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To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Rd., San Diego, CA 92123
Contact: Jennifer Turner
Phone: (858) 539-9109
Email: Jennifer.Turner@wildlife.ca.gov

Lead Agency (if different than CDFW)
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine, CA 92618
Contact: Fiona Nye
Phone: (949) 453-5325
Email: Nye@irwd.com

SUBJECT: ***Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21108***
State Clearinghouse Number: 2019080009

Project Title: Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2025-033-05 (ITP))

Project Location (include county): The Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project (Project) is located at the existing Syphon Reservoir recycled water storage facility within the unincorporated County of Orange. The Project is located immediately adjacent to the City of Irvine, at approximately 33.710230, -117.731334.

Project Description: This proposed project involves replacing the existing 59-foot engineered dam at Syphon Reservoir with a new 138-foot engineered dam, to increase the recycled water storage capacity from the current 500 acre-feet to a total of 5,000 acre-feet. The new dam will include a spillway to protect the reservoir from overtopping, as well as a seepage control drainage system, and a circulation/aeration system for the reservoir.

The Project will result in impacts to 90.97 acres of Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) habitat including temporary impacts to 26.76 acres; the Project will permanently remove 64.21 acres of Crotch's bumble bee habitat. The project is expected to result in incidental take of Crotch's bumble bee, which is designated as a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act. The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as [☐ the lead agency / ☒ a responsible agency] approved the above-described project on 12/15/25 and made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project [☐ will / ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment (This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a responsible agency).

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2. [☒ An environmental impact report / ☐ A negative declaration] was prepared by the lead agency for the original project.
3. Additional mitigation measures [☒ were / ☐ were not] made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was / ☐ was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was / ☒ was not] adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings [☒ were / ☐ were not] made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a).
7. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
   - ☐ Payment is submitted with this notice.
   - ☒ A copy of a receipt showing prior payment was submitted to CDFW.

☒ Responsible Agency statement: The EIR prepared by the lead agency for the Project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the lead agency. CDFW's administrative record of proceedings related to the incidental take permit is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

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Signature _____ *Date:* 12/15/2025

Erinn Wilson-Olgin*, Regional Manager*

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____