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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: Regional Parks Botanic Garden Activities Involving State-listed Plants (Project)

Project Location: The Regional Parks Botanic Garden Activities Involving State-listed Species project (Project) will take place at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park, located at the intersection of South Park Drive and Wildcat Canyon Road (37.892815, -122.242720) in Contra Costa County. Project collection activities may take place at wild populations of state-listed plants in California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is issuing a permit (No. 2081(a)-21-001-RP) to Regional Parks Botanic Garden pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a). Regional Parks Botanic Garden's activities involving state-listed species include: (1) maintenance, including propagation, of plants in the Permittee's living collection; (2) collection of seeds or cuttings from wild populations for long-term conservation storage in the Permittee's living collection; (3) seed and voucher collections from wild populations for long-term conservation storage at other institutions following Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) guidelines, as authorized by CDFW in advance, in writing; (4) transfer of seeds or living plants for long-term conservation storage and/or living collection displays from the Permittee's living collection to CDFW-permitted organizations, including export to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, Colorado; (5) monitoring of wild plant populations; and (6) transfer of small amounts of tissue for genetic analyses from the Permittee's living collection to organizations or individuals permitted to do such work under the California Endangered Species Act.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Regional Parks Botanic Garden

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 conservation and recovery of state-listed plant species by collecting information on species through living collections. Conservation of state-listed plants will be achieved, in part, through conservation seed collection for long-term storage and related research on seed viability. The Project will also involve propagation of plants for conservation purposes. The permit issued by CDFW for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of state-listed plants are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Raffica La Rosa Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-4502

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 10/13/2021

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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