

**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:** Voluntary Outplanting of Big-leaved Crownbeard (*Verbesina dissita*) (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project is located in the Laguna Terrace Mobile Home Park in Hobo Canyon in the City of Laguna Beach, Orange County. Big-leaved crownbeard plants will be sourced from material propagated at the California Botanic Garden in Claremont, Los Angeles County.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Land IQ (Permit No. 2081(a)-24-006-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to outplant 15 – 24 big-leaved crownbeard plants as part of a restoration project to mitigate for impacts to native vegetation associated with the development of a mobile home parcel in the Laguna Terrace Mobile Home Park. The development project is not expected to impact any plant species listed under the California Endangered Species Act. Outplanting the big-leaved crownbeard plants is not required as mitigation but was recommended by Hamilton Biological, the biological consultant for the Laguna Beach Mobile Home Park Project, to increase the population of big-leaved crownbeard adjacent to the mobile home park. California Botanic Garden currently possesses several mature big-leaved crownbeard plants that were grown from seed collected in Hobo Canyon (authorized under permit number 2081(a)-16-024-RP). California Botanic Garden will split these existing container plants in 2024 to provide approximately two dozen plants for the Project. Site preparation at the Project Location will consist of weed removal with motorized equipment (i.e., line trimmers) and hand tools. In addition, a large bougainvillea thicket will be removed. The permittee will outplant the container plants at the Project Location in fall 2024 to winter 2025. The exact number and locations of the crownbeard plantings will be determined after the bougainvillea thicket and other weeds are removed from the restoration areas. A temporary irrigation system will be installed, or the plants will be hand watered while they are establishing. The plants will be monitored and maintained through fall 2029.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Travis Brooks, Restoration Ecologist, Land IQ

**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 experimental management and resource evaluation activities to ensure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of an existing population of the California threatened big-leaved crownbeard. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure the existing populations of big-leaved crownbeard are not impacted.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-0411

**Signature:**

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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

**Date:** 4/25/2024

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_