

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: Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution of Three Plant Families Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place throughout California at populations of the following state-listed species: McDonald's rockcress (*Arabis mcdonaldiana*), thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), Kaweah brodiaea (*Brodiaea insignis*), Chinese Camp brodiaea (*Brodiaea pallida*), California jewelflower (*Caulanthus californicus*), beach spectaclepod (*Dithyrea maritima*), Contra Costa wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum* var. *angustatum*), Menzies' wallflower (*Erysimum menziesii*), Santa Cruz wallflower (*Erysimum teretifolium*), California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), San Joaquin Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia inaequalis*), hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*), Sacramento Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia viscida*), Geysers panicum (*Panicum acuminatum* var. *thermale*), Tahoe yellow cress (*Rorripa subumbellata*), Tiburon jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *niger*), and Eureka Valley dune grass (*Swallenia alexandrae*). Genetic analysis will take place at Penn State University in University Park, Pennsylvania.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Dr. Hong Ma pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect a small amount of plant material from state-listed plant species for genetic analysis to help understand the biodiversity and evolution of three plant families: Brassicaceae (mustard family), Poaceae (grass family), and Themidaceae (brodiaea family). Collection will consist of taking one to two samples from one population of each species. Samples will consist of one to two plants or a small cutting (a small branch with some leaves and a few floral buds) from one to two plants, depending on the size of the population. Samples will only be taken from populations with a minimum of 50 individuals. Populations of each species will be located using online and herbarium information and through consultation with species experts. Samples will be preserved in silica gel and RNA/DNA extraction will take place at Penn State University.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Hong Ma, Professor of Biology, Penn State University

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 state-listed species are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

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

Signature:


Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date:

6/27/19

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

JUL 02 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE