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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: University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden Activities Involving State-listed Plants

Project Location: Project activities will take place at the University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, and Project collection activities will take place at wild populations of state-listed plants in California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is issuing a permit to the University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for the following activities involving state-listed plant species: (1) collection of voucher specimens; (2) seed collection from wild populations for long-term conservation storage following Center for Plant Conservation guidelines; (3) seed processing, viability testing, and related research; (4) long-term conservation storage of seeds; (5) propagation of plants to produce seeds for long-term conservation storage; (6) export of backup seed collections to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Laboratory for Genetic Resource Preservation; (7) collection and storage of small amounts of tissue for genetic analysis; (8) collection of seeds or cuttings for the living collection; (9) import of seeds or plants into California for long-term conservation storage or the living collection; (10) maintenance of plants at the University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden's living collection; and (11) monitoring of wild plant populations.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Brett Hall, California Native Plant Program Director, University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum and Botanic Garden

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 research and recovery of state-listed plant species. Conservation of state-listed plants will be achieved through seed collection for long-term storage and related research on seed viability. The Project may also involve propagation of plants for conservation purposes approved by CDFW. The permit issued by CDFW for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of state-listed plants are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 1/13/2023

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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