

Notice of Exemption

To:

Office of Planning and Research
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From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Deigo, CA 92123



Project Title: Dangermond Iceplant Removal Project (Restoration Management Permit No. RMP-2024-0001-R5)

Project Location (Santa Barbara): The Project is located on the Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve (Preserve) located at 10,000 Jalama Road, Lompoc, CA. All work will occur within areas known as the Cojo Terrace and Cojo Marine Terminal within the Preserve. The Project is located in the County of Santa Barbara, State of California; approximate coordinates 34.457353, -120.463092. The Project will restore approximately 1,200 acres of coastal prairie, seasonal wetlands, and dune habitats.

Project Description: On March 11, 2024, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued this Restoration Management Permit (RMP) pursuant to section 2081(a) of the Fish and Game Code to the Nature Conservancy. This Project will treat and remove iceplant (*Carpobrotus* spp.) and other invasive plant species on the Cojo Terrace of the Preserve. The Project is expected to benefit Gaviota tarplant (*Deinandra increscens* ssp. *villosa*; California Endangered Species Act (CESA)-listed endangered; Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed endangered) and surf thistle (*Cirsium rhotophilum*; CESA-listed threatened), referred to collectively as Covered Species. The Project may result in take of Gaviota tarplant in the form of incidental mortality during implementation of the Project. The Project may also result in take of the Covered Species in the form of capture for seed collection. CDFW has determined and expects that the Project will ultimately benefit, aid in the conservation of, and assist in the recovery of the Covered Species. This notice is to advise that CDFW issued the above-described RMP on the date signed below.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Laura Riege, The Nature Conservancy

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption: Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects)
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 7; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15307

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project shall assure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources. The RMP involves procedures for the protection of the environment including but not limited to; biological monitoring, environmental training, work windows, and pre- and post-treatment monitoring. There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitat pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15065. The Project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

CDFW Contact Person: Christian Romberger, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist),

Christian.Romberger@wildlife.ca.gov (562) 292-6365

3/11/2024

Signature:  5991E19EF8094C3... **Date:** _____

Victoria Tang signing for Erinn Wilson-Olgin, Regional Manager, South Coast Region

Date received for filing at OPR: _____