

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: Los Osos Creek Wetland Restoration: Marsh Sandwort Outplanting

Project Location: The Los Osos Creek Wetland Restoration: Marsh Sandwort Outplanting Project (Project) will occur at the Los Osos Creek Wetland Restoration project site (35.325250, -120.811833) in San Luis Obispo County. Any leftover plant material will be stored at facilities managed by Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) at the University of California Santa Barbara.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) [Permit No. 2081(a)-21-026-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to establish a new population of marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*) at the recently restored Los Osos Creek Wetland Restoration project site to serve objectives of the Preliminary Downlisting Criteria outlined in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Plan for Marsh Sandwort. Approximately 300 marsh sandwort plants originally propagated and maintained under the authority of CESA permit 2081(a)-21-017-RP issued to CCBER will be outplanted within the project site at suitable habitat locations identified by principal and assistant investigators. Propagated plants originated from plant material collected by the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) from Black Lake Canyon, San Luis Obispo County. Project activities include monitoring plant establishment on a bi-annual basis for five consecutive years to determine marsh sandwort presence, absence, size, and environmental conditions influencing species survival. Outplanting location data will be collected using GPS units and cataloged with ArgGIS mapping software

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

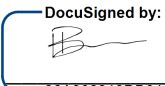
Exempt Status:

- 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 recovery of the California endangered marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*) by attempting to establish a self-sustaining population of the species within its historic range in a restored wetland habitat, and includes data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities. 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 introduced populations are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574

Signature: 
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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 2/23/2022

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____