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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: California Polytechnic University, Humboldt Vascular Plant Herbarium Activities Involving State-listed Plants (Project)

Project Location: Project activities will take place at the California Polytechnic University, Humboldt Vascular Plant Herbarium, 1 Harpst Street, Arcata, CA 95521 in Humboldt County, and Project collection activities will take place at wild populations of state-listed plants in California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is issuing a permit to the California Polytechnic University, Humboldt Vascular Plant Herbarium pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for the following activities involving state-listed plant species: (1) collection of voucher specimens; (2) seed collection from wild populations for long-term conservation storage following Center for Plant Conservation's Best Plant Conservation Practices to Support Species Survival in the Wild; (3) seed processing, viability testing, and related research; (4) long-term conservation storage of seeds and maintenance of an herbarium; (5) propagation of plants for research and education and to produce seed for long-term conservation storage; (6) collection and storage of small amounts of tissue for genetic analysis; (7) receiving seeds or plant material for long-term conservation storage; (8) monitoring of wild plant populations and; (9) transfer of plant material for research, scientific, educational or management purposes with prior written approval from CDFW.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Oscar M. Vargas-Hernandez, Herbarium Director and Curator, Professor of Botany, California Polytechnic University, Humboldt Vascular Plant Herbarium

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will facilitate research and recovery of state-listed plant species by collecting information on populations via voucher specimen collection, genetic analyses, and maintenance of an herbarium. Conservation of state-listed plants will be achieved through seed collection for long-term storage and related research on seed viability. The Project may also involve propagation of plants and transfer of plant material from Permittee's seed and herbarium collection to individuals or institutions for conservation and research purposes approved by CDFW. The permit issued by CDFW for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of state-listed plants are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mariel Boldis Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 720-1245

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 8/11/2023

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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