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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

File Ref.: I5179

Title: Letter of Non-Objection for Kelp Recovery Research

Location: Albion Cove, Big River, and Noyo Harbor, Mendocino County

Description: Authorize purple urchin harvesting by hand or trap in line, kelp seeding and outplanting, and placement of Array to Recover Kelp Ecosystem Vegetation (ARKEV) modules. Up to 20 ARKEV modules would be deployed at Albion Cove, and up to 60 ARKEV modules would be deployed at Big River and Noyo Harbor. The modules would be deployed for a maximum of 7 months and all modules would be removed at the end of deployment.

Name of Approving Public Agency: California State Lands Commission

Name of Proponent (Person or Agency): The Nature Conservancy

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption

- CLASS 6, INFORMATION COLLECTION (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 2905, subd. (e)(3))

Reasons for exemption:

Issuance of letter of non-objection for kelp recovery research activities will cause only a minor physical change in the environment and will not change existing activities in the area. There is no reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Therefore, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and the above categorical exemption applies.

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