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: Population Genomic and Physiology of Longjaw Mudsucker (*Gillichthys mirabilis*)

Project Location: San Luis Obispo County (Morro Bay Estuary); Santa Barbara County (Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park); Ventura County (Mugu Lagoon); Los Angeles County (Malibu Lagoon State Beach; Alamitos Bay); Orange County (Seal Beach NWR; Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve); San Diego County (Los Penasquitos Lagoonl; Mission Bay; San Diego Bay NWR – Sweetwater Marsh; Tijuana River Estuary); San Francisco Bay (entire)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the University of California, Santa Cruz Bernardi Lab pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), and 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 study of longjaw mudsucker (*Gillichthys mirabilis*) population genomics and physiology within California. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon, Chinook salmon, longfin smelt, Delta smelt, and steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of longjaw mudsuckers through the use of beach seines and fish traps through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Allyson C. Sawkins, University of California, Santa Cruz Bernardi Lab

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 of longjaw mudsucker which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to coho salmon, Chinook salmon, longfin smelt, Delta smelt, or steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

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

Signature: _____ **Date:** __**5/11/2024**_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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