

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: Habitat Management Lands for the Imjin Parkway Improvement Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place within the former Fort Ord landfill in Monterey County, approximately two miles east of Monterey Bay. The Habitat Management Lands (HML) are comprised of two separate areas called "HML East" (36.66323, -121.77727), and "HML West" (36.65937, -121.78692).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) to Denise Duffy & Associates, Inc. (DD&A) (CESA Permit No. 2081(a)-24-015-RP) for a weed management and habitat maintenance project that is not expected to, but may result in, take of Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*) within occupied habitat. Primary objectives of the Project are to promote high quality habitat for Monterey gilia, ensure the viability of the population within the HML, and inform Monterey gilia habitat management strategies. Project activities are consistent with the Imjin Parkway Improvement Project Long-Term Management Plan (January 2024) required by CESA Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-007-04, to mitigate impacts to Monterey gilia from the Imjin Parkway Improvement Project. Project activities include removing non-native, invasive plants focusing on iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), and Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana* ssp. *torreyana*) within the project area beginning in January of 2025. Weed management activities will take place between August and January after Monterey gilia's lifecycle is complete. Two invasive plant removal events are expected to occur annually during the initial three-year interim management period covered by the permit. The Project will maintain permanent fencing and gates that have been installed around the HML and will install and maintain vertical plant mulch to capture moisture and wind-blown seeds, increase germination of native plants, and provide camouflage for previously disturbed areas. Additional activities include debris removal, and population monitoring of Monterey gilia within the HML conservation easement.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Erin Harwayne, Senior Project Manager, DD&A

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, management, and resource evaluation activities, as well as actions to support the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of Monterey gilia. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Monterey gilia are adequately protected.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

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

Signature: 

Date: 1/21/2025

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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____