

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: White Sedge (*Carex albida*) Seed Collection, Propagation, and Outplanting (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place within Lower Pitkin Marsh (38.45546, -122.86976), a preserve owned by the Sonoma Land Trust in Sonoma County, California. Seed propagation will take place at the Laguna Foundation native plant nursery located at 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, California (38.42620, -122.82075).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act and Native Plant Protection Act permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) to Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation (Permit No. 2081(a)-24-011-RP)) for a project to collect, propagate, and outplant white sedge (*Carex albida*) to expand the declining population at Lower Pitkin Marsh. In late summer of 2024 and 2025, seed will be collected from the West and North subpopulations within Lower Pitkin Marsh. Donor seed or vegetative propagules previously collected from Lower Pitkin Marsh may also be obtained from seed banks or botanical garden living collections to be used for population expansion activities. Seed collected in 2024 will be propagated in the Laguna Foundation native plant nursery in the fall/winter of 2024/2025 or early spring 2025. Plants will be upsized into containers in the spring of 2025 prior to outplanting at Lower Pitkin Marsh receiver sites. Seed collected in 2025 will be propagated and outplanted in the spring of 2026. White sedge seed may also be amplified to provide material for broadcast seeding in Lower Pitkin Marsh receiver sites. Outplanting sites within Lower Pitkin Marsh will have geographic proximity to and/or similar wetland habitat conditions as historical locations and will include the East and North subpopulation, where the species previously occurred but is presumed extirpated. Non-native grasses and thatch will be manually removed prior to outplanting during white sedge's dormancy period to avoid disturbance. Donor and receiver sites will be monitored for three years. White sedge distribution will be mapped, and population numbers will be counted or estimated annually each spring.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ayla Mills, Native Plant Nursery Program Manager, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

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 white sedge. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of white sedge are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

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

Signature:

DocuSigned by:


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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 8/6/2024

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____