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: Biological Monitoring of Fishes & Invertebrates in Southern San Diego County Bays & Lagoons

Project Location: San Diego County (Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, Mission Bay, San Diego Bay, Tijuana River Estuary, and Border Field State Park)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve 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 Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve's long-term monitoring programs. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct research sampling of nearshore marine and estuarine species year round through the use of purse seines and fish traps through December 31, 2028.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jeffrey Crooks, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

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 and estuarine waters of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, Mission Bay, San Diego Bay, Tijuana River Estuary, and Border Field State Park 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:** 11/4/2025

Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

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