

+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: *Astragalus claranus* Prescribed Burn Project (Project)

Project Location: Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve located at 2300 Calistoga Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to determine if prescribed burning in grasslands invaded by invasive plants such as medusahead (*Elymus caput-medusae*), goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*), and bearded-creeper (*Crupina vulgaris*) will decrease competition and serve to expand the adjacent population of the California endangered plant Clara Hunt's milkvetch (*Astragalus claranus*).

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Specialist, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District.

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 facilitate the recovery of the California endangered plant Clara Hunt's milkvetch by attempting to control invasive plant species and thatch that is likely preventing the species from producing large populations at the Project Location. The Project will likely increase the scientific understanding of land management techniques that may be used to benefit Clara Hunt's milkvetch. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Clara Hunt's milkvetch are not negatively impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jeb Bjerke

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension:(916) 651-6594

Signature: _____


Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: _____

January 22, 2020

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____