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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: San Fernando Valley Spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) Management and Monitoring (Project)

Project Location: The San Fernando Valley Spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) Management and Monitoring project (Project) is located in the Laskey Mesa area of Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve in Calabasas, Los Angeles County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) (Permit No. 2081(a)-23-011-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 San Fernando Valley spineflower within extant habitat. Primary objectives of the Project are to promote high quality habitat for San Fernando Valley spineflower, ensure the persistence of the population within the Laskey Mesa area of Upper Las Virgines Canyon Open Space Preserve, and to inform habitat management strategies. Project activities are consistent with the Laskey Mesa Spineflower Management Plan (September 2019) developed under CESA incidental take permit number 2081-2008-012-05 to mitigate development impacts from the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Paul Edelman, Chief Deputy of Natural Resources and Planning, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

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 San Fernando Valley spineflower. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of San Fernando Valley spineflower are not negatively impacted.

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

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 8/16/2023

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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