

18 December 2023

Ms. Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits and Conservation Division Office of Protected Resources National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225

> Re: Permit Application No. 27514 (Heather E. Liwanag, Ph.D., California Polytechnic State University)

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the Commission), in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit application with regard to the humaneness and *bona fide* criteria of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. <u>The Commission</u> believes that the proposed activities meet these requirements and <u>recommends</u> that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit, as requested. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D., Executive Director

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