

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: Restoration and Management of North Coast Semaphore Grass Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project is located in Mendocino, County within the Willits Bypass Mitigation Lands in Willits, California. Three parcels have been selected for seed collection and dispersal of North Coast semaphore grass (*Pleuropogon hooverianus*): Lusher, Arkelian, and Goss. Seed will be dried and stored at the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District's seed storage facility located at their field office in Willits.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to restore and manage known populations of North Coast semaphore grass. Project activities include seed collection and sowing, and habitat restoration at the Lusher, Arkelian, and Goss parcels. Up to five percent of the seed production will be collected from fifty percent of the North Coast semaphore grass stands. Seed will be collected annually for five years in early June through mid-July and will be dried and stored in a cool, dry, dark place at the MCRCD's seed storage facility for approximately four months. Seeds will be broadcast at the populations they were collected from in November of the same year they were collected. In addition to seeding, habitat enhancement will take place each year when the North Coast semaphore grass is dormant (August to September). Himalayan blackberry will be removed by hand and through mowing, and Harding grass will be removed through targeted cattle and goat grazing, and mowing. The populations will be monitored and mapped annually to identify population expansion trends.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Christopher Bartow, Land Manager, MCRCD

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 7, Class 15307

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will involve actions to assure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of populations of the state-threatened North Coast semaphore grass. The Project 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 North Coast semaphore grass are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 651-6508

Signature: 
Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date: 6/18/2019

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 20 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE