

**Notice of Exemption**

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**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:** SONGS Mitigation Monitoring Program – Performance of Wheeler North Reef

**Project Location:** Nearshore waters of San Diego and Orange Counties

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the University of California, Santa Barbara pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the University of California, Santa Barbara’s long-term monitoring and performance evaluation of the Wheeler North Reef as required by Condition C of the Southern California Edison’s coastal building permit. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of fish and invertebrate species through the use of hook & line – surface through December 31, 2025.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** David Huang, University of California, Santa Barbara


**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 monitoring sampling within nearshore waters of San Diego and Orange Counties which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to steelhead trout which are listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Dylan Inskeep

**Telephone:** (707) 317-3924

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 4/9/2024  
*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_