DocuSign Envelope ID: 72A7F857-EE3F-4729-A931-E0FD372D17A7

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: South of Tioga Monterey Gilia Habitat Management (Project) CESA Permit No. 2081(a)-22-015-RP

Project Location: The South of Tioga Monterey Gilia Habitat Management (Project) will occur at the South of Tioga Habitat Management Lands (HM Lands) conservation easement (36.61592, −121.84715) located within Sand City in Monterey County, CA.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Denise Duffy & Associates, Inc. (DD&A) (CESA Permit No. 2081(a)-22-015-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a weed management and habitat maintenance project that is not expected to, but may result in, take of Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria)* within occupied habitat. Primary objectives of the Project are to promote high quality habitat for Monterey gilia, ensure the viability of the population within the HM Lands easement, and inform Monterey gilia habitat management strategies. Project activities are consistent with the South of Tioga Project Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP) (August 2022) required by CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2018-078-04, to mitigate impacts to Monterey gilia from the South of Tioga District redevelopment. Project activities include removing non-native, invasive plants focusing on iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) within the project area beginning in spring 2023. Weed management will take place annually during the initial five-year interim management period covered by the permit and is expected to take place every two years during the following long-term management period. Project activities also include maintaining 820 feet of permanent fencing that has been installed to prevent public access around the HM Lands easement. Fence maintenance, including any fence pole replacement, will be limited to the months of August through January to minimize impact to Monterey gilia. Additional activities include restoring an existing sandy trail with non-listed native plant species, debris removal, and population monitoring of Monterey gilia within the HM Lands conservation easement.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Josh Harwayne, Senior Project Manager, Denise Duffy & Associates, Inc.

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, management, and resource evaluation activities, as well as actions to support the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of Monterey gilia. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Monterey gilia are not negatively impacted.

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

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 5/9/2023

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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