Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
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: Morro Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*) Restoration Project

Project Location: The Project will take place in Montaña de Oro State Park (MDOSP), San Luis Obispo County. Restoration plots are located within areas of eucalyptus removal and adjacent maritime chaparral, as mapped in the San Luis Obispo Coast District's Native Habitat Restoration Plots. Propagation will occur at the San Luis Obispo Coast District greenhouse in Morro Bay State Park.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Luis Obispo Coast District (Permit No. 2081(a)-25-015-RP) for a project to collect Morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*) seed for propagation and outplanting in Montaña de Oro State Park (MDOSP). Up to 200 fruits from wild populations of Morro manzanita within MDOSP will be collected annually in late fall when fruits are mature. No more than five percent of available seed from individual plants or populations will be collected within any given year. Collected fruit will be subjected to fire-simulation scarification and seedlings propagated in the State Parks greenhouse will be transplanted into one-gallon pots prior to outplanting. Each rainy season up to 50 Morro manzanita plants may be outplanted in restoration plots adjacent to established wild populations. Restoration efforts will also include planting associated native species such as coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), and lupine (*Lupinus* spp.) to promote maritime chaparral recovery. The project will occur over a five-year cycle from 2025 through 2030, with annual monitoring and progress reports submitted to CDFW.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dan Falat, San Luis Obispo Coast District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and Recreation

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial;
- ☐ Declared Emergency;
- ☐ Emergency Project;
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Class 6

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will support recovery of Morro manzanita, which is a candidate for CESA listing, by propagating and outplanting plants to restore suitable maritime chaparral habitat in Montaña de Oro State Park. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Morro manzanita are adequately protected and that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joanne Heraty Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574

Signature: DocuSigned by: 36A9D83713DB442... **Date:** 10/28/2025

Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

☐ Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for filing at OPR: _____