

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: The Vine Hill Manzanita Propagation and *Phytophthora* Treatment Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located in Sonoma County at the Vine Hill Preserve (Preserve; 38.46955, -122.85831) and at the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Milo Baker Chapter and Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation's nursery at 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (38.42589, -122.82114).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Betty Young [Permit No. 2081(a)-21-004-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to preserve and propagate Vine Hill manzanita (*Arctostaphylos densiflora*) plants and seeds. Plants at the Vine Hill Preserve (Preserve) may currently be infected with the plant pathogen *Phytophthora*, which threatens the species with extinction. Cuttings must be taken to preserve the species and to retain the ability to outplant at new uninfected sites. The Project also includes treating the foliage of Vine Hill manzanita at the Preserve with potassium phosphite to prolong the survival of the infected plants and collecting one hundred percent of seeds for up to three years for long-term conservation storage and propagation to increase genetic diversity in future outplanted sites.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Betty Young, Nursery Chair, CNPS Milo Baker Chapter

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will facilitate the recovery of the California endangered Vine Hill manzanita by attempting to propagate individuals that are uninfected with *Phytophthora* for future establishment of self-sustaining populations of the species within its historic range. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Vine Hill manzanita are not negatively impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Raffica La Rosa

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-4502

DocuSigned by:


Signature: _____
signing for *Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager*

Date: 3/19/2021

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____