

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO 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: Antioch Dunes Evening-Primrose (*Oenothera deltooides* ssp. *howellii*) Survey and Genetic Analysis Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project will take place at the 10 element occurrences listed for the species in the California Natural Diversity Database. These locations include the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge and other locations in Contra Costa and Sacramento Counties. Other potential parcels may be identified and surveyed for Antioch Dunes evening-primrose as part of the Project. DNA analysis will take place at the San Diego Field Station of the USGS Western Ecological Research Center located at 4164 Spruance Road, Suite 200, in San Diego, California.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081(a) for a project to identify and survey known and potential occurrence locations of Antioch Dunes evening-primrose, characterize habitat, and conduct genetic analysis. A comprehensive literature review will be conducted to document known locations and potential locations within the known range of this species, and systematic surveys will be conducted in these areas. In addition, habitat will be characterized at a subset of occupied locations which will include soil texture and salinity characterization and vegetation surveys. Genetic analysis will also be conducted to determine population structure among sites and diversity within sites. To accomplish this, a small amount of leaf material will be collected from up to 20 individual plants per occurrence, and standard protocols will be used for DNA extraction.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Karen Thorne, Ph.D., Research Ecologist, USGS

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will involve data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, and actions to assure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of populations of the state-endangered Antioch Dunes evening-primrose. The Project will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The Permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Project includes measures to ensure that existing populations of Antioch Dunes evening-primrose are not impacted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cherilyn Burton

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (916) 651-6508

Signature:


Isabel Baer, Native Plant Program Manager

Date:

7/10/19

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
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