

## OCWR CEQA PROJECTS STATUS

Updated on 12/23/24 by Leila Barker, CEQA and Habitat Manager

- FRB Renewable Natural Gas (RNG Project)** - The proposed RNG plant will be located at OCWR's Frank R. Bowerman (FRB) Landfill located at 11002 Bee Canyon Access Road. The Project involves the construction of an RNG processing plant and a new SoCal Gas pipeline connecting the processing plant to an existing SoCal Gas pipeline at the corner of Portola Parkway and Jeffrey Road. Bowerman Power is working with OC Waste & Recycling (OCWR) to develop the proposed RNG Plant at the FRB Landfill. The RNG Plant will be designed to process a portion of the excess LFG that has not been processed at the existing and on-site Bowerman Power Plant and would otherwise require incineration at the existing adjacent flare station and then deliver the processed RNG to SoCal Gas. Tetra Tech has been contracted to prepare the California Environmental Quality Act CEQA document on behalf of OCWR and an Initial Study (IS) /Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is currently in preparation. An application for an Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate for the proposed RNG Plant will be filed with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The issuance of the air permit is contingent upon a CEQA determination. The following provide the status of the CEQA document:

  - Kick-off Meeting held on 06/08/23
  - Project Description completed on 05/22/24
  - Draft IS/MND submitted to OCWR on 09/06/24 with review completed 09/20/24
  - Public Meeting held on 10/22/2024
  - Meeting with SCAQMD on CEQA Comments 12/20/24
  - Meeting with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on habitat Comments 1/20/25
  - Proposed Board approval scheduled for September 2025
- FRB Flare Master Plan** – OCWR has developed a Flare Master Plan at the FRB Landfill that is focused on improvements to the landfill gas management system to ensure compliance through buildout of the landfill. As part of this Flare Master Plan and as part of its compliance, OCWR is proposing flare modifications to existing flare system and the addition of new flares in the future through buildout. The existing Environmental Impact Report (EIR) 604 for development of the landfill anticipated expansion of the landfill gas system over time and includes up to 7 flares, but any additional flares are not covered by EIR 604. There is also an existing Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by SCAQMD for Proposed Rule (PR) 1118.1 that covers environmental impacts associated with flare replacements at FRB. Preliminary review of air quality emissions likely demonstrate that the proposed project would result in exceeding CEQA significance thresholds for emissions from SOx and CO for which the existing EIR 604 did not mitigate impacts. AECOM (Consultant) has been selected by OCWR to prepare a CEQA document to tier off the existing EIR 604, and the EA 1118. 1. Multiple applications for an Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate for the flare modifications and the new flares will be filed with SCAQMD. The issuance of the air permits is contingent upon a CEQA determination. The following provide the status of the CEQA document:

  - Notice to Proceed issued to AECOM on 5/14/24
  - Draft IS review completed on 09/14/24
  - Air Quality and GHG report completed and in review 12/17/24
  - Air Quality review meeting 01/06/25 to determine CEQA document

3. **Coyote Canyon Proposed Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Facility** – The City of Newport Beach (City) is the lead agency for the proposed project. Archaea Energy is proposing the installation and operation of a RNG processing plant and a pipeline interconnection facility (collectively referred to as the RNG facility) on a previously developed site within the boundary of the closed Coyote Canyon landfill which is owned and operated by OCWR. The proposed RNG facility would have a total footprint of 38,500 square feet (0.88 acres) and would convert existing landfill gas (LFG) into a pipeline-quality natural gas equivalent. The pipeline interconnection facility would be approximately 6,000 square feet, and the RNG processing plant would be approximately 32,500 square feet. The interconnection facility would include a point of receipt (POR) skid to monitor the quality of the RNG and an 8-inch pipeline extension dedicated to transfer the RNG from the POR to the existing fossil natural gas pipeline tie-in point in the western part of the site. Other project components include a new internal access routes and utility and infrastructure improvements. These improvements would include installation of a fire hydrant, an on-site water tank, a septic tank system for the proposed control room, a storm drain for off-site disposal of stormwater, and new underground power and telecommunication lines. Project implementation requires a conditional use permit (CUP) from the City. An Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate for the proposed RNG Plant shall be filed with SCAQMD. Issuance of the air permit is contingent upon CEQA approval. The following provides the status of the CEQA document:
- Notice to Proceed issued to PlaceWorks (Consultant) by the City on 7/25/23
  - Kick-off Meeting held 09/20/23
  - Final IS/MND submitted to OCWR 10/25/24
  - The 45-day public review period for the MND is 11/27/24- 1/13/ 2025.
  - The City’s Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for consideration on 2/20/25
4. **Prima Deshecha Landfill (PDL) Increase in Tonnage** – The proposed project is located at the Prima Deshecha landfill, located at 32250 Avenida La Pata, and access is provided by Interstate 5 (I-5), Ortega Highway (State Route 74 [SR-74]), and Avenida La Pata. The proposed project would increase the maximum amount of waste that the Landfill is able to accept on a daily basis from 4,000 tons per day (TPD) to 8,000 TPD. Waste would continue to be disposed of in existing areas of the Landfill that are designated for disposal. The proposed Project would also allow for up to 36 operational emergency days during which the 8,000 TPD limit could be exceeded. Such operational emergency days could occur in the event that another OCWR facility is temporarily closed, which could occur as a result of a freeway closure or other unforeseen events, necessitating diversion of waste to another landfill. The proposed increase in daily tonnage is anticipated to take place gradually, reaching the 8,000 TPD limit by 2030. A Subsequent EIR is being proposed by OCWR and LSA Associates has been contracted to prepare this CEQA document.
- The Notice of Preparation (NOP) was released for public review from 9/27/23 until 10/27/24
  - A In-person Public Scoping Meeting was held 10/4/24 at PDL
  - Technical studies were completed from 7/23 and completed 7/24
  - Informal consultation with transportation agencies and cities in currently in progress
  - Responding to public comments and preparation of Draft Subsequent EIR is currently in progress
  - 45-day Public Review of Draft Subsequent EIR estimated for Spring 2025
  - Adoption of Subsequent EIR estimated for Summer/Fall of 2025