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: Quail Hollow North Ridge Conservation Area Santa Cruz Wallflower Enhancement Project (Project), California Department of Fish and Wildlife Permit No. 2081(a)-22-007-RP

Project Location: The Project will take place within the North Ridge Conservation Area (37.07948, -122.06367) of Quail Hollow Quarry near the town of Felton in Santa Cruz County.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Dr. Jodi McGraw pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to enhance and restore Santa Cruz wallflower (Erysimum teretifolium) within a one-acre area of the North Ridge Conservation Area. The enhancement project is a requirement of a 50-year Incidental Take Permit issued to the Granite Rock Company for mining activities at the Quail Hollow Quarry (Permit No. 2081-1998-32-3) and requires enhancement, protection, and management of Quail Hollow Quarry areas to benefit Santa Cruz wallflower and other federally protected species. In 2018, CDFW issued Permit No. 2081(a)-18-008-RP to collect and store Santa Cruz wallflower seeds from Quail Hollow Quarry until an enhancement plan was developed. In 2019, Permit No. 2081(a)-19-013-RP was issued to broadcast seeds into a 0.13 treatment area of the South Ridge Conservation Area and to collect additional seed (Permit No. 2081(a)-19-013 Amendment 1). This project would authorize use of seed collected under Permit No. 2081(a)-19-013-RP to enhance and restore Santa Cruz Wallflower within the North Ridge Conservation Area. Areas will first be cleared of exotic plants and litter using bulldozer disturbance. Following site preparation, Santa Cruz wallflower seed will be mixed with an inert carrier and broadcast by hand in 2022 and 2023. Ten permanent quadrats will be located within the seeding treatment area to compare data with ten reference plots established in adjacent, undisturbed habitat areas. Plots will be monitored bi-annually for a total of five years. Reconnaissance monitoring will assess overall conditions, need for retreatment and to detect any invasive species management issues. Distribution of Santa Cruz wallflower will be mapped in 2024 as part of the areal extant mapping effort conducted every three and seven years. Between four to eight photo monitoring points will be established to capture pre- and post-treatment conditions. Fall and spring photo data will be collected annually beginning in 2022. The total number of reproductive Santa Cruz wallflowers will be censused annually each spring (late April-early May).

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

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Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr.	Jodi McGraw, Jodi McGraw Consulting
Exempt Status:	
☐ Ministerial;	
☐ Declared Emergency;	
☐ Emergency Project;	
□ Categorical Exemption. Type and sec	ction number: Sections 15306 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7
management, and resource evaluation activities	consists of basic data collection, research, experimental and actions to restore and enhance populations of endangered California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes Santa Cruz wallflower are not impacted.
Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty	Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574
Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A998313D86442, Native Plant Progr	Date: 9/26/2022
Signed by Lead Agency	Date Received for filing at OPR: