

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: Monitoring of Fish, Invertebrates, and Bird species at Two Constructed Tidal Wetlands in South San Diego Bay and Associated Reference Wetlands in the Southern California Bight

Project Location: Tidal wetland locations in the counties of San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, and Santa Barbara

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation 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 California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, in partnership with the California Coastal Commission, to conduct environmental monitoring for the Otay River Estuary Restoration Project. The applicant will conduct year-round research of tidal wetland fishes, invertebrates, and bird species using beach seines, barrier nets, and fence nets through December 31, 2026.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Laurie Koteen, California Marine Sanctuary Foundation


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 tidal wetlands in the counties of San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, and Santa Barbara 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:** 12/30/2024
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____