

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: Seed Collection and Habitat Restoration for Sebastopol Meadowfoam (Project)

Project Location: The Seed Collection and Habitat Restoration for Sebastopol Meadowfoam Project (Project) is located in Sonoma County at: (1) a 21.5-acre area called Haroutunian South (HARO) near the intersection of Scenic Avenue and the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) railroad tracks in Santa Rosa, CA (38.374475, -122.719351); (2) an eight-acre area called the Sam Jones Air Center (SJAC) at 4020 Finley Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA (38.418956, -122.767491); (3) 3440 Phillips Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA (38.391811, -122.747910); (4) the Laguna Foundation Native Plant Nursery at 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA (38.426207, -122.820750); and (5) the residence of Sarah Gordon in Kenwood, CA.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation [Permit No. 2081(a)-23-005-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to (1) collect and perform seed bulking of Sebastopol meadowfoam (*Limnanthes vinculans*) for the purpose of outplanting seeds to expand the population at HARO, and (2) restore and enhance habitat for Sebastopol meadowfoam at HARO and SJAC by implementing regular beneficial disturbance and targeted invasive species control. Project activities include seed collection, bulking, outplanting, and vegetation removal. Seed collection activities are in development and will depend on environmental and site-specific conditions. Within the permit time frame, seeds and floral bracts will be collected by hand in spring/summer, with seed germination and bulking activities taking place in late winter/early spring. Seeds from nursery grown plants will be collected and seeded into the HARO 1 wetland in summer/fall. In late summer/early fall of 2023, 2024, and 2025, standing dead biomass and remnant thatch will be removed at both HARO and SJAC. The dead biomass and thatch removal at both sites will utilize grazing, mowing, baling, string trimming, and/or hand raking. Herbicide may also be used to manage invasive, non-native perennial grasses. Each spring for a minimum of three years (2023-2025), the distribution of Sebastopol meadowfoam will be mapped and population sizes counted or estimated at HARO, SJAC, and any seed donor site.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sarah Gordon, Conservation Science Program Manager, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation


Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306 and 15307, Class 6 and 7

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities to ensure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of existing populations of the California endangered Sebastopol meadowfoam. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure the existing populations of Sebastopol meadowfoam are not impacted, and that the restored populations are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kristi Lazar

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-5425

Signature: 
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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 5/12/2023

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____