

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Project Title: MBC Marine Sampling

Project Location: Nearshore waters of the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the MBC Aquatic Sciences 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*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the MBC Aquatic Sciences research study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling of nearshore marine species through the use of bottom trawling through December 31, 2028.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Shane Beck, MBC Aquatic Sciences

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 nearshore waters of the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego 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: Claire Waggoner **Date:** August 7, 2025
Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____