

## Notice of Exemption

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**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:** Reintroduction of Beach Layia (*Layia carnos*) at Little River State Beach (Project)

**Project Location:** The Reintroduction of Beach Layia (*Layia carnos*) at Little River State Beach project (Project) will take place in the coastal dunes between the towns of Samoa and Westhaven in Humboldt County, California. Beach layia seeds will be collected from the Samoa/Eureka subpopulation on a City of Eureka parcel located behind the Samoa airstrip (Samoa 1: 40.78053, -124.21424, and Samoa 2: 40.78260, -124.21562), and from the Mad River County Beach subpopulation (40.92083, -124.135805). The restoration area to be seeded with beach layia is located at Little River State Beach (41.01266, -124.11298). Seeds may be temporarily stored at the California State Parks Mill Creek Nursery (41.73278, -124.09435).

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act scientific, educational, or management permit (Permit No. 2081(a)-24-009-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) to California State Parks North Coast Redwoods District for a project to collect beach layia seeds to re-establish a population in the Little River State Beach Habitat Restoration Area. Beach layia seed will be collected by hand between May and July in 2024 from populations at the Samoa airstrip and Mad River County Beach. Seed collection will be limited to no more than an estimated five percent of seeds and no more than 10 percent of plants within each subpopulation. Seeding beach layia in vegetated restored dunes on the north side of Little River State Beach will occur shortly following collection in 2024. Seeding recently restored unvegetated areas to the south will occur in fall 2024. Seed will be sown by hand into multiple 2 meter radius circles at least 10 meters apart within the northern and southern part of the Habitat Restoration Area. Seeding areas will be selected based on suitable habitat criteria including sparse vegetation, open sand, few invasive European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*) resprouts, and outside of the dune swales. Seed collection and seeding activities as outlined in this permit may be repeated annually for the term of the permit.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Claudia Voigt, Plant Ecologist, and Michelle Forys, Environmental Scientist, California State Parks North Coast Redwoods District

### 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 the recovery of the California endangered *Layia carnos* by attempting to establish an additional self-sustaining population 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 *Layia carnos* are not impacted, and that the re-introduced population is adequately protected.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Joanne Heraty

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574

**Signature:**    
 36A908313DB6442  
 Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager **Date:** 5/14/2024

Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_