

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. 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: White-rayed Pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta bellidiflora*) Research and Recovery Project (Project)

Project Location: The White-Rayad Pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta bellidiflora*) Research and Recovery Project (Project) will take place in San Mateo County at Edgewood Preserve. Activities may also take place at the "Triangle" if permission is granted by the landowner, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Maps 2 and 3 in the attached Research Proposal (Proposal), dated August 5, 2020 (Attachment 1), show the Project Location. Propagation will take place at the Creekside Science Conservation Nursery in Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Creekside Center for Earth Observation [Permit No. 2081(a)-20-001-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to conduct research and recovery activities on white-rayed pentachaeta. The Project includes site characterization of extant white-rayed pentachaeta populations, seed collection, restoration, and seeding in suitable unoccupied habitat. Site characterization will include testing soil composition, characterizing the vegetation composition, and examining the soil moisture environment of extant populations to determine physiological parameters to aid in identifying and prioritizing enhancement and introduction sites. Seed collection will take place annually beginning in spring 2021. If SFPUC grants permission to the Permittee to access and collect from the Triangle, seed will be collected from the Triangle and from Edgewood Preserve and will be collected from hundreds of individuals. In this scenario, less than one percent of the annual seed production will be collected. If permission is not granted by SFPUC, seed will only be collected from Edgewood Preserve, which potentially has fewer than 50 flowering plants. Seed collection would be limited to less than ten percent of the annual seed production in this scenario. Seed will be propagated at the Creekside Science Conservation Nursery to bulk seed. Seeding will take place at unoccupied sites at Edgewood Preserve (see Map 3 of Attachment 1) beginning in December 2022, and seeded areas will be monitored annually for survival and cover.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Christal Niederer, Senior Biologist

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 white-rayed pentachaeta by attempting to establish additional 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 white-rayed pentachaeta are not impacted, and that re-introduced populations are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-0411

Signature: 

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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 6/14/2021

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____