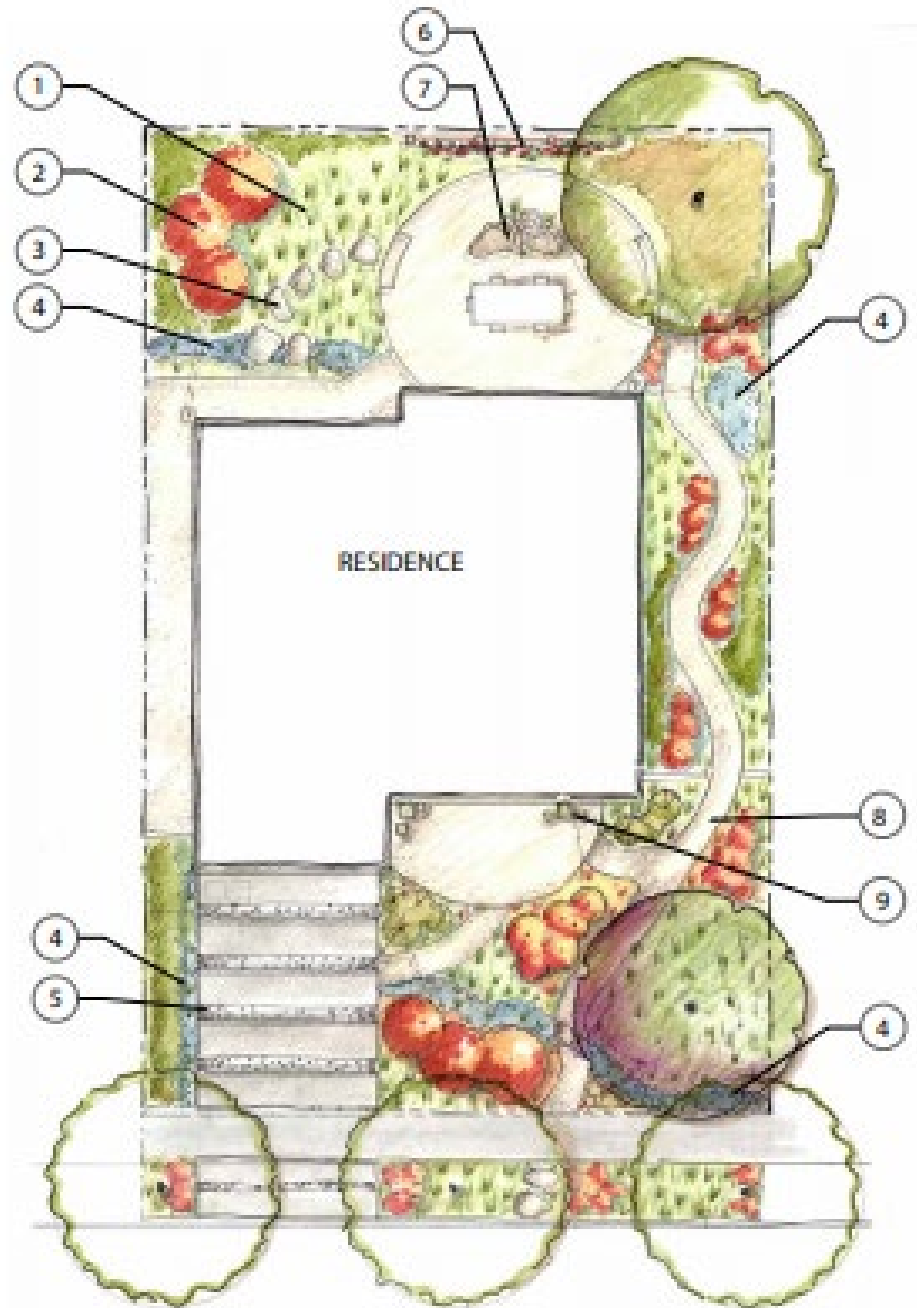


Sonoma Contemporary A

[\[Concept Plan\]](#)

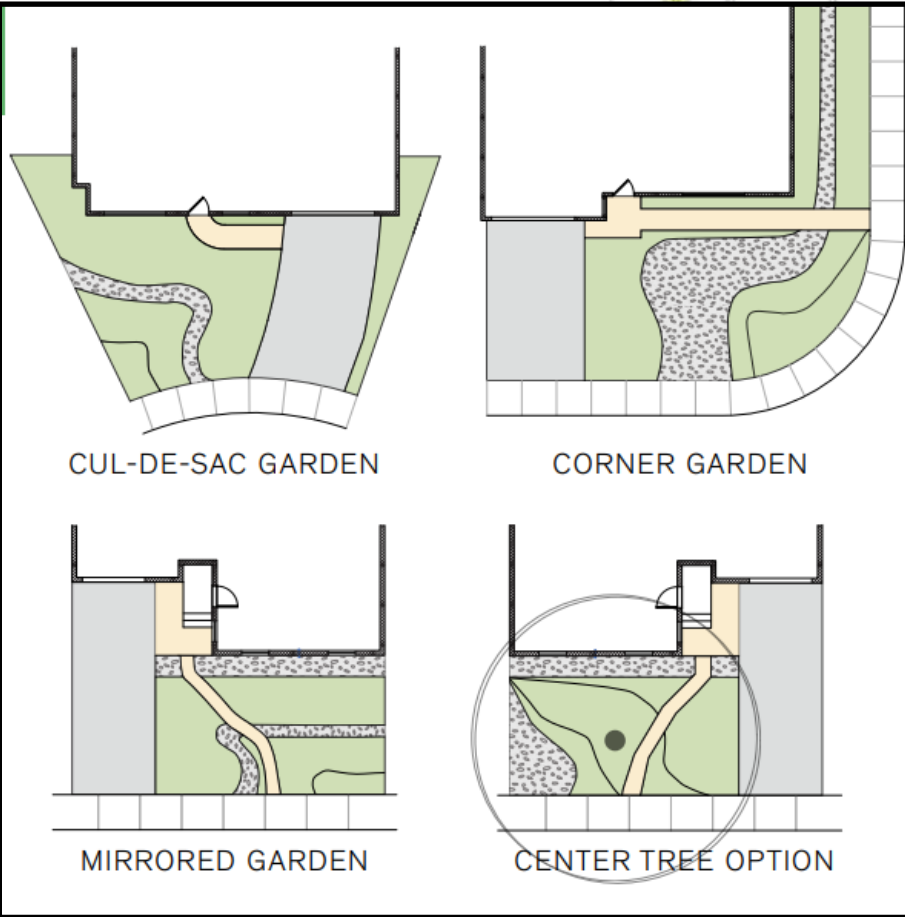
[\[Architectural Rendering\]](#)

[\[Design Template – Driveway Left\]](#)



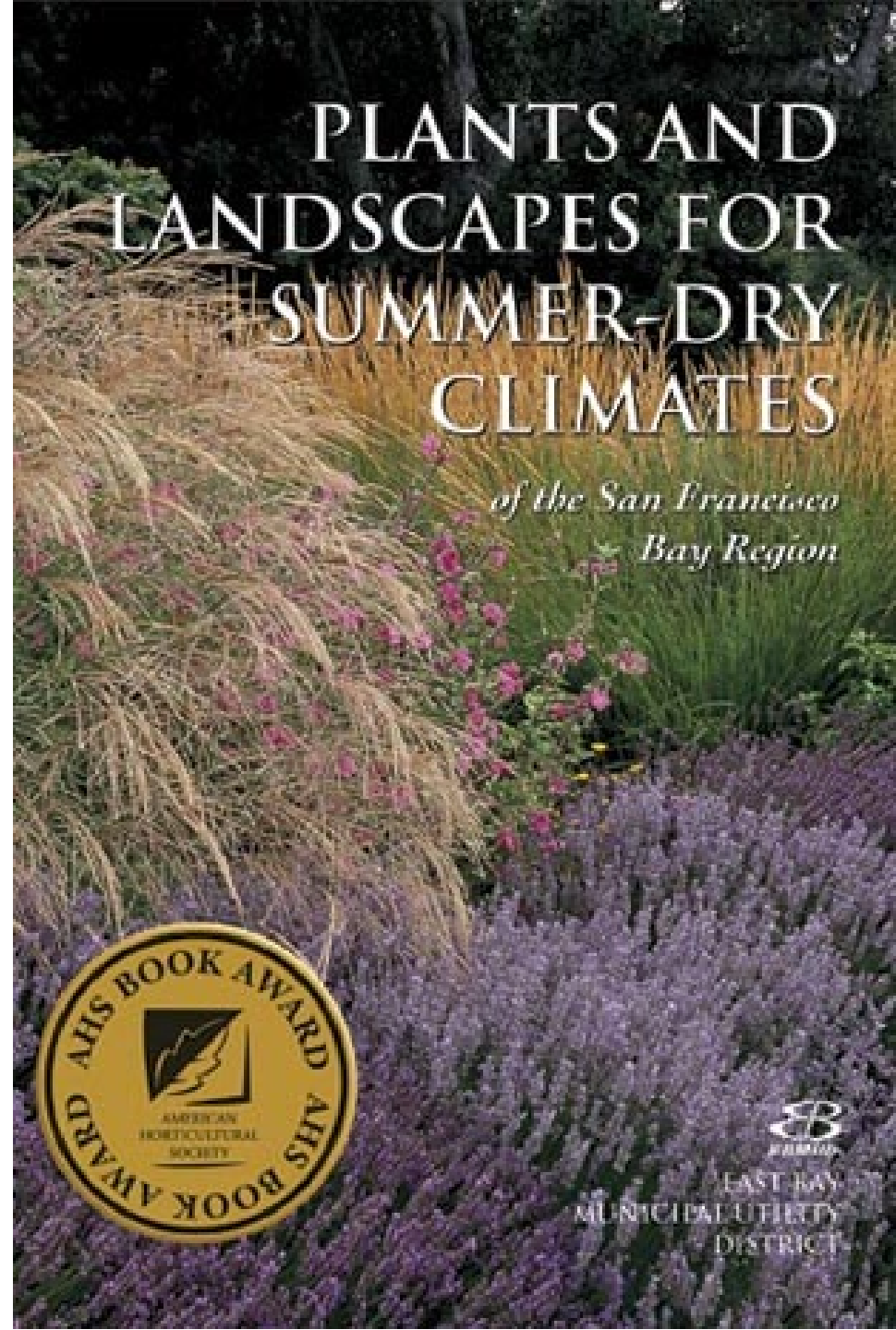
HOA resource:

Gardens for San Lorenzo



More Resources

- EBMUD Plant Book
- EBMUD low water use plant list
- Firescape Booklet
- Plant Databases:
Calscape and WUCOLS



Enter a California address or click the map to see plants native to that location

Mill Valley

743 plants native to 37.906,-122.545 (Mill valley)



All Plants
743



Trees
40



Shrubs
132



Perennials
285



Annuals
210



Grasses
105



Succulents
5



Vines
18



Ferns
26



Sun
397



Shade
94



Part Shade
341



Groundcovers
83



Butterfly Hosts
614

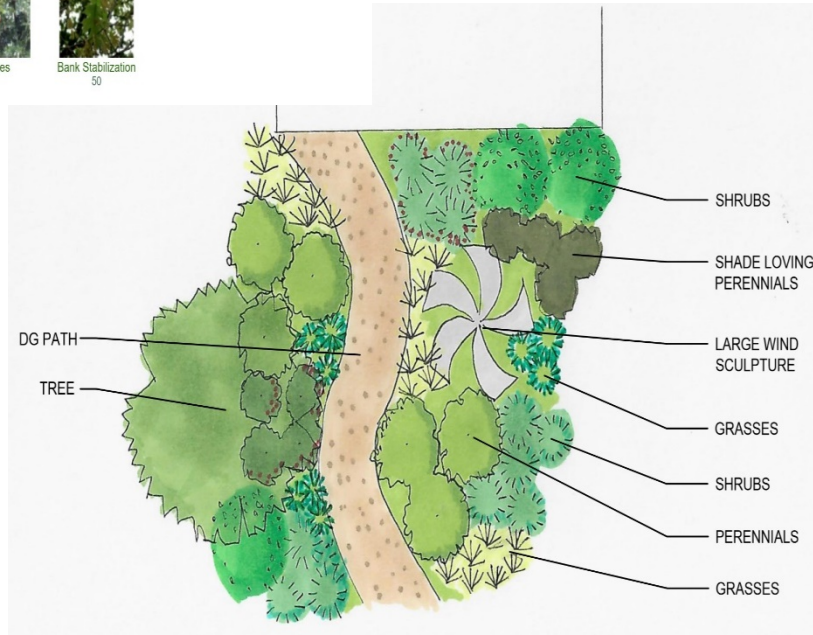


Hedges
57



Bank Stabilization
50

California Natural Entryway Design



Coming
Soon..

Calscape Garden
Planning Wizard

Generates
garden designs
based on design
preferences!



Landscape Rebates

up to \$2,000 for residential properties
(up to \$15,000 for multi-family)



SUMMARY

- Why Plant Choice Matters

(save water, improve aesthetics, inspire neighbors)

- California Native Plants

(biodiversity hotspot, foundation of ecosystems, adapted to dry summers)

- Installation and Design Considerations

(sheet mulch, provide blooms year-round, hydrozone)

- Finding the Right Plants for Your Garden

(take a walk, visit a demo garden, on-line tools)

- Resources and Rebates

Thank you!



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