Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research P.O. 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: Chloropyron Range-Wide Survey and Genetic Diversity Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project will be conducted at all known and historic occurrences and habitat preferences across the known range of soft salty bird's-beak (Chloropyron molle ssp. molle), which includes Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma counties, Palmate salty bird's-beak (C. palmatum) will also be sampled for use as a genetic outgroup, and collections will be made from populations in the vicinity of soft salty bird's-beak occurrences. Voucher specimens will be collected from each population of soft salty bird's-beak and palmate salty bird's-beak that is sampled and will be submitted to the UC Davis Herbarium. Tissue samples will be temporarily stored during the field season at the USGS-WERC Davis Field Station in Davis, CA, then later transferred to the USGS-WERC San Diego Field Station Genetics Lab in San Diego, CA for DNA analysis.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the U.S. Geological Survey Western Ecological Research Center [Permit No. 2081(a)-20-019-RP] pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to: (1) survey current and historic locations of soft salty bird's-beak to assess the species' current distribution, and (2) collect tissue samples to perform genetic analyses to confirm species identity and assess genetic connectivity among populations by quantifying variation within and among populations.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Karen Tho Ecological Research Center	rne, Research Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey-Wester
Exempt Status:	
☐ Ministerial;	
☐ Declared Emergency;	
☐ Emergency Project;	
☐ Categorical Exemption. Type and section number	per: Section 15306 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7
knowledge of the species by allowing an investigation of a species identity. The permit issued by the California Depa measures to ensure that existing populations of soft salty negatively impacted by the Project.	artment of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes
Lead Agency Contact Person: Raffica La Rosa	Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 206-4502
Signature: Joanuary Docusigned by: Signature: Joanuary Docusigned by: Joanuary Docusigned by	Date: 3/26/2021
☐ Signed by Lead Agency Date Re	eceived for filing at OPR: