

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
1700 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Project Title: Display of Marine Life for Educational Purposes at Central Coast Aquarium in Avila Beach, California

Project Location: Nearshore waters of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties (Avila Beach & Pier; Bluff Trail (Avila Beach to Shell Beach); Harford Pier; Shell Beach; Pismo Beach Pier; Cayucos Beach; City of Morro Bay; Cambria; San Simeon; Morro Bay Estuary; Morro Bay SMRMA; Montana de Oro State Park; Refugio State Beach; Santa Barbara Harbor)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Central Coast Aquarium pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and 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 Central Coast Aquarium's permanent collections. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round permanent collection sampling of nearshore marine species using hook & line – surface, hook & line – squid jig, hook & line – baited dropper loop, bottom trawl, fish trap, and baited remote underwater videos (BRUV) through December 31, 2029.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tatum Schneider, Central Coast Aquarium

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 permanent collection sampling within nearshore waters of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. The Project will not result in a serious or major disturbance to coho salmon, Chinook salmon, or steelhead trout listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature:



Date: 9/17/2026

Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

☐ Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____