

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: Experimental Introduction of Palmate-bracted Bird's-beak at Lin Livermore Conservation Area (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place in Alameda County at the Center for Natural Lands Management's Dublin Ranch Lin Livermore Conservation Area (LLCA) Preserve (37.74715, -121.74387) located north of the Springtown Alkali Sink near Livermore, California. Donor seed may be collected from two privately owned parcels located approximately two miles south of LLCA that are directly adjacent to the palmate-bracted bird's-beak's Springtown population recognized as California Natural Diversity Database Element Occurrence 10.

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 Center for Natural Lands Management (Permit No. 2081(a)-26-0004-RP for a project to conduct an experimental introduction of palmate-bracted bird's-beak into suitable habitat within the LLCA with the goal of establishing a new self-sustaining population. If successful, the Project would increase the number of known populations and contribute to the conservation and recovery of the species by supporting the Population Stability criterion identified in the species' recovery plan (USFWS 2009). Up to five percent of donor seed may be collected between September and November 2026 from occupied habitat on two parcels located approximately two miles south of the LLCA. Collected seed will be dispersed into suitable habitat on LLCA following the onset of seasonal rains. Seasonal grazing occurs in a portion of the area proposed for seed distribution. Managed grazing is considered compatible with palmate-bracted bird's-beak and will continue after introduction events. Weed management within the introduction site may be incorporated into existing habitat management plans and may include weed control by hand or hand tools, weed whackers, mowers, and, if necessary, herbicide application. Seeded areas will be monitored for germination and abundance in the summer following introduction, and any established population will be mapped. If the introduction is successful, monitoring is expected to continue annually for the duration of the permit.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Deborah Rogers, Director of Conservation Science and Stewardship, Center for Natural Lands Management

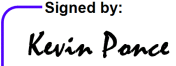
Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial;
- ☐ Declared Emergency;
- ☐ Emergency Project;
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Class 6, and 15307, Class 7

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of experimental management and resource evaluation activities to enhance existing populations of the California endangered palmate-bracted bird's-beak. The permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure the existing populations of palmate-bracted bird's-beak 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: _____