

Notice of Exemption

2019038658

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO 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: Tiburon Paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *neglecta*) Seeding at Paintbrush Canyon Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place at the "Paintbrush Canyon" population of Tiburon paintbrush (California Natural Diversity Database Element Occurrence 9) in the Coyote Ridge area in Santa Clara County. Propagation will take place at the Creekside Center for Earth Observation (CCEO) nursery in Morgan Hill.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to CCEO pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to propagate Tiburon paintbrush plants to produce seed for outplanting at Paintbrush Canyon. Seeding is expected to take place in December of 2019 and December of 2020, following the onset of rains. Approximately 10 to 20 blocks containing three plots that are each one square meter in size will be installed each year to test two seeding treatments at Paintbrush Canyon. Within each block, one plot will be seeded without any habitat manipulation, one plot will be scraped as described below and then seeded, and the other plot will be a control with no scraping or seeding. Scraping will occur prior to seeding using hand tools to approximately one centimeter deep to remove annual grasses and annual forbs and roughen the soil surface. Seed will be distributed in the scraped plots following scraping. Plots will be monitored in May 2021. A previously established macroplot containing the majority of the wild population and plots seeded in December 2015 and 2016 under the previous permit will also be monitored in May 2020 and May 2021.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Christal Niederer, CCEO

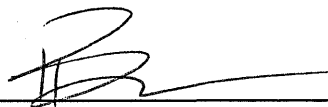
Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Sections 15306 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will involve data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, and actions to assure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of populations of the state-threatened Tiburon paintbrush. The Project 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 Tiburon paintbrush are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 651-6508

Signature: 
Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: March 27, 2019

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
MAR 28 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE