

**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:** Vernal Pool Seed Bank Study (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project will take place in section 4 (Buck) at the Jepson Prairie Preserve in Solano County (38.26688, -121.82729). Soil cores will be germinated in the greenhouse at University of California, Berkeley in Alameda County.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Ava Joseph [Permit No. 2081(a)-21-021-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect soil samples and compare the species diversity of seeds in the seed bank to the aboveground species diversity in one vernal pool at the Jepson Prairie Preserve. Bogg’s Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*), a state-listed endangered species, is known to occur in this vernal pool. In December 2021, a transect will be positioned through the length of the vernal pool. Approximately 50 soil cores measuring five centimeters deep and four centimeters in diameter will be collected at approximately one-meter increments along the transect. The soil samples will be germinated in the greenhouse to determine the species diversity of the seed bank. Beginning in February 2022, species will be recorded in the field every two weeks along the same transect to compare diversity of the greenhouse germinated seedlings and the above ground species diversity in the vernal pool. Germinated plants and any ungerminated seed remaining at the end of the Project will be disposed of or donated to the University of California Botanical Garden.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Ava Joseph, Undergraduate Student, University of California, Berkeley

**Exempt Status:**

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

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Bogg’s Lake hedge-hyssop are not impacted.

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

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 12/6/2021

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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Signed by Lead Agency      Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_