



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Wildlife Branch
1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



July 16, 2019

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF STATUS REVIEW FOR FOUR BUMBLE BEE SPECIES

To whom it may concern:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has initiated status reviews for four species of bumble bees – Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Franklin bumble bee (*B. franklini*), Western bumble bee (*B. occidentalis occidentalis*), and Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (*B. suckleyi*) – pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.6 and is providing this notice pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.4 to solicit data and comments on the petitioned action from interested and affected parties.

The Department has initiated this status review following the Fish and Game Commission's (Commission) decision to accept for consideration the petition to list the species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) at its June 12, 2019 meeting. With notice published in Cal. Reg. Notice Reg. 2019, No. 26-Z, p. 954 (Fish & Game Code, § 2074.2), the Crotch bumble bee, Franklin bumble bee, Western bumble bee, and Suckley cuckoo bumble bee are now candidate species under CESA.

The Department has 12 months to review the petition, evaluate the available information, and report back to the Commission whether the petitioned actions are warranted. (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.6.) The Department's recommendations must be based on the best scientific information available to the Department (Fish & Game Code, § 2074.6.).

Anyone with data or comments on these four bumble bees' ecology, genetics, life history, distribution, abundance, habitat, the degree and immediacy of threats to reproduction or survival, adequacy of existing management, and recommendations for management of the species, is hereby requested to provide such data or comments to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attn: David Wright
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95811
wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov

Please submit two hard copies if submitting by surface mail. If submitting by email, please include "Bumble bees" in the subject heading.

Responses and information received by **August 16, 2019**, will be evaluated for incorporation in the Department's final reports to the Commission. The Department's written reports will indicate, based on the best scientific information available, whether the Department concludes that the petitioned action is warranted or not warranted. Receipt of the reports will be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Commission after delivery. The report will be made available to the public at that time. Following receipt of the Department's reports, the Commission will allow a 30-day public comment period prior to taking any action on the Department's recommendations.

As candidate species, Crotch bumble bee, Franklin bumble bee, Western bumble bee, and Suckley cuckoo bumble bee receive the same legal protection afforded to an endangered or threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2085). Research on any of the four bumble bees requires appropriate permits issued pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a). Detection information on any of these bumble bees should be sent to the California Natural Diversity Data Base at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>.

Interested researchers or anyone with questions may contact David Wright at the email or address above, or at 916-445-3406.