Priority Effect Analysis Approach:

Using Fukami et al. (2005) as a framework for analysis:

Priority effects are thought to be a key driver of compositional differences in California grasslands. Fukami (2015) provides good nomenclature + concepts for how to address. In his framework, he divides priority effects into two key categories:

1. Niche pre-emption – early colonizers establish and prevent colonization by occupying an available niche.
2. Niche modification – early colonizers alter niche structure (resource availability, etc.), preventing colonization by removing a previously available niche.

In California, I think there’s evidence for both of these phenomena.