

**DECLARATION OF  
Misa Milliron, Senior Biologist**

I, Misa Milliron, declare as follows:

1. I am presently employed by the California Energy Commission in the Environmental Office of the Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division as a Planner II.
2. A copy of my professional qualifications and experience is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.
3. I helped prepare the staff testimony on Biological Resources for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System Project based on my independent analysis of the Application for Certification and supplements thereto, data from reliable documents and sources, and my professional experience and knowledge.
4. It is my professional opinion that the prepared testimony is valid and accurate with respect to the issue addressed therein.
5. I am personally familiar with the facts and conclusions related in the testimony and if called as a witness could testify competently thereto.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

At: Sacramento, California

# N . M I S A M I L L I R O N

## EDUCATION

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*University of Georgia, Athens* 2000

- M.S. Botany

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo* 1997

- B.S. Biological Sciences, Botany Concentration, *Magna Cum Laude*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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*California Energy Commission*

Research Development and Demonstration Division, Public Interest Energy Research Program

**Technical Lead, Terrestrial Resources**

*June 2009 - Present*

Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division

**Senior Biologist, Technical Lead**

*May 2007 - Present*

**Biologist**

*May 2006 - May 2007*

- Manage and develop ideas for energy-related biological research.
- Develop and present oral and written testimony on energy-related environmental analyses and land use planning, natural resource management, energy facility siting issues and evaluate compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.
- Identify, describe, and analyze policy, regulatory, electric transmission corridor planning, and biological resource issues related to construction and operation of electrical energy production facilities and associated electric transmission systems, alternative energy technologies including wind and geothermal facilities, and Commission programs.
- Conduct project management and team leadership, manage contract budgets, and coordinate work of contract personnel for the Order Instituting Informational proceeding pursuant to the California Public Resources Code on the Development of *California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development*.
- Coordinate multi-agency input as well as write and edit sections for the *Guidelines*, which were identified as a priority policy issue in the Commission's 2005 *Integrated Energy Policy Report*.
- Consult with and advise Office Managers, Division Chiefs, Executive Office, and Commissioners and their advisers on electricity-related siting and planning subjects.
- Evaluate compliance with conditions of certification related to biological resources.
- Coordinate with biological resource protection and management agencies, environmental organizations, universities, and special interest groups to ensure input into Commission programs.
- Organize and conduct public workshops and meetings concerning Commission projects.
- Review information for *Environmental Performance Report* updates.
- Review job applications, develop interview questions, serve on interview panels, and make recommendations on potential new hires in the Biology Unit.
- Represent the Commission at college recruitment fairs.
- Serve as acting supervisor of Biology and Cultural Resources Unit as needed during supervisor's absences.
- Won Superior Accomplishment Award for outstanding performance and contribution in 2006.

*California Native Plant Society (CNPS)*

**Rare Plant Botanist**

*March 2004 – June 2006*

- Provide leadership and project management equivalent to a Planner II – Energy Facilities Siting
- Manage Rare Plant Program's plant science activities and establish yearly, quarterly and daily priorities, including natural resource management activities
- Supervise and monitor work of consultants, volunteers, and interns
- Monitor species affected by development, including intra- and inter-state electric transmission corridors.
- Provide advice and data to consultants working for large electricity companies on utility transmission planning alternatives analysis and natural resource management.
- Conduct timely data entry and quality control of the CNPS rare plant database.

- Coordinate and expand interagency botanists group, network of local and regional rare plant experts, and consult with chapter Rare Plant Coordinators.
- Research status, nomenclature, distribution, abundance, and endangerment for the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California.
- Compile and disseminate concise technical reports on rare plants for public agencies, conservationists, consultants, researchers, media, and others.
- Develop oral presentations and write articles in CNPS publications regarding program activities.
- Organize meetings to facilitate yearly program evaluation.
- Serve on job search committee, screen applications, and interview references.
- Train interim, Program Assistant Rare Plant Botanist in key Program areas as described below.
- Consult on rare plant science activities, priorities, and data issues (2006-2007).

*EDAW, Inc.*

*Sacramento Office*

*October 2001 – April 2004*

**Botanist**

- Identify, describe, and analyze policy, regulatory, electric transmission corridor planning, and biological resource issues related to construction and operation of electrical energy production facilities and associated electric transmission systems, and alternative energy technologies including geothermal facilities as well as other major development.
- Apply knowledge of local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards on biological resources.
- Authored numerous environmental impact analyses, rare plant survey reports, floristic inventories, restoration monitoring reports, and wetland delineations related to land use planning, natural resource management.
- Primary biologist responsible for analysis of wetlands on a large inter-state electric transmission corridor.
- Conduct alternatives analysis for utility transmission corridor planning and utility intertie projects.
- Conduct botanical surveys in a variety of habitats throughout California (and southern Oregon) to facilitate environmental planning for both public agency and private sector clients, including electric utility companies.
- Document and map rare plants and sensitive habitats using traditional field mapping or GPS.
- Determine potentially suitable habitat areas, perform jurisdictional wetland delineations, characterize plant communities and ecological processes/functions, and make impact assessments based on field data and previously reported information.
- Apply knowledge of existing laws on biological resources through CEQA/NEPA document and other report preparation.

*Office of the Registrar*

*University of Georgia*

*February 2000-October 2001*

**Administrator and Web Content Manager**

- Designed and created the first comprehensive on-line tutorial for the University's registration system.
- Facilitated the design of a new Registrar website and served as a technical writer and editor.
- Determined honors eligibility for combined degree students and coordinated commencement ceremony.
- Assisted in the reporting and organization of student statistics using the Registrar Systems database.

*Botany Department*

*University of Georgia*

*January 1999 - August 2000*

**Plant Taxonomy Laboratory Instructor**

- Coordinated course organization and content with lecture instructor and collected plant material for labs.
- Delivered lectures on plant morphology and identification, dichotomous key construction, field collection techniques and plant classification.
- Led field trips to greenhouses, state botanical gardens, and local natural areas.
- Composed keying and identification tests and graded graduate student plant collections and field notebooks.

### **Plant Anatomy Laboratory Instructor**

- Prepared anatomical slide demonstrations using fresh plant material and delivered lectures.
- Authored, administered, and graded lab exams.
- Provided weekly written feedback on lab reports and developed study guides for exams.

### **Molecular Systematics Laboratory Instructor**

- Demonstrated the use of current phylogenetic analysis software and web-based bioinformatics resources.
- Created lab exercises and user-friendly help documents for computer programs.
- Directed and evaluated graduate student class research projects.

*Biological Sciences Department Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo August 1996 - June 1997*

### **Field Botany Teaching Assistant (Volunteer)**

- Identified and collected California native plants in diverse plant communities on extended field trips.
- Administered and graded exams in both field and lab settings.
- Led review field trips and prepared specimens for study.

### **Introductory Biology Teaching Assistant**

- Designed, proctored and graded weekly lab practical exams.

*Student Academic Services Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo August 1994 - June 1997*

### **Biology of Plants and Fungi Supplemental Instructor**

- Mediated student discussion sessions.
- Delivered brief review lectures and wrote practice exams.

### **Biology and Botany Study Group Leader**

- Tutored introductory biology, botany, and plant taxonomy.
- Guided plant identification field trips.
- Taught study strategies and learning techniques.

### **Tutoring Program Assistant**

- Assign students to appropriate study groups and tutors.
- Maintain database of students, tutors, and study groups.
- Answer questions related to academic assistance program.
- Completed data entry of student surveys for program evaluation statistics.

### **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

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*Energy Commission- Sponsored Training*

*2006-2007*

- Applied Project Management
- Time Management and Organizing Skills
- Essential Facilitation
- Business Writing and Grammar Skills
- Management and Leadership Skills
- Expert Witness Training

*Plants of the Tropics Course*

*Fairchild Tropical Garden, FL*

*1999*

*Tropical Plant Systematics Course*

*Organization for Tropical Studies, Costa Rica*

*1998*

*Wrigley Botanical Garden Internship*

*Catalina Island, CA*

*1996*

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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**The California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Program and Inventory.** Poster presentation, Botany 2004 conference of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists and Botanical Society of America.

**Ward, M. and A. Howald. 2005. The California Native Plant Society's Rare Plant Program: 37 Years of Plant Science. *Fremontia*: 33(2): 17-23.**

**Rare Plants of the Ione Formation in California.** Poster presentation on rare plant survey results, regulatory status, and natural history for the Botany 2003 Conference.

**Ward, N.M. and R.A. Price. 2002. Phylogenetic Relationships of Marcgraviaceae: Insights from three chloroplast genes. *Systematic Botany* 27(1): 149-160.**

**Ward, N.M. 2000. Master's Thesis: Molecular Systematics and Evolution of Marcgraviaceae.**

**Werner, N.M. and R.A. Price. 2000. Phylogeny and morphological evolution of Marcgraviaceae: Insights from three chloroplast genes. *American Journal of Botany* 87(6 Suppl.): 183.**

**Werner, N.M. 1997. Undergraduate Thesis: A Plant Survey of Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge.**