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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: Santa Cruz Wallflower (*Erysimum teretifolium*) Enhancement at Olympia Conservation Area

Project Location: The Santa Cruz Wallflower (*Erysimum teretifolium*) Enhancement at Olympia Conservation Area Project (Project) will take place within Olympia Conservation Area (37.06754, -122.04686) located at 7710 East Zayante Road near the town of Felton in Santa Cruz County, California. Seeds used for the Project will be temporarily stored at a laboratory in Watsonville, California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act permit to Dr. Jodi McGraw (Permit No. 2081(a)-23-009-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project involving Santa Cruz wallflower seed collection, habitat manipulation, outplanting, and weed management. Project results will increase understanding of the ecology and management of Santa Cruz wallflower and inform future introduction efforts.

Between June and August of 2023 and 2024, seed will be collected from extant Santa Cruz wallflower populations within the 6.3-acre Olympia Conservation Area. Seed will be collected at random from a minimum of fifty plants, not to exceed five percent of the total annual seed production. Habitat manipulation that will entail loosening soil using shovels, will take place within a 0.2-acre unoccupied restoration area in the fall of 2023 prior to seeding Santa Cruz wallflower in that area. Seed will be broadcast evenly over the restoration area in late September or early October of 2023 and 2024 and timed with the onset of rain.

Seeding areas will be monitored in May 2024, 2025, and 2026 to quantify the abundance of Santa Cruz wallflower seedlings, litter cover, canopy cover, and other factors that may influence establishment. Reconnaissance-level monitoring will take place annually to assess overall conditions, and to monitor and treat any invasive plants. Weed management is expected to include hoeing, hand pulling, and weed whacking of exotic annual grasses, forbs, and invasive brooms.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Jodi McGraw, Jodi McGraw Consulting

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will facilitate the recovery of the California endangered *Erysimum teretifolium* by attempting to establish additional self-sustaining populations of the species within its historic range. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of *Erysimum teretifolium* are not impacted, and that re-introduced populations are adequately protected.

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

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 6/20/2023

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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