

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: Dudley's lousewort germination and establishment study (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located in Portola Redwoods State Park in San Mateo County (37° 15'35"N 122° 12'00"W) and the C.W. Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State University in Santa Clara County. Seed collection will occur at the largest population of Dudley's lousewort in Portola Redwoods State Park (California Natural Diversity Database Element Occurrence 3) and seeds will be stored at the C.W. Sharsmith Herbarium until they are planted. The specific project locations for the germination and establishment experiments are around the known populations and within approximately 100m of sites that are outside of currently known occurrences but are within the approximate boundaries of historical observations.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Benjamin Carter [Permit No. 2081(a)-21-005-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to study the germination and establishment of Dudley's lousewort (*Pedicularis dudleyi*) to determine: 1) if disturbance promotes establishment and 2) the specific environmental factors necessary for the germination of seeds leading to the recruitment of new populations. The project activities include collecting up to 600 seeds in the spring of 2021 from the largest subpopulation of Dudley's lousewort in Portola Redwoods State Park, then planting the seeds into control and treatment plots to conduct a disturbance experiment and a germination experiment. The disturbance experiment will test to see if litter removal improves germination and recruitment of Dudley's lousewort. The germination experiment will investigate the environmental conditions that are optimal for the recruitment of new populations.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Benjamin Carter, Ph.D., San Jose State University


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 research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The Project will facilitate the recovery of the California rare Dudley's lousewort by attempting to restore and enhance existing populations of this species. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Dudley's lousewort are not impacted, and that the restored populations are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Raffica La Rosa

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

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: _____