

## 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:** Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharge Bioaccumulation Monitoring in Benthic Invertebrates, *Mytilus* sp., and sportfish for Los Angeles County NPDES Stormwater Permit Compliance

**Project Location:** Los Angeles County (Ballona Creek/Marina Del Rey; Ballona Wetlands; Los Angeles Harbor)

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the City of Los Angeles – Bureau of Sanitation – Watershed Protection Division 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*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the City of Los Angeles' in order to fulfil the legal monitoring requirements that are defined in the Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs (CIMP) for Ballona Creek, Dominguez Channel, and Upper Los Angeles River, as promulgated by the Los Angeles County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Order R4-2021-0105 under the purview of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of nearshore invertebrate and sportfish species through the use of hook & line – surface, beach seines, and cast nets through December 31, 2026.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Clifford Shum, City of Los Angeles – Bureau of Sanitation – Watershed Protection Division


**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 monitoring sampling within Ballona Creek/ Marine Del Rey, Ballona Wetlands, and Los Angeles Harbor within Los Angeles County 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:** 5/2/2024  
*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

Signed by Lead Agency

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