

***Puccinellia distans*** (Jacq.) Parl., EUROPEAN ALKALI GRASS. Perennial herb, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, cespitose, unbranched above base,  $\pm$  erect, in range to 45 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, glabrous. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open,  $\pm$  smooth, with narrow membranous margins, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous and continuous with sheath margin, rounded to obtuse or truncate, 0.8–1.5 mm long, entire, pubescent or glabrate on hidden surface; blade linear, 20–115  $\times$  1–2.5 mm, the widest near sheath, flat or when dry with incurved margins, minutely toothed on margins (especially near base), parallel-veined, dull green and becoming slightly glaucous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, open panicles having lateral branches and stalked spikelets, often spreading to somewhat descending, spikelets with (2–4)5–7 florets, bracteate, lacking awns; axes mostly scabrous with short, stiff, upward-pointed hairs. **Spikelet:** oblanceolate and slightly compressed, (4.5–)5–6.6  $\times$  1.2–1.6 mm (to 3.5 mm wide when lemmas on opposite sides spreading at anthesis), breaking above glumes and between florets; **glumes** 2, unequal, ovate, lower glume (0.4–)0.7–1.3 mm and 1-veined, upper glume (0.9–)1.3–2 mm long and 3-veined with veins  $\pm$  parallel but not reaching or converging at tip,  $\pm$  rounded on back, with wide membranous margins, minutely jagged to ciliate on margins at tip; rachilla flattened, 0.5–0.7 mm long, glabrous; **lemma** lanceolate to oblanceolate or linear, 1.8–2.3  $\times$  0.6–0.9 mm, obtuse to truncate and minutely jagged to ciliate on margins at tip, mostly green but white-membranous approaching tip and often aging with purplish red spots above midpoint, obscurely 5-veined, with appressed whitish hairs below midpoint; **palea** membranous, = lemma or 0.3 mm < lemma, 2-veined, strongly 2-keeled, shallowly notched at tip, keels green and short-ciliate centrally or below midpoint and scabrous above. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, unequally 2-toothed, 0.5  $\times$  0.35 mm, colorless, spherically swollen at base, glabrous; **stamens** 3, free, exserted; filaments threadlike, to 1.7 mm long, white; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.8–1 mm long, pale yellow-green but often purplish tinged, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish to pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid, 0.4–0.6  $\times$  0.25–0.4 mm, greenish to light yellowish, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, separated by 0.2 mm, ascending, 0.7–1 mm long, white with radiating stigmatic hairs from base, the hairs  $\pm$  0.2 mm long, unbranched, irregularly bent or curved. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), concealed within floret, oblong, < lemma. Early April–early May.

Naturalized. Perennial herb to date known from a single seasonal wetland locality in Calabasas, an alkali seep called Luigi's marsh, growing on the edge of riparian woodland with *Salix exigua*, *Anemopsis californica*, and annual grasses.

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