

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:**

Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812

**FROM:**

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
1001 I Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER:**

**PROJECT NUMBER:** D2212205

**PROJECT TITLE:** Monitoring rocky intertidal habitats in the Santa Monica Bay to support Habitat Assessments

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Sequit Point 34° 2'35.64"N 118°56'13.23"W Leo Carrillo 34° 2'39.06"N 118°56'0.41"W

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Our ecological monitoring project will assess effectiveness of management actions on rocky shores within Santa Monica Bay. We propose to a) quantify the extent of rocky intertidal habitat in SMB using aerial surveys, b) generate maps of projected habitat loss with sea level rise c) generate indices of landslide risk for rocky intertidal benches, update and expand coverage of Multi-agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) d) Long-Term Monitoring and e) Biodiversity surveys in SMB f) conduct surveys to detect invasive species and diseased individuals g) quantify patterns of human use and h) characterize temperatures during high and low tide to assess warming trends. Our data will be available to the public and incorporated into the next State of the Bay report. Beneficiaries are managers and stakeholders.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT AND CARRYING OUT PROJECT:** The State Water Board has approved funding for the Project described above on 12/18/24 and determined that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The City of Culver City will be carrying out the Project.

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION STATUS:**

California Code of Regulations, Section 15301 Class 6 Information Collection

**STATUTORY EXEMPTION STATUS:**

**REASON WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** We are using observational data collection protocols established by the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe –

pacificrockyintertidal.org), a collaborative that monitors rocky intertidal habitats at roughly 75 sites along the California coast. MARINE groups have been monitoring rocky intertidal shores since the mid-1990s using the methods proposed for this project. The proposed surveys have been conducted in multiple locations, and have never been deemed to have an environmental impact. In the over 20 years during which these survey methods have been utilized along the entire California coast, none have never required EIRs or mitigation.

**LEAD AGENCY:** State Water Resources Control Board

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Luke Ginger

**PHONE NUMBER:** 213-576-6738

A record of financing approval for the Project is available to the general public at the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance at 1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Pursuant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Code, Section 711.4(d)(1), the CDFW environmental review filing fees do not apply to exempt projects.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 12/18/24

Name: Luke Ginger

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist Phone: 213-576-6736