

Notice of Exemption

2019038659

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: San Fernando Valley Spineflower Seed Bulking Project (Project)

Project Location: Plants for the Project will be propagated at Cal Seedling Company in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo County. Seed bulking activities will take place at Newhall Ranch in northwestern Los Angeles County. Seeds collected from the Project will be cleaned at S&S Seeds in Los Alamos, Santa Barbara County, prior to being stored at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) seed storage facility in Claremont, Los Angeles County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Dudek pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to bulk seed of San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) for future research and species reintroduction efforts. The Project includes propagating San Fernando Valley spineflower plants in small pots within a controlled environment at Cal Seedling Company, transplanting the propagated plants into growing fields (blocks) at Newhall Ranch, and collecting and cleaning seed. Plants will be propagated using previously collected seeds from three source populations: Valencia Commerce Center area, San Martinez Grande Preserve, and Potrero Valley Survey Area. Plants will be transplanted into three blocks, one for each source population. Prior to transplanting, each block will be cleared of vegetation and weed blocker fabric will be placed over the soil. Plants will be planted within small holes cut into the fabric. The blocks will be spaced 500 feet apart and each block will consist of approximately 2,000 plants. Drip irrigation will be installed to facilitate watering if there is below average natural rainfall. Propagation and seed production will take place through July 2019. All collected seed will be cleaned at S&S Seeds and placed into short-term storage at RSABG. After spineflower harvest, the planting blocks will be decommissioned by removing the weed blocker fabric, fencing, drip irrigation lines, and all remaining plant material and tilling the ground to return it to its initial condition.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jake Marcon, Dudek

Exempt Status:

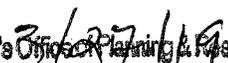
- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Sections 15306 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7

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-endangered San Fernando Valley spineflower. 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 San Fernando Valley spineflower are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

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

Signature: 
Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 
Date Received for filing at OPR: 3/27/19
Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: MAR 28 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE