

## OCWR CEQA PROJECTS STATUS

Updated on 3/20/25 by Leila Barker, CEQA and Habitat Manager

1. OCWR received 35 comment letters of which two (2) were from Regulatory Agencies that require additional studies be completed. These Regulatory Agencies included the following:
  - South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) -- requested additional information be provided as part of the emission baseline accounting and dispersion modeling. SCAQMD asked for detailed information to be provided to substantiate the finding of no significant impact to the project's Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions.
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) -- identified a new and potential significant impact to Crotch's Bumble Bee (CBB), a newly listed species not included in the original Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND).
2. CEQA Next Steps
  - Completion of additional emissions studies and air modeling to address the comments from SCAQMD.
  - A review of the potential new significant impact identified by CDFW will be conducted. This will necessitate protocol surveys be conducted which are currently underway and will be completed by May 2025. This "new" potential significant impact may necessitate inclusion of mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a level of less than significance. If protocol surveys identify CBB within the project boundary an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) will likely need to be obtained prior to construction.
  - As a result, the CEQA (IS/MND) document will need to be re-circulated for public comment for 30 days.
  - The surveys and re-circulation process are expected to push project approval until late Fall 2025 (dependent on the protocol survey results and whether an ITP will need to be issued by CDFW).