

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: *Leptosiphon croceus* Habitat Management and Introduction Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place on the Vallemar Bluffs within the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and at Pillar Point Bluffs County Park in Moss Beach, San Mateo County. Collected seed will be stored and propagated at Go Native Nursery in Montara, San Mateo County. Seed may be temporarily stored in a refrigerator or freezer at UC Botanical Garden in Alameda County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to San Mateo County Parks [Permit No. 2081(a)-20-009-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect, propagate, and outplant seed of *Leptosiphon croceus* (coast yellow leptosiphon), a state-listed endangered plant species. The Project also includes removing invasive plants within the only known existing population of this species. Invasive plant removal will take place annually in February through April, prior to germination of *Leptosiphon croceus*. After *Leptosiphon croceus* germination begins, weeding will only occur outside of the population to avoid impacts to *Leptosiphon croceus* plants. In summer 2020, up to five percent of the available *Leptosiphon croceus* seed will be collected and stored at Go Native Nursery or transported to UC Botanical Garden and stored in a refrigerator or freezer to keep it viable until propagation is initiated. Seed will be propagated at Go Native Nursery beginning in fall 2020 to produce seeds and container plants for introduction at Pillar Point Bluffs County Park. Direct seeding will take place at Pillar Point Bluffs County Park in October or November of 2021, prior to the onset of rain. UC Botanical Garden may also provide seed from their stored collection to the Permittee for direct seeding at Pillar Point Bluffs County Park. Container plants will be outplanted at Pillar Point Bluffs in spring 2022. At least 100 of the seeds produced at Go Native Nursery will be set aside to grow additional plants for seed bulking and continued direct seeding at Pillar Point Bluffs County Park.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sean Correa, Natural Resource Specialist, San Mateo County Parks

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 will facilitate the recovery of the California endangered *Leptosiphon croceus* by managing the existing population and attempting to establish an additional self-sustaining population of the species within its historic range. The Project consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, as well as maintenance, restoration, and enhancement activities for *Leptosiphon croceus*. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of *Leptosiphon croceus* are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 376-8676

DocuSigned by:

Signature: 
Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 6/26/2020

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____