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: VenturaWaterPure Project Pre-construction Assessment Program

Project Location: Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the City of Ventura 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 Ventura's VenturaWaterPure Project's Pre-construction Assessment Program. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling of estuarine fishes using beach seines through December 31, 2026.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sarah Mulder, City of Ventura

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 Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve 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:** ___**10/21/2024**_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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