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: Genomics of Three Fremontodendron Species Project (Project)

Project Location: The Genomics of Three Fremontodendron Species Project (Project) will take place at all accessible populations of *Fremondodendron decumbens* and *F. mexicanum* populations throughout California. Populations of these species are located in El Dorado, Nevada, Yuba, and San Diego Counties. Genetic analysis will take place at UC Davis in Yolo County or at a centralized sequencing center for the California Conservation Genomics Program.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden [Permit No. 2081(a)-20-011-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to collect vegetative material for DNA extraction and sequencing from two state-listed plant species, *Fremontodendron decumbens* (Pine Hill flannelbush) and *F. mexicanum* (Mexican flannelbush), and from the unlisted *Fremontodendron californicum* (California flannelbush). The Project is part of a larger project called the California Conservation Genomics Program, which is a multi-institutional project to assess the genomic variation in 150 species of vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants across the state of California. In summer 2020, a small number of leaves will be removed from 15-20 plants per population. DNA will be extracted from the leaf material and sequenced in the lab. The goal is to analyze genomic variation within and between the three *Fremontodendron* species and to analyze population genetic variation between populations. In addition, some populations of *Fremontodendron* contain individuals whose phenotypes do not fit cleanly into any of the currently described species, and this work could help resolve these taxonomic relationships.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Shannon Still, Director of Plant Conservation/Curator, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden

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 *Fremontodendron decumbens* and *F. mexicanum* are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

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DocuSigned by:

Isabel Baer

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

_____ Date: 7/7/2020

Signature:

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____