

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: Assessing the Impacts of Drought and Warming on *Lupinus nipomensis* Development and Survival Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place at the UC Santa Cruz (UCSC) Jean H. Langenheim Greenhouses for plant sciences (36.9982048, -122.062651) in Santa Cruz, California. Seed storage will take place at the Permittee's home at 204 Koshland Way in Santa Cruz.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Justin Luong [Permit No. 2081(a)-21-023-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to test the impacts of episodic drought and elevated temperatures on the survival and reproduction of an endangered plant species, *Lupinus nipomensis*. The Project includes germinating seeds and testing the effects of drought and warming on germinated plants. Beginning in December 2021, Permittee will germinate enough seeds to produce 120 plants. It is expected that approximately half of the stored seeds (approximately 400) will be used. Germinated seedlings will be placed into 120 individual container pots, which will be divided into four treatments: (1) drought; (2) warming; (3) drought and warming; and (4) control. Treatments will begin approximately four weeks after the seedlings germinate. Drought will be induced through episodic droughting which best mimics field drought conditions in a greenhouse and warming will be generated using clear open top plastic domes. Following treatments, above ground productivity, seed production, and survival will be measured. Seeds remaining at the end of this experiment will remain in temporary storage at the Permittee's home for the duration of this permit for use in potential future greenhouse studies.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Justin Luong, PhD Candidate at UCSC and Research Affiliate at the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, UC Santa Barbara

Exempt Status:

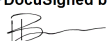
- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Class 6

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

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 204-0611

Signature:

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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 12/6/2021

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____