Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Rm. 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

☐ Signed by Lead Agency

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, Bulking, and Reintroduction of Coastal Dunes Milk-vetch (Astragalus tener var. titi) (Project)

Project Location: The Seed Collection, Bulking, and Reintroduction of Coastal Dunes Milk-vetch (Astragalus tener var. titi) Project (Project) will occur in Pebble Beach in Monterey County along 17 Mile Drive between Bird Rock and China Rock (centered around 36.59525, -121.96120). Seed bulking activities will take place at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) greenhouse facilities (36.99891, -122.06218) in Santa Cruz County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (Permit No. 2081(a)-23-008-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to implement a seed collection, bulking, and reintroduction effort to promote the recovery of coastal dunes milk-vetch in historically occupied habitat and reduce the risk of extinction resulting from limited areal extent, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance. Twenty one historically occupied areas that are currently unoccupied are proposed for experimental reintroduction and population expansion efforts. The Project directly addresses recovery criteria in the USFWS recovery plan and 5-year review of coastal dunes milk-vetch. Seed will be collected in June 2023 for bulking activities with the goal of generating approximately 5,000 seeds for an experimental reintroduction project planned for late fall 2023 or early winter 2023/2024. Reintroduction plots will be photo documented and monitored twice during the growing season from February to May in 2024 and 2025. At the end of the growing season annually, each plot will be assessed for abundance, cover, seed set, and associated vegetation. Naturally occurring colonies will also be visually noted during monitoring events for qualitative comparisons to treatment areas.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Todd Lemein, Botanist, USFWS		
Exempt Status:		
☐ Minis	terial;	
☐ Decla	red Emergency;	
☐ Emer	gency Project;	
⊠ Categ	porical Exemption. Type and section numbe	r: Section 15306 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7
management, and enhancement of and Wildlife for the not impacted.	nd resource evaluation activities, as well as the endangered coastal dunes milk-vetch. he Project includes measures to ensure that	pasic data collection, research, experimental actions to support the maintenance, restoration, or The permit issued by the California Department of Fish at existing populations of coastal dunes milk-vetch are
Lead Agency C	ontact Person: Joanne Heraty	Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 594-4574
Signature:	Jsabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manage	Date: 6/12/2023

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____