

**Notice of Exemption**

**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:** Population Genetics, Ecology, and Reproductive Biology of Dudley's Lousewort Project (Project)

**Project Location:** Project activities will occur at Dudley's lousewort (*Pedicularis dudleyi*) populations in San Mateo County in Portola Redwoods State Park and in Monterey County along the Little Sur River within Los Padres National Forest and on private property. Collection may also occur at populations in San Luis Obispo County on the Hearst Ranch property pending landowner approval. DNA sequencing and molecular lab work will be completed at the QB3 Vincent J. Coates Genomics Sequencing Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley in Alameda County. Voucher specimens will be housed in the Sharsmith Herbarium at San Jose State University, Santa Clara County.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Benjamin Carter pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to study the population genetics, pollination and dispersal ecology, and germination success of Dudley's lousewort. For the population genetic analysis, a small amount of leaf tissue will be collected from 125 individual plants from both the Little Sur River and Portola Redwoods State Park Populations, for a total of 250 samples. Pending landowner approval, the Permittee will collect an additional 10-20 samples from the population on the Hearst Ranch property. If landowner permission is not granted, the Permittee will collect tissue from herbarium sheets of the population housed at the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo herbarium. Additionally, three voucher specimens will be collected from each of the three populations. To test the effects of litter depth on seedling establishment, the Permittee will perform litter removal trials within Dudley's lousewort populations at the Portola Redwoods State Park Population. To determine the identity of seed dispersers and pollinators, a combination of time-standardized field observations and video recordings will be used during the flowering and fruiting season (mid-spring to mid-summer of 2019). Data will be collected from a single robust population in Portola Redwood State Park. To compliment video analysis, undergraduate student observers will perform time standardized observations of pollination and seed dispersal.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Benjamin Carter, Assistant Professor, San Jose State University

**Exempt Status:**

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


Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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**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-rare Dudley's lousewort. 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 Dudley's lousewort are not impacted.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Cherilyn Burton      Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 651-6508

**Signature:**   
Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

**Date:** May 6, 2019

Signed by Lead Agency      Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_