

**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:** Examination of Impacts to *Cirsium ciliolatum* from Biological Control Insects (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project will involve collection activities at a population of the state-endangered plant species *Cirsium ciliolatum* located at the corner of York and Mulloy Roads northeast of Montague, in Siskiyou County (California Natural Diversity Database element occurrence 2). Collections may also occur at other populations of *Cirsium ciliolatum* if the Permittee obtains landowner permission to do so. Laboratory work for the Project will take place at the California Department of Food and Agriculture Biological Control Program Laboratory in Sacramento, California.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Biological Control Program pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to examine whether or not individuals of *Cirsium ciliolatum* are susceptible hosts of several biological control insects introduced as biological control agents for exotic *Carduus* and *Centaurea* species in California. Up to 20 *Cirsium ciliolatum* seed heads may be collected for the project.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Dr. Michael Pitcairn, California Department of Food and Agriculture Biological Control Program

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Class 6

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project consists of basic data collection for research on the impacts of biological control organisms that have already been released in California. The temporary isolation of *Cirsium ciliolatum* seed heads will not result in any serious or major disturbances to the environment because seed heads will be returned to the collection site at the conclusion of the project. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of *Cirsium ciliolatum* are not impacted.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Jeb Bjerke

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 651-6594

**Signature:**

  
for Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

**Date:**

6/27/19

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
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