

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: University of California Santa Cruz Greenhouses Activities Involving State-Listed Plants (Project)

Project Location: Project activities will take place at the Thimann Labs Building, the Sinsheimer Labs Building, and the Interdisciplinary Sciences Building located at 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, California, and at the greenhouse facilities located at 143 McAllister Way, Santa Cruz, California, which are collectively recognized as the University of California Santa Cruz Greenhouses.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act and Native Plant Protection Act scientific, educational, or management permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (a), and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 786.9, subdivision (c) to the University of California Santa Cruz Greenhouses (Permit No. 2081(a)-25-018-RP) for the following activities involving state-listed plant species: (1) seed processing, viability testing, and related research; (2) long-term conservation storage of seed and plant material; (3) receipt and propagation of seed and plant material for the purposes of long-term conservation storage, bulking, conservation and restoration related research and recovery, genomic analyses, and living collections; (4) transfer of seed and plant material for restoration or management purposes with prior written approval from CDFW; and (5) maintenance of plants in the University of California Santa Cruz Greenhouses.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sylvie Childress, Director, University of California Santa Cruz Greenhouses

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Sections 15306 and 15307, Classes 6 and 7

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of basic research and management activities to ensure the conservation, restoration, and recovery of state-listed plant species. The permit issued by CDFW for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of state-listed plants are adequately protected.

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

Signature: DocuSigned by:
Cristin Walters signing for Isabel Baer **Date:** 2/20/2026
 Isabel Baer, Habitat Conservation Planning Branch Manager

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