Rare Plant Status Review: Iris longipetala
Kristi Lazar (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDB),
September 14, 2006

Background
Iris longipetala is a rhizomatous, perennial member of the Iridaceae. This species is endemic to central coastal areas in California. It is currently known in California from approximately 44 occurrences in Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. I. longipetala is known to hybridize with Iris missouriensis, a more widespread and higher elevation iris species. I. longipetala can be distinguished from I. missouriensis by having mature leaves as long or longer than the stem, the lowest 2 bracts alternate and not scarious, and by having 3-6 flowers per inflorescence.

I. longipetala is most commonly present in moist, heavy soils along the coast and often forms dense colonies. The habitat of the species is in coastal prairies, mixed evergreen forests, and moist meadows below 600 meters in elevation. Development is a threat for many populations of this species. I. longipetala is known in California from approximately 44 occurrences and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDB.

Recommended Actions
CNPS: Add to CNPS List 4.2
CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G3 / S3.2

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Iris longipetala Herb.
“coast iris”
Iridaceae
List 4.2
Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma
296B [Cape San Martin/3512184], 366C [Monterey/3612158], 384B [Mariposa Peak/3612182], 386C [Prunedale/3612176], 409D [Ano Nuevo/3712213], 426C [Lick Observatory/3712136], 428D [Cupertino/3712231], 429C [San Gregorio/3712234], 448B [San Francisco South/3712264], 448C [Montara Mtn./3712254], 465B [Briones Valley/3712282], 465D? [Las Trampas Ridge/3712271], 466A [Richmond/3712283], 466C [San Francisco North/3712274], 482B [Cape San Martin/3712222], 485B [Tomales/3812245], 501A [Kenwood/3812245], 501D [Glen Ellen/3812235], 502B [Camp Meeker/3812248], 520D [Plantation/3812353], 535A [Hopland/3812381], 585D [Inglenook/3912357], 619A [Cooskie Creek/4012423]
Coastal prairie, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps / mesic; elevation 0-600 meters.
Perennial herb (rhizomatous), blooms March-May.

Sent to NW, CW - 9/14/06
Many collections old; need field surveys. May hybridize with *Iris missouriensis*. Threatened by development. See *Bot. Beechey Voy. 395* (1840) for original description.