

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch
Native Plant Program
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Project Title: *Calochortus* Speciation and Geographic Spread (Project)

Project Location:

The Project relies on tissue and voucher collections of one state-threatened species and two rare plant species at a total of six sites. The state-threatened *C. tiburonensis* will be sampled from (1) a western population in Ring Mountain Preserve (Marin County; California Natural Diversity Database element occurrence [EO] 1), and (2) an eastern population in Ring Mountain Preserve (Marin County; EO 1). *Calochortus dunnii* will be sampled from (1) three to four miles south of Julian near Inspiration Point (San Diego County; EO 1), and (2) Otay Mountain (San Diego County), either on Minnewawa Truck Trail near Pio Pico or Otay Truck Trail near Keubler Ranch (near EO 32). *Calochortus persistens* will be sampled from (1) the northeast flank of Cottonwood Mountain, southwest of Hornbrook (Siskiyou County; EO 6), and (2) Gunsight Peak, 5 miles west of Yreka (Siskiyou County; EO1). Voucher specimens and plant tissue will be exported out of California and processed and stored in Wisconsin, New York, and/or Florida.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Dr. Thomas Givnish pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to sequence the genomes of species in the genus *Calochortus* for the purpose of studying speciation, trait evolution, and geographic spread of the species. Up to eight plants per species will be affected by this project—two to three for tissue collection for DNA and one plant vouchered at each of six sites.

California Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Thomas Givnish, Henry Allan Gleason Professor of Botany, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15603, Class 6

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of basic data collection and research that will provide information on the genetic distinctiveness of *Calochortus* species, and how species might respond to future climatic threats. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of *Calochortus tiburonensis*, *C. dunnii*, and *C. persistens* are not negatively impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Raffica La Rosa

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 651-0685

Signature:



Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date:

June 14, 2019

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 17 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE