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: NPDES Monitoring at Two Ocean Outfalls operated by Southern Orange County Water Authority (SOCWA)

Project Location: Nearshore Orange County waters (Aliso Creak Mouth & San Juan Creek Mouth)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Six Scientific Service 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)* during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the Six Scientific Service's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) monitoring study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct NPDES sampling of nearshore marine species through the use of bottom trawls and hook & line – surface through December 31, 2028.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Christopher Clark, Six Scientific Service

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 NPDES monitoring sampling within nearshore waters of Orange County which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

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

Signature: CLAIRE WAGGONER **Date: 10/22/2025**
Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

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