

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: Micropropagation of Catalina Island Mountain-Mahogany (*Cercocarpus traskiae*) (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place at the only population of Catalina Island mountain-mahogany, a species listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. This population is located in Wild Boar Gully on the southwestern coast of Santa Catalina Island on property owned by the Catalina Island Conservancy in Los Angeles County. Laboratory work for the Project will take place at Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, and propagated plant material produced as a result of the project will be stored at the Catalina Island Conservancy's James H. Ackerman Native Plant Nursery on Santa Catalina Island.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Catalina Island Conservancy pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project that involves collecting one hundred to two hundred vegetative cuttings of Catalina Island mountain-mahogany, establishment of living tissue from those cuttings in aseptic culture, development of a tissue culture protocol for the species, and transfer of plants produced as a result of the Project to the James H. Ackerman Native Plant Nursery for storage and later use by Catalina Island Conservancy, if approval by CDFW.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ryan Murdoff, Plant Conservation Manager, Catalina Island Conservancy

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Sections 15306 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7

Reasons why project is exempt: The primary purpose of the project is to gather information on successful ways to propagate the endangered Catalina Island mountain-mahogany plant. The project will also likely produce genetically pure Catalina Island mountain-mahogany plants that may someday be used for restoration purposes. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Catalina Island mountain-mahogany are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jeb Bjerke

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

Signature: 

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 9/17/19

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____ **Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

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