

## 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:** *Eriogonum* Phylogenetic Study (Project)

**Project Location:** The Project may occur in Ventura and Amador counties at all known extant occurrences of lone buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*), Irish Hill buckwheat (*Eriogonum apricum* var. *prostratum*), and San Nicolas Island buckwheat (*Eriogonum grande* var. *timorum*) in California. DNA extraction, herbarium specimen storage, and/or long-term conservation seed storage may occur at the following locations: (1) California Botanic Garden laboratory and herbarium facilities in Claremont, CA; (2) University of California Riverside Genomics Core Facility in Riverside, CA; (3) University of California Berkeley Jepson Herbarium in Berkeley, CA; and (4) California State University Chico Ahart Herbarium in Chico, CA.

**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 Charles Boissavy (Permit No. 2081(a)-26-008-RP) for a project to collect lone buckwheat, Irish Hill buckwheat, and San Nicolas Island buckwheat plant tissue, voucher specimens, and seed for a phylogenetic study investigating trait diversification and biogeographic adaptations in *Eriogonum*. Between 2026 and 2027, up to five leaves will be collected for DNA analysis from at least one population each of lone buckwheat, Irish Hill buckwheat, and San Nicolas Island buckwheat. Additional populations may also be sampled, with up to five leaf samples collected from each population. Three to four involucres will be collected from each population for color analysis. Stem segments, flowers, and fruits (when present) will be collected from up to two individuals per population and preserved in liquid for morphological and anatomical analyses. One voucher specimen of lone buckwheat and San Nicholas Island buckwheat will be collected from each population visited. Up to five percent of the available seed will be collected from visited Irish Hill buckwheat occurrences for long-term conservation storage at the California Botanic Garden seed bank. All leaf tissue will be silica-dried in the field prior to DNA extraction and analysis. Microscope slides of leaf tissue will be prepared for each taxon to compare micromorphology of leaves between taxa. Resulting data will provide an understanding of the diversification and adaptation of *Eriogonum*, relatedness and gene flow between populations, and genetic diversity to support species recovery and conservation efforts.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Charles Boissavy, Doctoral Student, California Botanic Garden

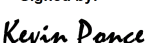
**Exempt Status:**

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

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project consists of basic research and data collection activities to support conservation and recovery efforts of three state-listed endangered plants: lone buckwheat, Irish Hill buckwheat, and San Nicolas Island buckwheat. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of these three species are adequately protected.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Joanne Heraty

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 594-4574

**Signature:**   
Kevin Ponce, Native Plant Program Manager

**Date:** 9/4/2026

☐ Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_