

**Notice of Exemption**

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**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:** Hairy Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*) Seed Collection and Storage Project (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project will take place in Madera County at two potential mitigation sites for hairy Orcutt grass, the Kevorkian site and Curran site. Seed will be temporarily stored at the Permittee's home office in Sacramento, California.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is issuing a permit to Carol Witham pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect and store seed from hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), a state-listed endangered species. Seed will be collected from up to 1,200 plants total, not to exceed five percent of any population, and will only be collected from populations larger than 500 plants. Whole, seed-bearing plants will be collected and placed in paper bags and stored at ambient outdoor temperature protected from moisture, rodents, insects, and direct sunlight. Seed will be stored for later use as mitigation, if approved by CDFW. If seed storage needs to be extended beyond temporary storage, the seed-bearing inflorescences will be removed from each plant, and seeds will be dried with silica gel, transferred to airtight containers, and refrigerated at a facility that is approved in writing by CDFW.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Carol Witham, Independent Consultant

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15307, Class 7

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project will facilitate the recovery and restoration of the California endangered hairy Orcutt grass by collecting and storing seed for later use to establish new and augment existing populations of the species. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of hairy Orcutt grass are not impacted.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Cherilyn Burton

**Area Code/Telephone/ Extension:** (916) 651-6508

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Sept 12, 2019*

Signed by Lead Agency

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