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: Educational Display of California Marine Habitats at Steinhart Aquarium, Cal Academy of Sciences

Project Location: Statewide (collections will primarily occur in the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Sonoma, Marin, Santa Cruz, Monterey)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California Academy of Sciences pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*); Sacramento river winter run ESU, Central Valley spring run ESU, and Upper Klamath/Trinity rivers spring run ESU Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)*; Central California Coast ESU and Southern Oregon/Northern California ESU coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch)*; Northern California summer run, and Southern California DPS steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*); delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the California Academy of Sciences permanent collections for Steinhart Aquarium. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture longfin smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and delta smelt during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round permanent collection sampling of marine fishes, marine/tidal invertebrates, and marine aquatic plants by way of hook & line – surface, hook & line – baited dropper loop, hook & line – baited shrimp fly, hook & line – lingcod bar, hook & line – swimbait, fish trap, beach seine, purse seine, fence net, light trap, and plankton net through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bart Shepherd, California Academy of Sciences

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 permanent collection sampling within nearshore and offshore waters Statewide which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, or delta smelt which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

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

Signature: _____ **Date:** ___**1/2/2024**_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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