

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: Assessing Nipomo Mesa Lupine (*Lupinus nipomensis*) Seed and Seedling Functional Traits (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place at California Polytechnic State University, Humboldt greenhouse facilities (40.87360, -124.07712) in Humboldt County, California.

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 Dr. Justin Luong (CESA Permit No. 2081(a)-24-014-RP) for a project to investigate seed and seedling functional traits of Nipomo Mesa lupine grown in two different growth mediums to understand factors affecting recruitment success. The Project will use seed produced from plants grown under experimental greenhouse conditions under authority of CESA Permit 2081(a)-21-023-RP. Approximately 18 seeds will be scarified with sandpaper prior to being sterilized in 70% ethanol and rinsed with water. A total of 16 Nipomo Mesa lupine seeds are expected to survive and be available for growth chamber propagation. Eight seeds will be grown in agarose gel, and eight seeds will be grown in field soil. Seedlings will be harvested individually seven days after germinating and will be weighed, scanned, dried, and reweighed. Any seeds that are not used for the growth chamber propagation experiment will be dissected to assess viability. The seed functional traits to be measured will include mass, dimensions, time to germination, and dormancy. The seedling functional traits to be measured will include root-shoot ratio, root and shoot elongation rate, root and shoot diameter, specific leaf area and root length, and root and shoot dry matter content.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Justin Luong, Assistant Professor of Rangeland Management, California Polytechnic State University, Humboldt

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of basic data collection and research activities that will inform conservation and recovery of Nipomo Mesa lupine. The Project will take place in a greenhouse, and the permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Nipomo Mesa lupine are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty

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

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 1/31/2025
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Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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