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: Characterizing *Lasthenia* Adaptive Genetic Variation and Distribution (Project) California Department of Fish and Wildlife Permit No. 2081(a)-22-001-RP

Project Location: The Project will take place at Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge Warm Springs (37.483999, -121.97240) in Alameda County, Noonan Ranch (38.295362, -121.95166) in Contra Costa County, Konocti Camp (38.926714, -122.719574) in Lake County, Suscol Creek (38.24339, -122.2681) in Napa County, and Sonoma County Airport (38.514904, -122.806707) and Bravo Toro (38.426087, -122.813269) in Sonoma County. Genotype sequencing and greenhouse experimental activities will be conducted at the University of Colorado Boulder (40.0076, -105.2659).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Dr. Nancy Emery pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project that combines transplant and greenhouse experiments with genetic sequencing to characterize the distribution of adaptive genetic variation in *Lasthenia burkei* and *Lasthenia conjugens*. Data from the project will be used to design seed sourcing strategies to maximize the adaptation potential of restored populations and serve as a case study to inform strategies for restoration success. Seeds will be collected in spring 2023 from three vernal pool populations of *L. burkei* and *L. conjugens*. Entire plants with mature seed heads will be collected from up to one hundred maternal plants at each site, not to exceed three percent of the total population. In November of 2022 and 2023, seed of *L. burkei* and *L. conjugens* will be transplanted into constructed vernal pools at Sonoma Area Consolidated Mitigation Area and Noonan Ranch Mitigation Site, respectively. Five seed mix treatments will be generated and placed in rows at four micro elevations to capture hydrological conditions ranging from extreme flooding to severe drought. Plants will be monitored throughout each growing season to quantify response during germination, post-flooding survival, flowering, and seed set. The Project will also investigate the role of genetic diversity in adaptation to extreme climate conditions through a controlled greenhouse experiment and will use DNA sequencing to characterize population genomic structure across the full geographic range of both species over three consecutive generations.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Nancy	Emery, University of Colorado Boulder
Exempt Status:	
☐ Ministerial;	
☐ Declared Emergency;	
☐ Emergency Project;	
□ Categorical Exemption. Type and section n	umber: Sections 15306 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7
Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consis management, resource evaluation activities and action Lasthenia burkei. The permit issued by the California measures to ensure that existing populations of Lasth	ns to restore and enhance populations of endangered Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes
Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty	Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-457
Signature: 26A998313D86442, Native Plant Program M	Date: 10/25/2022
☐ Signed by Lead Agency Date	e Received for filing at OPR: