

**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:** Conservation Genomics of the Endangered *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* Project (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project will take place at five populations of *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* in San Diego County. Four populations are located on the Point Loma peninsula (California Natural Diversity Database [CNDDDB] element occurrence [EO] 12 [consisting of two populations] [32.695090, -117.243269], EO 13 [32.696093, -117.249056], and EO 14 [32.707480, -117.251138]) and one population is located within Torrey Pines State Natural Preserve Extension in Del Mar 9 (EO 16; 32.943871, -117.252018). Plant material will be exported to the Department of Plant and Soil Science laboratory at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas for genetic analyses.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit (Permit Number 2081(a)-20-007-RP) to Texas Tech University, Department of Plant and Soil Science pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect leaves and plant tissue samples from five populations of *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* for genetic analysis. Up to 30 plants will be selected at each population. Data on plant size and fitness will be collected from each of the selected plants, and four to five leaves will be removed from each plant. Additional leaves and small pieces of stems may be collected if necessary to yield 100 milligrams of fresh tissue for genetic analyses. Tissue samples will be transported to Texas Tech University for genetic analysis to identify the following: 1) whether allelic variation explains fitness of plants (local adaptation) across the study locations; (2) whether the same alleles govern size variation within and among populations; 3) whether plants at the Torrey Pines State Natural Preserve Extension in Del Mar (EO 16) are hybridizing with a closely related species, *Chorizanthe procumbens*, which co-occurs with *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* at this population; and 4) whether genetic diversity within populations is lower than the total diversity across all populations.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Jyotsna Sharma, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Science

**Exempt Status:**


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

**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 *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* are not impacted.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 376-8676

DocuSigned by:

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

**Date:** 4/17/2020

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_