

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 Bruno Mountain Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos imbricata*) Propagation and Outplanting Project (Project) CESA Permit No. 2081(a)-22-006-RP

Project Location: The San Bruno Mountain Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos imbricata*) Propagation and Outplanting Project (Project) is located in San Bruno County. Plant propagation for the project is taking place at Mission Blue Nursery, located at 3435 Bayshore Boulevard in Brisbane, CA (37.68819, -122.40042). Outplanting will take place within San Bruno Mountain State and County Park (SBMSCP) (37.69835, -122.43503).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to San Mateo County Parks (CESA Permit No. 2081(a)-22-006-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (a) for a project to use salvaged San Bruno Mountain manzanita cuttings for propagation activities and outplanting within the SBMSCP Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) boundary. In 2022, approximately five hundred cuttings were salvaged from six San Bruno Mountain manzanita individuals within SBMSCP where an authorized Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) utility maintenance project activity occurred. Following harvest, cuttings were transported to San Bruno Mountain Watch's Mission Blue Nursery for propagation. Approximately 200 propagated San Bruno Mountain manzanita plants will be outplanted in the fall of 2023 or winter of 2024 to suitable habitat locations identified within the SBMSCP HCP boundary. A portion of cuttings may be planted in the San Bruno Mountain Botanical Garden located within SBMSCP to serve public educational purposes. Data on survivorship count, health, and position relative to surrounding scrub will be monitored annually at the beginning and end of the dry season (May/June and November/December) for three consecutive years following outplanting.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Evan Cole, Natural Resource Manager, San Mateo County Parks

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 Bruno Mountain manzanita. Propagation and outplanting of San Bruno Mountain manzanita is intended to increase the long-term sustainability of the species and inform future introductions to expand San Bruno Mountain manzanita 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 Bruno Mountain manzanita are not impacted, and introduced populations are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

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

Signature:

DocuSigned by:



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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 4/19/2023

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____