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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 of Tree-anemone (*Carpenteria californica*) for the University of California Davis Arboretum and Public Garden (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place in Yolo County, California at the University of California Davis (UCD) Arboretum and Public Garden greenhouse facilities located at 448 La Rue Road in Davis, CA (38.533828, −121.753228). Propagules will be outplanted into the living collection on the UCD campus.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) to the UCD Arboretum and Public Garden (Permit No. 2081(a)-24-007-RP) for a project to propagate tree-anemone from seed to outplant into the UCD Arboretum and Public Garden living collection for education, research, and public outreach purposes. The Project will use seed collected in 2023 from two locations near Big Sandy Bluffs in Fresno County (California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Element Occurrence (EO) 1) and may also use seed that is planned for collection by UCD Herbarium staff in the fall of 2024 from Black Mountain in Fresno County (CNDDB EO 2). Over the course of three growing seasons, approximately 600 seeds total will be sown into sterilized flats containing growth medium with the goal of conserving at least five individuals from each collection location, totaling fifteen individuals for the living collection. Once established, the propagules will be outplanted into the UCD Arboretum living collection in areas that receive regular irrigation. Plants will be monitored weekly during establishment, protected with caging, and will be supplementally watered during dry periods if necessary. The Permittee will record all aspects of the propagation process including germination rates, growth conditions, and establishment success. This information will contribute to the development of future conservation strategies for tree-anemone and similar species.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Angelica Sauceda, Assistant Curator and Plant Record Database Manager, UCD Arboretum and Public Garden

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of propagation and outplanting activities to ensure tree-anemone is conserved for education, research, and public outreach purposes. No natural populations of tree-anemone will be detrimentally impacted by Project activities. The permit issued by CDFW includes measures to ensure impacts to tree-anemone are avoided.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty Area Code/Telephone: (916) 594-4574

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 11/4/2024

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

☐ Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for filing at OPR: _____