

the **Northcoast
Environmental
Center**

November 16, 1984

Mr. John Vostrez, District Engineer
Caltrans
P.O. Box 3700
Eureka CA 95501

Dear Mr. Vostrez:

The Northcoast Environmental Center Board of Directors has a proposition for your consideration that we feel will help to provide some additional mitigation for the negative environmental effects of the Redwood Park Bypass project.

We would like your approval and cooperation in our effort to organize "Operation Plant Lift," a volunteer program that we would conduct between now and May, or until right-of-way clearance resumes in the Spring.

Our goal is to remove selected native perennial vegetation with stems under two inches in diameter and relocate plants collected to sites that are unlikely to be disturbed in the near future.

To achieve this objective our plan is to solicit the participation of community groups and governmental agencies that have a need for native plant material for either rehabilitation or beautification projects. Participating groups would be required to certify that any plant materials gathered would not be used for private gain.

The Center already has people interested in participating in this project representing Redwood National Park, the City of Arcata and the California Native Plant Society.

The first phase of "Operation Plant Lift" would involve both identification of plants to be lifted and groups with a need for plant material -- and a concomitant willingness to "get their fingers dirty." The second phase would be the mass mobilization of the groups involved to dig, transport and transplant the previously marked plants.

We understand that due to the unique nature of the bypass project and the wide range of agencies and regulations involved, there are probably

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additional special considerations, but we also hope that Caltrans understands the potential for good publicity resulting from "Operation Plant Lift," as well the potential for good saving plant work.

We hope for an early, enthusiastic and affirmative reponse from your agency so we can get this worthwhile project rolling.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Tim McKay, NEC Coordinator

PS: Attached is a partial list of the species that we might expect to relocate.

CC: Joe Thorne
Bob Belous
Assemblyman Dan Hauser
Senator Barry Keene
Congressman Doug Bosco

A PARTIAL LIST OF SPECIES TO BE TRANSPLANTED

big-leaf maple
vine maple
five-finger fern
deer fern sword fern
wild ginger
lady fern
Oregon grape
Pacific dogwood
California hazelnut
California rhododendron
western azalea
Pacific bleeding-heart
red flowering currant
northwest columbine
Douglas's iris
Yerba Buena
Oregon lily
large flowered fairy bell
two-leaved Solomon's seal
redwood sorrel
inside-out flower
ocean spray
Nootka rose
salix specis
slink pod
trillium
huckleberry
redwood violet

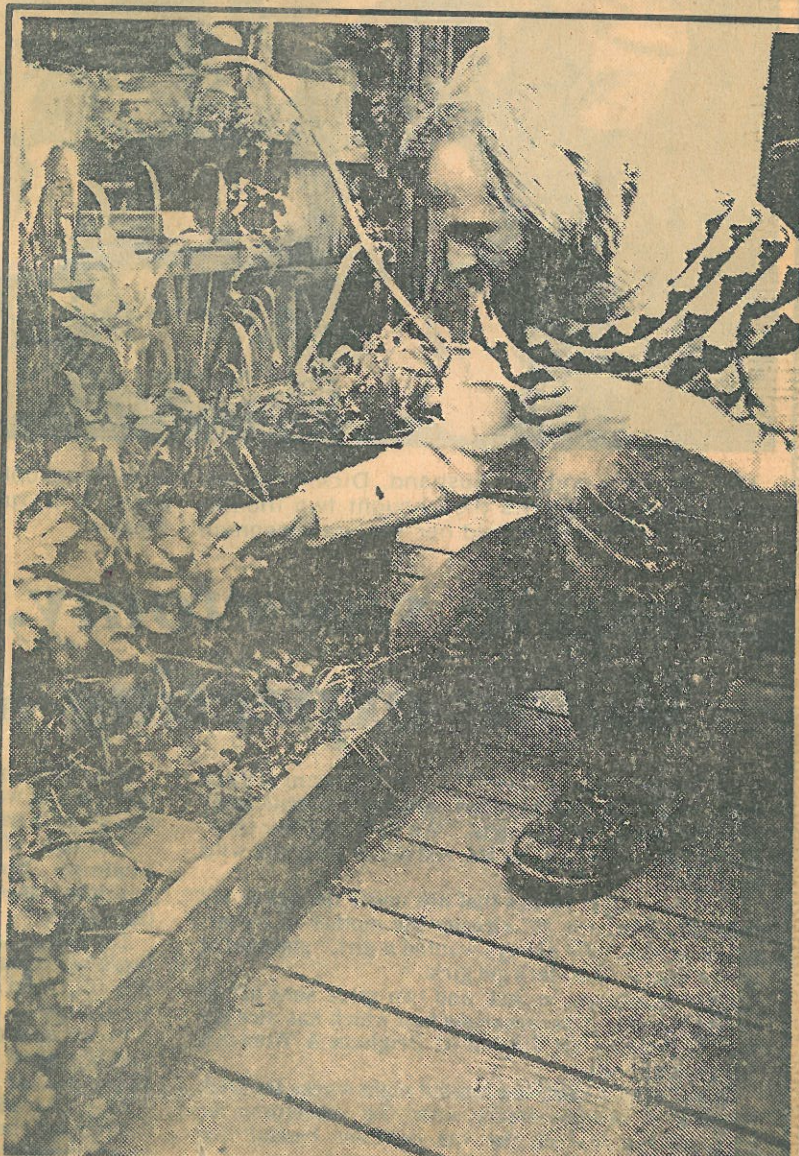
and others as appropriate

Standard

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1985

30 CENTS

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA



Times-Standard photo by Gina Bentzley

Bill Stomp tends plants rescued from a road project.

Arbor Day activities to celebrate area's flora

By GINA BENTZLEY
Times-Standard Writer

EUREKA — Arbor Day is the holiday dedicated to celebrating life — green life.

This day is dedicated to paying homage to the living monuments that give rise to the North Coast's scenic beauty, unique bird life, tourist attractions and its most prominent industry.

Californians celebrate Arbor Day on March 7, commemorating the birthday of the famous horticulturalist, Luther Burbank, who was born in 1849.

As custom would have it, several local groups are celebrating Arbor Day by planting trees in various locations throughout the county. Local Boy Scouts are planting trees at the Maritime Museum and the Myrtle Grove Cemetery, the California Garden Club Redwood District is planting a magnolia at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale and the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club donated a tree for planting at the Sequoia Park Zoo.

The Northcoast Environmental Center has modified the Arbor Day observance by sponsoring "Operation Plant Lift" — a rescue mission of sorts.

Linda Letton, a member of the Arcata-based environmental center, said volunteers in the rescue program are digging up native plants and shrubs that grow in the path of the Redwood National Park highway bypass.

Letton said the Northcoast Environmental Center arranged the plant rescue with Caltrans and

park officials.

"Whatever we take out must be used for public property only," she said.

The plants are being taken to the Arcata Marsh and Humboldt State University's Campus Center for Appropriate Technology.

Some of the plants found in the path of the 12-mile-long Highway 101 bypass include rhododendrons, sword ferns, Western azaleas, red flowering currant, Douglas iris, redwood sorrel, inside-out flower, trillium, redwood violet and huckleberry, Letton said.

A major uprooting and transplanting effort will take place Saturday. Volunteers will work throughout the morning gathering plants from the bypass area and transplanting them in the afternoon at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Bill Stomp, a resident at the appropriate technology center on campus, said some of the native plants brought to HSU will be transplanted in a small redwood grove behind the center. "We'll bring back as much as we can get," he joked.

The plants will be put in the ground along with small signs telling the name of each one. "It'll be like a mini-botanical garden," Stomp said.

He and the center's other two residents have already taken some plants from the bypass and transplanted them in the greenhouse attached to the center.

Anyone interested in helping out with "Operation Plant Lift" can call the environmental center at 822-6918 for information.