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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: Santa Cruz (Ben Lomond) Wallflower (*Erysimum teretifolium*) Seed Collection (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place at the experimental population of Santa Cruz wallflower established at CDFW's Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve between 2018 and 2020 in Santa Cruz County. Seed will be stored at Dr. Jodi McGraw's lab located at 262 Patricia Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076 in Santa Cruz County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is issuing a permit to Dr. Jodi McGraw [Permit No. 2081(a)-21-015-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect and store Santa Cruz wallflower seed in anticipation for use in a post-fire experimental population expansion project proposed as part of a new Traditional Section 6 grant project currently under review. If the project is funded, the seed will be used within Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve to establish Santa Cruz wallflower in areas that burned and where a fuel break was created as part of the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire. Seed collection will take place in summer 2021 and 2022 from plants in the experimental population at Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve. Seed will be processed and stored at Jodi McGraw's lab in Watsonville. If the proposed Traditional Section 6 grant project is not funded, seed will be returned to the collection site or submitted for long-term conservation storage at a CDFW-approved facility.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jodi McGraw, Ph.D., Ecologist and Principal, Jodi McGraw Consulting

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 and experimental management activities to assure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of Santa Cruz wallflower populations. The permit issued by CDFW includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Santa Cruz wallflower are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-0411

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 8/5/2021

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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