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: Upper Los Cerritos Wetlands Mitigation Bank Study

Project Location: San Gabriel River Mouth (33.764426°, -118.107252°)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Nicholas J. Brinton pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus)* the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is to assist in determining the success of habitat restoration at the Upper Los Cerritos Mitigation Bank by providing the Bank with fish and invertebrate data. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of estuarine fishes and invertebrates, through the use of beach seines through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nicholas J. Brinton

Exempt Status:

☐ Ministerial;

☐ Declared Emergency;

☐ Emergency Project;

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Calif. Code Regs., § 15306, Information Collection, Class 6

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves research sampling within the San Gabriel River mouth for fish and invertebrates which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep **Telephone:** (707) 317-3924

Signature: _____ **Date:** 12/20/23
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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