

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: Vine Hill Clarkia Introduction Project (Project), California Department of Fish and Wildlife Permit No. 2081(a)-19-015-RP

Project Location: The Vine Hill Clarkia Introduction Project (Project) will take place at the 1.6-acre Vine Hill Preserve, which is between Santa Rosa and Forestville in Santa Rosa County. Seed will be cleaned and temporarily stored at the Laguna de Santa Rosa Office at 900 Sanford Road in Santa Rosa.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect seeds from Vine Hill clarkia (*Clarkia imbricata*) plants and introduce them into unoccupied areas of suitable habitat at the Vine Hill Preserve. Seeds will be collected in fall 2019 and 2020 and distributed into suitable habitat in the same season they were collected. Seeds will be collected by hand as they mature and before they drop from the parent plant, with a small amount of seed collected from as many individuals as possible to maximize genetic variation. Seeds will be cleaned and temporarily stored at the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation office until they are introduced into areas with existing habitat that closely mimics the current occupied habitat. If necessary, minor hand weeding of non-native herbaceous species will occur prior to introducing the seeds. The population will be monitored each spring for five years, through 2025. Monitoring will consist of mapping the distribution of Vine Hill clarkia and estimating the number of plants in the population. Additionally, the effectiveness of the outplanting methods will be evaluated, which will inform potential future introduction efforts for the species.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sarah Gordon, Conservation Science Manager, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

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 Project consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities and actions to restore and enhance populations of the endangered Vine Hill clarkia. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Vine Hill clarkia are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

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

Signature:



Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date:

October 18, 2019

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____