

Sand Verbena or Iceplant?

Two species of sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata* and *Abronia maritima*) were common on the local beach and dunes until iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) was planted extensively. The succulent sand verbenas, equipped with



Sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*)

water-storing leaves, grow in the harsh lower dune environment where they colonize new areas cleared by shifting sands or occasional wave action. Native verbenas help stabilize sand by forming a mat where other more deeply rooted plants can grow and provide better erosion control.



Sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*)

Iceplant, originally from South Africa, has few natural enemies in California. It forms dense, uniform carpets that exclude native plants and, because of its shallow root system, is not successful at preventing erosion of the dunes and bluffs.



Iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*)



Beach Bluffs Restoration Project

The Beach Bluffs Restoration Project began in 2001 when a group of local residents, nonprofit groups, and government agencies united to implement a common vision of restoring the native vegetation of the bluffs along the southern portion of Santa Monica Bay, between Ballona Creek and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

- Goals of the Project**
- Increase the ecological value of the bluffs and dunes
 - Promote the beauty of native plants
 - Educate the public about the natural history of our urban beaches