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: Herbicide Treatment for Bird-foot Checkerbloom (*Sidalcea pedata)* Recovery (Project)

Project Location: The Project will occur in San Bernardino County at 370 Alden Road near Big Bear Lake on private property managed by the City of Big Bear Lake, who has given permission for the Permittee to perform the activities described below. Herbicide treatment will take place within occupied bird-foot checkerbloom habitat recognized as California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Element Occurrence (EO) 5 (34.24563, -116.90628).

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 the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (Permit No. 2081(a)-25-010-RP) for a project to use herbicide treatment to control perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) and assist recovery of bird-foot checkerbloom. Herbicide treatment activities are expected to take place in 2025, 2026, and 2027 pending advanced written authorization by the City of Big Bear Lake each year. Bird-foot checkerbloom individuals will be counted, and photographs of the area will be taken prior to herbicide treatment. IERCD staff, supervised by Aaron Echols, will apply herbicide to the perennial pepperweed population at the southeast end of the Alden Road property. IERCD will use an aquatic formulation of glyphosate (Roundup Custom) which is the preferred herbicide to use due to the presumed existence of a shallow water table. Application will follow all label instructions and be performed by IERCD staff with a California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CADPR) Qualified Applicator License or Certificate and professional experience with targeted herbicide application in sensitive habitats. IERCD staff will carefully apply herbicide to the perennial pepperweed using a precise daubing or stem injection method to avoid impacts to bird-foot checkerbloom and other sensitive resources. IERCD will apply herbicide in April, May, or June each year if necessary, depending on weather and availability of IERCD staff.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Aaron Echols, Restoration Ecologist, Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

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 invasive weed management activities to ensure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of an existing population of bird-foot checkerbloom. The permit issued by CDFW for the Project includes measures to ensure impacts to existing populations of bird-foot checkerbloom are avoided.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kristi Lazar Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-5425

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A908313DB6442... **Date:** 5/8/2025

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

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