



April 21, 2025

David Simpson  
Central Facilities Services  
The Claremont Colleges Services  
101 South Mills Avenue  
Claremont, California 91711

**Re: TCCS Solar Carports Project – 101 S. Mills Avenue, Claremont, CA  
Conceptual Shrub Planting Plan**

Dear Mr. Simpson,

At your request, we have created a conceptual planting plan that includes shrubs and understory plantings that will help to screen the solar project parking area from Claremont Boulevard and East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The suggested shrubs and understory plants will create a layered screening effect when planted in front of, between, and under the existing trees that line the parking lot. All are southern California native species that will perform well in Claremont.

The following pages include the Conceptual Shrub & Understory Planting Plan and information about each suggested plant. The large shrubs are interchangeable in the suggested planting arrangements, as are the understory plantings. Spacing, container sizes, irrigation, and other specifications will need to be detailed by a landscape architect or landscape contractor.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist with this project. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Christy Cuba  
Senior Arborist  
ISA Certified Arborist, WE 1982-A  
ISA Tree Risk Qualified  
ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist® #502



**Santa Monica Office**  
828 Fifth Street, Suite 3  
Santa Monica, California 90403  
Office: 310.451.4804

**Sierra Madre Office**  
80 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, #241  
Sierra Madre, California 91024  
Office: 626.428.5072

### **Suggested Large Shrubs**

- **Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)**
- **Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*)**
- **Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)**
- **Hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*)**

### **Suggested Understory Plants**

- **Golden Current (*Ribes aureum*)**
- **Fuchsia flowering gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*)**
- **California wild rose (*Rosa californica*)**

The following pages include a brief description and at least one photograph of each plant. The descriptions are taken from Bob Perry's books *Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes* (1989, Land Design Publishing) and *Landscape Plants for California Gardens* (2010, Land Design Publishing). Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are from the Las Pilitas Nursery website.



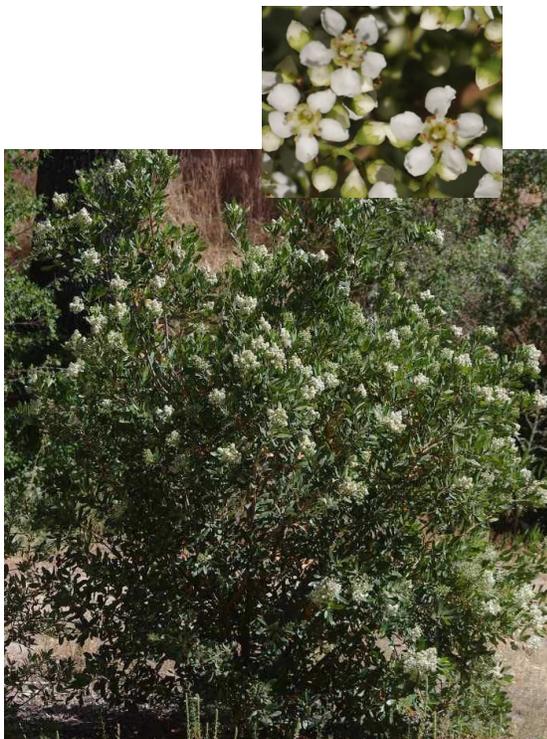
**Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)**

A dense, evergreen shrub, usually 8 to 15 feet high and as wide. It can be maintained as a multi-trunked, small, domed-canopy tree, 15 to 25 feet tall. Large, leathery leaves one to four inches long have distinctive toothed edges. Clusters of small white flowers are conspicuous in July through September. Large groups of very showy red berries mature December through February and are useful in cutting arrangements, as well as for wildlife.

Toyon is one of the most popular and widely used California natives. It inhabits the chaparral foothills throughout the state and shows very good tolerance for many conditions including heat, smog, wind, and light or heavy soils. These plants develop deep root systems and become highly drought tolerant but are receptive to summer water in harsh locations. They easily respond to pruning to form everything from hedges to sculpted tree forms. They are often used on slopes, along roadsides, in mass and background plantings. In gardens, they mix well with ornamentals and provide seasonal color during the winter. Best planted from small containers and given periodic deep watering.

**Suggested use:**

- Plant in between the existing trees in areas will get full sun most of the day.
- Between the valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) along Claremont Boulevard, which are deciduous, would be acceptable.
- Plants may be pruned to form hedges or left to become rounded and full with maturity.
- For security purposes, foliage may be pruned up on the interior side of the parking lot to reveal the interior branching structure and eliminate hiding places.
- Plant at least six feet behind the sidewalks.



**Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*)**

A dense evergreen shrub 5 to 12 feet in height with equal spread. Heavy, leathery leaves with a distinctive mid-vein and pointed apex are glossy dark green and occur on heavy branches. Showy clusters of flowers are white and pink, occurring March through May. One of the most popular and versatile of the native sumac species, Sugar Bush is a high heat and drought accepting plant. Found in warm coastal foothills from Santa Barbara to San Diego counties, to the inland mountains of Southern California. More tolerant of cold and adaptable to northern, coastal, and inland areas on well-draining sites. It can be grown in domestic gardens with summer moisture for background screen and small tree elements. Well suited to slope and mass plantings along roadsides and in parks. Planting from containers or seed is possible.

**Suggested use:**

- Plant in between the existing trees in areas will get full sun most of the day.
- Between the valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) along Claremont Boulevard, which are deciduous, would be acceptable.
- Plants may be pruned to form hedges or left to become rounded and full with maturity.
- For security purposes, foliage may be pruned up on the interior side of the parking lot to reveal the interior branching structure and eliminate hiding places.
- Plant at least six feet behind the sidewalks.



**Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)**

Evergreen shrub 4 to 15 feet high, spreading 6 to 15 feet wide. Thick, leathery leaves are rounded with lightly toothed edges and strong veins on the underside. Noticeable clusters of pink to white flowers occur February through March, followed by flat berries that taste like sour lemon. A native shrub to the coastal bluffs and plains from Santa Barbara to San Diego counties, with periodic occurrences in inland foothill and outwash locations. An excellent plant for slope stabilization and screening in coastal zones through Northern California. Tolerates sea air and persistent wind, which often shapes it into a broadly spreading form. It shows good performance under drought stress within areas of coastal influence but can be planted in inland areas with periodic deep water. It can easily be shaped into hedges or small trees. Planting from smaller containers is recommended.

**Suggested use:**

- Plant in between the existing trees in areas will get full sun most of the day.
- Between the valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) along Claremont Boulevard, which are deciduous, would be acceptable.
- Plants may be pruned to form hedges or left to become rounded and full with maturity.
- For security purposes, foliage may be pruned up on the interior side of the parking lot to reveal the interior branching structure and eliminate hiding places.
- Plant at least six feet behind the sidewalks.



**Hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*)**

This is the most widely distributed subspecies of the native holly in California. It grows in chaparral, sage scrub, and oak woodland plant communities and can reach sizes up to 30 feet in height in deep soils with moisture. Rounded leaves are deep green with serrated margins. Large clusters of softly fragrant, cream colored flowers occur in spring. Many dark red to black, cherry-like fruit are produced each year that attract birds. Hollyleaf cherry is an evergreen shrub or small tree commonly grow from 15 to 30 feet in height. With dense foliage, leaves are dark green, often glossy on the upper surfaces and pale below. This California native is well suited for erosion control on slopes, habitat restoration, and in ornamental gardens as background shrubs. It's also one of the best choices for use as a clipped hedge where it can be maintained at many sizes. It is well adapted to heat, sun, and reduced amounts of summer moisture.

**Suggested use:**

- Plant in between the existing trees in areas will get full sun most of the day.
- Between the valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) along Claremont Boulevard, which are deciduous, would be acceptable.
- Plants may be pruned to form hedges or left to become rounded and full with maturity.
- For security purposes, foliage may be pruned up on the interior side of the parking lot to reveal the interior branching structure and eliminate hiding places.
- Plant at least six feet behind the sidewalks.



**Golden current (*Ribes aureum*)**

Tall, deciduous shrub, 3 to 8 feet high with light green foliage. Leaves are divided into 3 to 5 lobes. Showy, tubular flowers are yellow, occurring February through June. Plants produce red, orange, and black berries, which are eaten by wildlife. Golden Current inhabits many moist to dry environments throughout California. It offers refreshing light foliage and pleasing flower character in domestic and natural landscapes. It prefers well-draining soils, partial shade in hot locations, and periodic moisture. It is a good background, naturalizing, and seasonal accent plant.

**Suggested use:**

- Plant in the spaces between the sidewalks and the existing and newly proposed shrubs to provide texture, variety, and contrast to the adjacent shrubs and trees.
- Plant in areas that will get partial sun to dappled shade most of the day.
- Under the existing coast live oaks and valley oaks (under the outer edges of the canopies) would be acceptable.
- Plants may be pruned along the edges of the sidewalks.
- Plant at least 2-3 feet behind the sidewalks.

Photograph below from Plant Right (Plantright.org); two photos to side are from UCI, San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Irvine, CA. 2-16-08. © Joan Avise



**Fuchsia flowering gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*)**

A small deciduous shrub, 3 to 6 feet high, with arching branches that are covered with many spines and bristles. Rich, glossy green leaves contrast well with deep red, fuchsia-type flowers that bloom from January through April. Foliage is dropped under heavy drought stress in late summer. It can be evergreen if given supplemental water. Berries are spiny but eaten by wildlife. This species is native to semi-moist canyons and slopes of the coastal foothills from San Diego to Monterey counties. It is often an understory plant in the chaparral and oak woodland plant communities. It shows good adaptation in domestic garden conditions and will tolerate heavy soils if given good drainage. Used as a flowering accent barrier and understory planting for oaks.

**Suggested use:**

- Plant in the spaces between the sidewalks and the existing and newly proposed shrubs to provide texture, variety, and contrast to the adjacent shrubs and trees.
- Plant in areas that will get partial sun or dappled shade most of the day.
- Under the existing coast live oaks and valley oaks (under the outer edges of the canopies) would be acceptable.
- Plants may be pruned along the edges of the sidewalks.
- Plant at least 2-3 feet behind the sidewalks.
- Cluster these, along with wild rose, in areas where a spiny barrier plant is desired.



**California wild rose (*Rosa californica*)**

A robust deciduous shrub producing many spiny stems 3 to 6 feet tall and spreading by underground stems 8 to 10 feet wide or more. Medium green foliage is comprised of pinnately divided leaves with five to seven coarsely toothed leaflets. Bright pink, rose colored flowers with five petals occur in spring. Colorful, red berry-like fruit matures in the fall. California wild rose is native to riparian and moist woodland habitats from Oregon to northern Baja California. In California, it grows in coastal, foothill, and valley zones, and is a commonly planted understory plant that develops dense thickets in moist soils where it provides barrier screening, erosion control, and habitat value. It is highly adaptable and is easy to grow in native plant gardens. It combines well with other native species and is useful as a barrier plant with an attractive display of flowers for seasonal color in the spring. It grows best in partial shade with regular moisture.

**Suggested use:**

- Plant in the spaces between the sidewalks and the existing and newly proposed shrubs to provide texture, variety, and contrast to the adjacent shrubs and trees.
- Plant in areas that will get partial sun or dappled shade most of the day.
- Under the existing coast live oaks and valley oaks (under the outer edges of the canopies) would be acceptable.
- Plants may be pruned along the edges of the sidewalks.
- Plant at least 2-3 feet behind the sidewalks.
- Cluster these, along with fuchsia flowering gooseberry, in areas where a spiny barrier plant is desired.



Photo to left from watersmartplants.com



**CHRISTY CUBA**

**CARLBERG ASSOCIATES**

828 Fifth Street, Suite 3 • Santa Monica • California • 90403

Satellite Office – 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., #241 • Sierra Madre • California • 91024

christy@cycarlberg.com • o: 626.428.5072 • www.cycarlberg.com

Education B.A., Environmental Analysis & Design, Cum Laude, University of California, Irvine, 1993  
Graduate, International Society of Arboriculture Certification Study Program, April 1998  
Graduate, Consulting Academy, American Society of Consulting Arborists, February 2008

Experience Senior Arborist/Associate, Carlberg Associates, 2011 - Present  
Director of Environmental Services & Senior Arborist, Land Design Consultants, Pasadena, 1994 – 2011  
Park Specialist/Naturalist, City of Monrovia, 1988-1996

Certificates Certified Arborist, WE-1982A, International Society of Arboriculture, 1998  
Registered Consulting Arborist, #502, American Society of Consulting Arborists, 2011  
Qualified Tree Risk Assessor, International Society of Arboriculture, 2013

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

Ms. Cuba is experienced in the following areas of tree management and preservation:

- Tree health & risk assessments
- Inventories & reports for native and non-native trees
- Evaluation of trees for preservation, encroachment, relocation, restoration, and hazards
- Value assessments (appraisals) for native and non-native trees
- Post-fire inventories, assessments, and valuations for native and non-native trees
- Guidelines for tree preservation, planting, pruning and maintenance specifications
- Pest and disease identification
- Planning Commission, City Council, and community meetings representation
- Review of landscape plans for mitigation compliance & fire fuel modification planning
- Preparation of native habitat and woodland management plans
- Performance of long-term mitigation compliance monitoring & reporting
- Expert consultation and testimony

**PREVIOUS CONSULTING EXPERIENCE**

Ms. Cuba has performed hundreds of tree inventories, health evaluations, impact analyses, hazard, and value assessments for counties, cities, sanitation districts, and water districts, as well as private developers, architects, engineers, and homeowners. She has over 30 years of experience in the study of trees and arboricultural consulting, and is trained in environmental planning, state and federal regulatory permitting, preparation of CEQA analyses, and habitat mitigation planning and implementation. Representative clients include:

City of Pasadena	San Diego Gas & Electric
City of Monrovia	Quinn, Emanuel, Urquhart and Sullivan (attorneys at law)
City of Santa Clarita	The New Home Company
City of Glendora	City of South Gate
Los Angeles County Fire Department	City of Sierra Madre
California Institute of Technology	Belzberg Architects
Mia Lehrer + Associates	Occidental College
Pulte/Centex Homes	Rose Bowl Stadium
Newhall Land and Farming	Las Encinas Hospital/Aurora Health Services
KOVAC Design Studio	The Claremont Colleges (Pomona College, Claremont University Consortium, Claremont
EPT Design	Graduate University)
Pamela Burton & Company	Gensler Architects
Chandler School	Mesivta of Greater Los Angeles

**AFFILIATIONS**

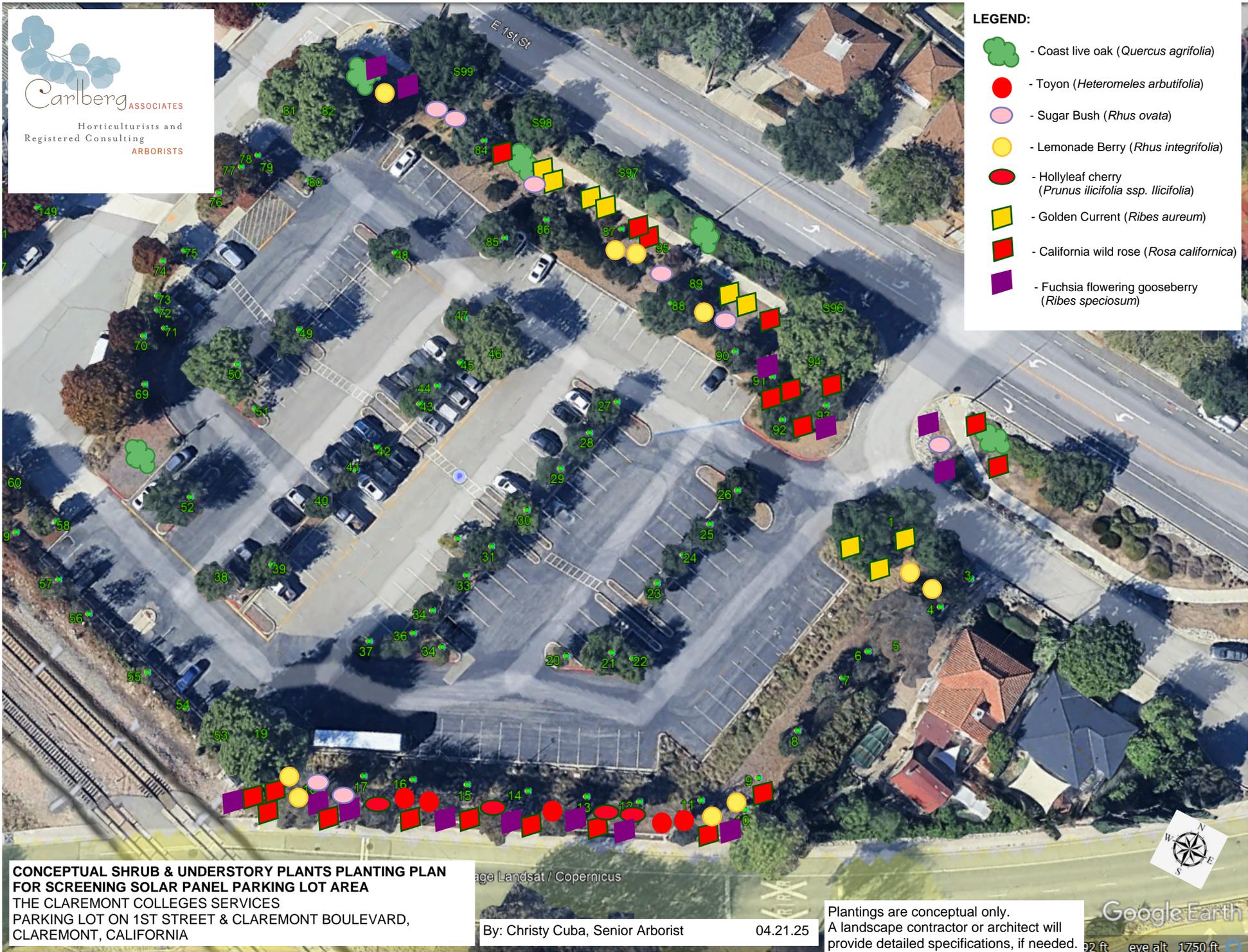
Ms. Cuba serves with the following national and regional professional organizations:

- Member, American Society of Consulting Arborists
- Member, International Society of Arboriculture, Western Chapter
- Member, Los Angeles Oak Woodland Habitat Conservation Strategic Alliance





- LEGEND:**
- Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)
  - Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
  - Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*)
  - Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)
  - Hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *ilicifolia*)
  - Golden Current (*Ribes aureum*)
  - California wild rose (*Rosa californica*)
  - Fuchsia flowering gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*)



**CONCEPTUAL SHRUB & UNDERSTORY PLANTS PLANTING PLAN FOR SCREENING SOLAR PANEL PARKING LOT AREA**  
 THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES SERVICES  
 PARKING LOT ON 1ST STREET & CLAREMONT BOULEVARD,  
 CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

By: Christy Cuba, Senior Arborist 04.21.25

Plantings are conceptual only. A landscape contractor or architect will provide detailed specifications, if needed.

Google Earth  
 82 ft eve alt 1750 ft