

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Project Title: San Francisco Bay RMP Priority Margin Unit PCB Study

Project Location: San Francisco Bay – Steinberger Slough and Redwood Creek

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Moss Landing Marine Laboratory – Marine Pollution Studies Lab (MLML) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) to sample fish at Steinberger Slough and Redwood Creek within San Francisco Bay for the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Plan Priority Margin Unit PCB Study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the MLML to incidentally take Longfin Smelt during the course of its sampling subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of assess the spatial distribution of PCBs in surface sediment and prey fish in priority margin units (PMUs) in the Bay to evaluate the response of these nearshore areas to reductions in PCB loading from adjoining watersheds. Covered methods of take are limited to a beach seine, cast net, fish trap, and otter trawl.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Marco Sigala, Principal Investigator, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories – Marine Pollution Studies Lab.

Exempt Status:

Ministerial;

Declared Emergency;

Emergency Project;

Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Information Collection, Class 6.

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves research and the collection of information pertaining to management and human health which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt, *Spirinchus thaleichthys*, a threatened species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (707) 576-2878

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 2/18/2022 _____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____