

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: Marsh Sandwort Population Establishment Project (Project)

Project Location: The Marsh Sandwort Population Establishment Project (Project) is located in Santa Barbara County. Propagation of the plants will occur at a greenhouse located on the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) campus approximately 0.25 miles west of Harder Stadium. Outplanting will occur at East Stork Wetland, 500 feet west of Harder Stadium on the UCSB campus.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) [Permit No. 2081(a) 21-017-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to establish new populations of the state-listed endangered marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*). Project activities include the propagation of marsh sandwort plants, vegetation removal, outplanting on the UCSB campus, and providing propagated plants for two future projects off campus. Plants will be propagated vegetatively from 50 source plants at the greenhouse facility at the CCBER center on the UCSB campus using a variety of methods including cuttings, air rooting, splitting pots, and growing them with and without companion plants. Seeds from the propagated plants are also being collected to test for seed viability and to possibly be stored long-term. Approximately 150-300 marsh sandwort plants will be outplanted at East Stork Wetland starting in the spring of 2022 and will be monitored for the duration of the permit. The Permittee will be vegetatively propagating marsh sandwort plants for two future off campus restoration projects in San Luis Obispo County at the Black Lake Ecological Area and property owned by the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District in Los Osos. These propagated plants will be stored and maintained at the greenhouse facility at UCSB until the sites are ready. Outplanting on the off-campus sites will not occur without prior written approval from CDFW.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lisa Stratton, Ph.D., Director of Ecosystem Management, Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration.

Exempt Status:, Cheadle Center for Biodiversity

- 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, data collection, experimental propagation and outplanting to facilitate the recovery of the California endangered marsh sandwort by attempting to establish new self-sustaining populations of the species. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of marsh sandwort are not impacted and that re-introduced populations are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-0411

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 12/8/2021

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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