

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: Population Genetics of *Navarretia* (Project)

Project Location: Plant material collection will occur at the following locations: Loch Lomond Vernal Pool Ecological Reserve (38.86564, -122.72021; Lake County); private property near Highway 29 and Conservation Road (38.92699, -122.72022; Lake County); Boggs Lake Preserve (38.88620, -122.78060; Lake County); private property near Spruce Grove Road (38.84601, -122.54582; Lake County); private property near Forest Oak Drive (38.86122, -122.69850; Lake County); Mead Ranch (38.39662, -122.27148; Napa County); private property near Atlas Peak Road (38.48120, -122.23550; Napa County); and Shiloh Ranch (38.54620, -122.73148; Sonoma County). Voucher specimens will be deposited at the Stanley L. Welsh Herbarium located on the Brigham Young University (BYU) campus in Provo, Utah, with backup samples deposited at the University of California Davis Center for Plant Diversity/Herbarium in Davis, Yolo County. DNA analysis will be conducted at BYU.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act and Native Plant Protect Act permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) to Hannah Kang (Permit No. 2081(a)-25-009-RP) for a project to collect voucher specimens of few-flowered navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala* subsp. *pauciflora*) and many-flowered navarretia (*N. l.* subsp. *pleiantha*) and plant material for genetic analysis of both subspecies to investigate species boundaries and evolutionary relationships within the *Navarretia leucocephala* complex. Project activities include collecting whole plant specimens for herbarium vouchers and small leaf samples for DNA extraction from each location listed in the Project Location. Voucher specimens will be deposited at the Stanley L. Welsh Herbarium and at the University of California Davis Center for Plant Diversity/Herbarium. Leaf tissue will be exported to BYU for DNA analysis. Collection will take place in spring and summer of 2025, 2026, and potentially in 2027 if additional material is needed. DNA analysis will be conducted at BYU to examine population structure, genetic diversity, and phylogenetic relationships of the *Navarretia leucocephala* complex. In addition, key morphological traits will be measured from both field-collected specimens and historic herbarium specimens to assess variation across populations and to assess morphological variation as it is correlated with genetic clusters.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Hannah Kang, Ph.D. student, BYU


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, research, and resource evaluation activities which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of few-flowered navarretia and many-flowered navarretia are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-0411

Signature: 
36A906313DB6442
Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 4/30/2025

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____