

## Jennifer Blackman

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**From:** BEP <info@bolinaseucalyptusproject.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 3, 2024 10:37 AM  
**To:** Jack Siedman; Kevin McElroy; Jennifer Blackman

Hello Kevin and Jack,

As you may know Monarch Butterflies roosted in Eucalyptus trees along the bike path through the BCPUD sewer pond lands this autumn (now gone). The Xerces Society volunteers have been monitoring this site since 1997 and this is the first year MBs have been present in any significant numbers. In most years the site has not been used at all, but rather they roosted at Purple Gate, situated in a similar way, just up Mesa Rd. Several trees at PG however blew down and others had to be taken down thus reducing monarch suitability. They tried there but then moved. When MBs started appearing near the Goat Pen this fall we realized that we would need to produce a much more comprehensive analysis of the situation. We were advised by Dave Ainley, biologists from HT Harvey and Associates and Lewis Springer, Director of Natural Resources at Presidio Trust, to hire Stuart Weiss of Creekside Science, a well-recognized butterfly expert (Please google him.)

He did an assessment at all the known MB roosting sites on the Bolinas Peninsula, using Hemispherical photography to determine plant canopy geometry and solar radiation along with assessing potential for long term viability of various roosting sites. He expects to have a completed study done within the next few weeks. Several members of BEP accompanied him on his visits and are feeling optimistic about our project. Dr. Weiss was very impressed with the arborists and forester reports, and has had experience with roosting trees vs public safety, the latter taking priority. Nevertheless, he leans toward maintaining long term sustainable roosting sites for MBs within the BCPUD Euc grove. He visited and assessed several potential sites.

WRA has told us that they are waiting on Dr. Weiss's report to finish the biological study we contracted them to do. We will be ready at that time to go to the County with the BCPUD to request permits needed.

We have been searching out possible grants to help finance this major project. There are many possibilities for the restoration portion that BEP can apply for. Grants for the removal of Eucalyptus for public safety and fire prevention will need to be done with the BCPUD and Bolinas Fire Protection District taking the lead. Aging Eucalyptus is a hot topic now and there are many projects in progress in the Bay Area. Here in Marin the Wildfire Prevention agency that oversees monies from Measure C has financed the smaller Rush Creek removal and restoration in Novato and the proposed massive project in San Anselmo that plans to remove 16,970 Eucalyptus trees. Not far south, Half Moon Bay, Cal-Trans has embarked on removing a Euc grove they deem to be endangering the towns main escape route (along Rt 92). Sound familiar? Bolinas is not alone in its dangerous trees issues!

First things first, we will need to get permits from the County and pass Coastal Commission review. BCPUD and BFPD, as the town's main government agencies would need to be involved.

I will update you on a regular basis going forward.

Best,

Janice Tweedy  
for Bolinas Eucalyptus Project