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: San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Activities Involving State-Listed Plants (Project)

Project Location: Collection activities for the Project will take place at wild populations of state-listed plants in California. Collected seed will be cleaned and tested at the Botanical Conservation building at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park located at 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027. Long-term storage of seed will take place in freezers located at the nearby Beckman Center building at 15600 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, CA 92027. Voucher specimens of state-listed plants will also be stored in the Beckman Center building, with duplicate voucher specimens stored at the San Diego Natural History Museum located at 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a California Endangered Species Act, Native Plant Protection Act, and Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act scientific, educational, or management permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (a) and 1927, subdivision (h), and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 786.9, subdivision (c) to the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (Permit No. 2081(a)-26-002-RP) for the following activities involving state-listed plant species: (1) Collection of voucher specimens; (2) Storage of voucher specimens and maintenance of an herbarium; (3) Seed collection from wild populations for long-term conservation storage following Center for Plant Conservation guidelines; (4) Seed processing, viability testing, and related research; (5) Receipt and transfer of seeds and plant material between research institutions and Center for Plant Conservation recognized partners for long-term conservation storage, seed bulking experimental trials, conservation and restoration related research, genomic analysis, and living collection purposes; (6) Long-term conservation storage of seeds; (7) Propagation of plants to produce seeds for long-term conservation storage; (8) Propagation of plants to produce seed, plants, and plant parts to support in-situ conservation efforts such as restoration and re-introduction; (9) Micropropagation of plants for long-term cryopreservation storage; (10) Transfer of seeds and plant material for restoration or management purposes with prior written authorization from CDFW per the Requesting CDFW Authorization Condition of Approval, below; (11) Export of backup seed collections to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Laboratory for Genetic Resource Preservation; (12) Collection of small amounts of tissue for genetic analyses; (13) Import of seed for long-term conservation storage; and (14) Maintenance of plants in the living collections of the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance display gardens.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Shawn Dixon, CEO, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project consists of basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that will facilitate the conservation 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: Signed by: Kevin Ponce 8F38FB9A81FC46D... **Date:** 11/2/2026

Kevin Ponce, Native Plant Program Manager

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