

Notice of Exemption

2019048459

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:** Pallid Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*) Pathogen Testing Project (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project will take place in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties at the following East Bay Regional Park District parks: Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve, Sobrante Ridge Botanic Preserve, Sibley Regional Park, Redwood Regional Park, and Tilden Regional Park. Pathogen testing will be conducted at the Assistant Investigator's residence in Oakland, Alameda County.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the East Bay Regional Park District pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect small amounts of plant material from pallid manzanita individuals to test for plant pathogens. Small soil samples will also be collected for testing. Plant material to be collected includes small pieces of roots, small (~ two-square centimeters) sections of bark, small twigs, and two to four leaves per plant. Samples will be used in pear-bait testing for *Phytophthora cinnamomi* or in tests for other pathogens. Pallid manzanita plants will be sampled when they are suspected to have a pathogen threat or infection, either based on visual observation of the individual plant or of an adjacent plant. All data collected will be added to a GIS-based database, and a risk management map for pathogen infestation will be created and updated using data from this project. This information will be used to inform vegetation management in the areas around pallid manzanita.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Michele Hammond, Botanist, East Bay Regional Park District

**Exempt Status:**

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

**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 the state-endangered pallid manzanita are not impacted.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Cherylyn Burton

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

Signature:   
Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 4/22/2019

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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