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: The Santa Cruz Tarplant Assessment Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place at selected population sites within Santa Cruz, Contra Costa, and Monterey counties. The perspective population sites include Arana Gulch, De Layeaga Santa Cruz Armory, Porter Ranch, Struv Slough/Tarplant Hill, Watsonville Airport, Santa Cruz Gardens, Upper Belgum/Belgum Cable/Belgum Fence/Upper Mezue, and Lower Harvey/Mezue. Germination experiments will take place at the greenhouse facility located at 1116 16th street in Oakland, CA in Alameda County and the sub-soil samples will be analyzed at the UC Davis Analytical Laboratory at 480 Sprocket Bikeway in Davis, CA in Yolo County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to LD Ford, Consultants in Rangeland Conservation Science (Permit No. 2081(a)-21-018-RP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to contribute information for a Santa Cruz tarplant species status assessment, 5-year review, and recovery plan under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Project activities include two parts: (1) a seed bank analysis and (2) a residual dry matter analysis. The seed bank analysis involves collecting soil and evaluating the seed bank from selected population sites by performing germination experiments. The species composition of the seed bank and rate of germination will be examined and compared across sites. The second part of the project activities will investigate the residual dry matter at selected population sites to test the relationships between ecological variables, vegetation, site management, and Santa Cruz tarplant presence and abundance. The residual dry matter experiment will evenly apply three treatments and a control to 1-m² guadrats. The treatments are: (1) one quarter of 1-m² quadrats will not be clipped to measure vegetation height (control), (2) one quarter will be clipped to 15 cm. (3) one guarter will be clipped to 5 cm, or (4) one guarter will be scraped to bare soil. In the spring and summer of 2022, the presence and abundance of Santa Cruz tarplant and all other plant species will be measured in each quadrat, and the percent cover of dominant three species, bare soil, and litter will be estimated.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lawrence Ford, Principal and Ser LD Ford, Consultant and Rangeland Conservation Science	nior Rangeland Conservation Scientist,
Exempt Status:	
☐ Ministerial;	
☐ Declared Emergency;	
☐ Emergency Project;	
□ Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Sections 1530	6 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7
Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of basic data collect evaluation activities for <i>Holocarpha macradenia</i> , and will facilitate the recover invasive species. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and measures to ensure that existing populations of <i>Holocarpha macradenia</i> are	ery of Santa Cruz tarplant by controlling Wildlife for the Project includes
Lead Agency Contact Person: Jeb Bjerke Area Code/Teleph	none/ Extension: (916) 720-1232
Signature: DocuSigned by: Signature: Si	9/29/2021
☐ Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for filing at C	OPR: