California
BOTANIC GARDEN



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Lauren W. Stoebel
(909) 625-8767 x 251
lstoebel@calbg.org

California Botanic Garden
Receives Gift to Fund Herbarium Expansion

Claremont, CA–September 29, 2026 California Botanic Garden has received a substantial gift from Jack and Laura Dangermond that will fund extensive renovation and growth of the Garden's Herbarium. Building on nearly a century of Herbarium collection and research, as well as a long friendship between the Garden and the Dangermonds, this gift will power decades of expansion of CalBG's pressed plant collection and the vital botanical research the specimens support. Construction on the project is expected to begin in 2027 and will include the expansion of the second and third floors of the CalBG Science and Administration building to relax the already full existing collection and allow for future growth. The wing expansion will add approximately 186 double-wide cabinets per floor, accommodating an estimated 800,000 specimens.

California Botanic Garden's Herbarium was established in 1927 in the Garden's former location in Orange County, inspired by founder Susanna Bixby Bryant's commitment to scientific research on California native plants. Through a century of active collecting, strategic relocation to Claremont, CA, and the integration of significant regional collections, the CalBG Herbarium has grown to nearly 1.3 million specimens, making it the third largest collection in California and tenth largest herbarium in the United States. The pressed and dried plants and other botanical materials that make up the collection are accessed by dozens of researchers each year in person and through online databases of digitized specimens. CalBG Herbarium specimens provide critical data for research projects including floristics, paleobotany, systematics, phylogenomics, conservation, biogeography, niche dynamics, pollination studies, and species new to science. According to Herbarium Curator Mare Nazaire, "This critical expansion of one of the world's largest repositories of California's botanical diversity preserves our irreplaceable collections while accommodating future growth. Beyond securing our holdings, this expansion will significantly enhance physical and digital access for researchers worldwide, directly fueling the Garden's vital plant conservation programs, biodiversity research, and educational Offerings."

The gift from Jack and Laura Dangermond that is enabling the Herbarium expansion is a natural outgrowth of decades of friendship between California Botanic Garden, the Dangermonds, Esri,



and Esri employees. As longtime members, the Dangermonds and their Esri colleagues are frequently seen supporting the Garden at fundraising events and they have donated to support projects from school tours to conservation efforts to public events. The Herbarium Expansion gift expands on this legacy and connection. Jack Dangermond explains the motivation behind the donation:

“Laura and I are honored to make this financial contribution in support of the herbarium’s expansion and the digitization of its collections. By connecting essential location data with GIS maps, this work will strengthen research and advance understanding of the natural world. The facility serves an important role in research, education, conservation, and public access to California’s native plants through its living collection, seed bank, and herbarium. The garden also holds particular significance for me, as it provided meaningful support to my brothers and me while I pursued studies in horticulture and landscape architecture at Cal Poly during the 1950s and early 1960s.”

In honor of their gift and dedication to native plants, upon completion of the project the Herbarium will be renamed as The Jack and Laura Dangermond Herbarium.

About California Botanic Garden: California Botanic Garden is the largest botanic garden dedicated to California native plants, with a commitment to advancing knowledge, conservation, and appreciation of our state’s diverse plant life. The Garden is a living museum with curated collections of more than 22,000 California native plants, some of which are rare or endangered. CalBG hosts many fun and educational classes and events throughout the year and, behind the scenes, runs active research and conservation programs, including a graduate program in Botany (in conjunction with Claremont Graduate University), the largest seed bank devoted to California native seeds, an Herbarium of pressed plants, plant anatomy and molecular genetics labs, a large production nursery, and much more. Spread across 86 acres in Claremont, California, CalBG is located approximately 35 miles east of Los Angeles. More info and admission tickets: www.calbg.org.