

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: Livermore Tarplant Seed Collection (Project)

Project Location: The project will take place northeast of the intersection of Raymond Road and Ames Road in Livermore, at approximately (37.732360, -121.733089). Collected seed will be temporarily stored at the Permittee’s office in Martinez, California. A portion of collected seed will be kept in long term conservation storage at University of California Botanical Garden in Berkeley, California, and a portion of collected seed will be exported for long term conservation storage at the National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Nomad Ecology, LLC [Permit No. 2081(a)-20-018-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect Livermore tarplant (*Deinandra bacigalupii*) seeds for the purposes of long-term conservation storage, redispersal of the collected seeds back to where they were collected from, and possible development of experimental propagation techniques. To avoid the possibility of introducing artificial selection into natural populations of Livermore tarplant, any seed or plants produced as a result of developing experimental propagation techniques shall not be returned to a natural population, and will be disposed of, or placed into long term conservation storage at an institution that has been permitted for this purpose by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Collected seed will be hand broadcast in the areas where it was collected from in the fall of 2020 after topsoil has been replaced and if necessary, after soil scarification has taken place. The location where Livermore tarplant is reseeded will be mapped with a GPS unit with submeter accuracy. The seed collection location will be monitored twice per year for one year following hand seeding.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Erin L. McDermott, Nomad Ecology, LLC

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 California endangered Livermore tarplant. The Project will facilitate the recovery of the Livermore tarplant by collecting seeds for long-term conservation storage and attempting to redisperse the collected seeds back onto a site that has been disturbed. The Project will also increase scientific knowledge of the species by allowing an investigation into successful propagation techniques for the species. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Livermore tarplant are not impacted by the Project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jeb Bjerke

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 720-1232

Signature:  **Date:** 12/23/2020
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 Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for filing at OPR: _____