

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: Propagation and Outplanting of Pallid Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*) (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located within the City of Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park in Alameda County. Plant material was salvaged from a vegetation clearing site east of the Camp Trail junction along Skyline Boulevard (37.81373, -122.17599). Plant propagation for the project is taking place at the Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) Native Plant Nursery located on Sanborn Drive (37.81230, -122.18999). Pallid manzanita cuttings will also be collected from living plants at the FOSC nursery, along Big Trees Area - Trail to PAL Camp (37.81402, -122.17675), and at the Chabot Space and Science Center (37.81816, -122.17675) in Joaquin Miller Park.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to FOSC (Permit No. 2081(a)-23-012-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to take cuttings of pallid manzanita and use salvaged cuttings to propagate, outplant, and advance recovery of the species within Joaquin Miller Park. Ninety-two five-inch cuttings were salvaged from an unauthorized vegetation clearing event conducted by the City of Oakland in 2023. Approximately thirty cuttings survived the initial salvage and propagation event. FOSC will also collect fresh cuttings from healthy pallid manzanita plants at the FOSC nursery, Big Trees/PAL camp, and the Chabot Science Center. Outplanting is expected to take place in the fall of 2030 in the following three areas within Joaquin Miller Park: (1) the Big Trees Area - Trail to PAL Camp; (2) the FOSC Native Plant Nursery; (3) Manzanita Flat; and (4) adjacent to the pallid manzanita salvage site. Outplanted pallid manzanitas will be fenced, mapped, and each plant will receive a numbered metal tag. Educational signage will be installed. The Permittee will also conduct educational outreach to the City of Oakland park and tree service staff on location of plantings to ensure caution and avoidance is maintained around establishing plants. Permanent photo monitoring points will be established and data on percent survival, vigor (e.g., amount of new growth, flowering, and fruiting), plant height, and crown area will be collected in May of each year following outplanting. The Permittee and trained volunteers will maintain outplantings for five years. Newly planted manzanitas will be watered every other week during the first summer. Neighboring plant populations will be monitored for disease, shading, encroachment, and high-risk limbs. Any competing vegetation or invasive species will be managed or removed as necessary.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ella Matsuda, Friends of Sausal Creek

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Class 6, and Section 15307, Class 7

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of basic data collection and management activities to aid recovery efforts of pallid manzanita. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of pallid manzanita are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

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

Signature: 

Date: 7/22/2024

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____