Mediterranean needle grass  
*Stipa capensis*  
Grass family (*Poaceae*)

**Key characteristics**

### Vegetation (Figures All)
- **Plant:** ages **green to tan**; flower heads with **long bristles; feathery** looking at maturity
- **Stem/Branch:** stems **4-12 inches** long
- **Leaves:** **thin** blades, mostly at **base** of plant, are **2 to 6 inches** long and rolled inward with age; +/- **hairy**; tips taper to a **sharp point**; one leaf below each flower head

### Flowers (Figures All)
- **Flower heads:** individual flowers have **2 to 4 inch bristles**; young flower head is ‘needle’ like with bristles **pointing upward**, at maturity **twisting** bristles **bend outward**
- **Seeds:** break apart at maturity

### Habitat and Distribution
Desert scrub, roadsides, disturbed areas; currently **only** in **Coachella Valley**; spreads by seed

### Similar Native Species:  *Elymus* or Squirrel tail