

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: San Fernando Valley Spineflower Experimental Introductions Project (Project)
CDFW Permit No. 2081(a)-22-009-RP

Project Location: The San Fernando Valley Spineflower Experimental Introduction San Martinez Grande Expansion project (Project) will take place at two introduction sites (34.41659, -118.69776 and 34.41744, -118.70225) in Ventura County. The sites are within the San Martinez Grande- Ventura County Additional Conservation Area on property owned by the Newhall Land and Farming Company (Newhall). Viability analyses of collected specimens is expected to take place in Freedom, CA at the residence of Dr. Jodi McGraw in Santa Cruz County and/or at MD Seed Analysis located in Santa Barbara County at 123 N Salinas Street in Santa Barbara, CA.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) permit to Dudek (Permit No. 2081(a)-22-009-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to conduct experimental introductions of San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*; spineflower) using previously salvaged and bulked seed and material taken from development areas to establish new spineflower occurrences in open spaces. The results of these experimental introductions are intended to increase the long-term sustainability of the species and to inform managers of the potential methodologies for future introductions to expand spineflower populations, where appropriate. The spineflower introductions will use seeds generated from previous bulking efforts (CESA Permit No. 2081(a)-19-001-RP). Seeds were originally collected in the San Martinez Grande Spineflower Preserve on Newhall property approximately 1.5 miles away from the introduction sites. Introductions will be conducted in fall 2022, beginning in November. Seed will be introduced by broadcast seeding at two unoccupied areas within the San Martinez Grande-Ventura County Additional Conservation Area. The introduction sites will be maintained and monitored for eight years, from 2022 through 2030.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jake Marcon, Restoration Ecologist/Biologist, Dudek

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 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, as well as actions to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource, the endangered San Fernando Valley spineflower. Experimental introductions of spineflower are intended to increase the long-term sustainability of the species and inform future introductions to expand spineflower populations. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of the endangered San Fernando Valley spineflower are not impacted, and that introduced populations are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

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

Signature:  **Date:** 11/21/2022

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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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