

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: *Erysimum* Genetic Study (Project)

Project Location: Plant collection for the *Erysimum* Genetic Study Project (Project) will take place at Tolowa Dunes State Park (41.86980, -124.20395) and Lake Earl Wildlife Area (41.82744, -124.20089) in Del Norte County; MacKerricher State Park (39.48823, -123.78750) in Mendocino County, Fort Ord Dunes State Park (36.65942, -121.82041), and Asilomar State Beach (36.61794, -121.94169) in Monterey County; Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge (40.89110, -124.14442), Elk River Spit (40.76458, -124.19985), Manila Dunes (40.86330, -124.16382), Samoa Dunes (40.82635, -124.18462), and South Spit (40.74221, -124.24293) in Humboldt County; and Point Reyes National Seashore (38.05066, -122.86844) in Marin County. Tissue storage, DNA extraction, and genetic analysis will take place at California State Polytechnic University Humboldt (Cal Poly Humboldt) in Dr. Vargas' laboratory (40.87498, -124.07840). Samples may also be exported to Rapid Genomics, LLC in Florida (29.64993, -82.33292) or Floragenex in Oregon (45.45105, -122.79085) for genetic sequencing. Voucher specimens will be deposited at the Cal Poly Humboldt Vascular Plant Herbarium.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Permit No. 2081(a)-23-003-RP pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to improve understanding of the phylogeny and taxonomy of *Erysimum* in coastal dune systems of Northern California using genetic analysis. The Project includes plant tissue and voucher specimen collection of Menzies' wallflower (*Erysimum menziesii*), including formerly recognized subspecies.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Laurel Goldsmith, Botanist, USFWS

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will improve understanding of the phylogeny and taxonomy of *Erysimum menziesii* to inform future conservation decision-making. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of *Erysimum menziesii* are not significantly impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

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

Signature: 
36A908313DB6442
 _____ **Date:** 4/10/2023
 Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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