



## ENCINA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

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A Public Agency

6200 Avenida Encinas  
Carlsbad, CA 92011-1095  
Telephone (760) 438-3941  
FAX (760) 438-3861 (Plant)  
(760) 431-7493 (Admin)

June 16, 2023

Dear Resident:

Encina Wastewater Authority (Encina) is required by the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) to conduct periodic health risk assessments that evaluate air pollutants released from the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility located at 6200 Avenida Encinas.

You are receiving this letter because you live within an area predicted to have a chance of excess cancer risk slightly above the public notification threshold as a result of the 2017 facility operations.

This letter describes the nature and context of the potential impacts to help you evaluate the information in this required public notification.

### **Health Risk Assessment**

Health risk assessments provide an estimate of the chance that a person may experience a health effect from exposure to chemicals based on predictive computer modeling.

While any emission of toxic air pollutants is a concern to Encina, the estimated risk discussed in this notice is based on a person who resides in one location 24 hours a day, for 30 years, and is exposed to 2017 facility emission levels.

The health risk assessment used regulatory models that are designed to ensure impacts are not underestimated, for example the toxicity factors include safety and uncertainty factors to adjust the data from animal studies to humans.

Risk assessments cannot predict actual health risks or be used to determine if a particular health issue was caused by a chemical. Instead, they are used to support regulatory activities by comparing results to various threshold levels considered protective of human health.

### **Results of Health Risk Assessment**

The risk assessment conducted by the SDAPCD indicated that 14 residences may experience an excess cancer risk slightly greater than 10 in one million, up to 13.42 in a million due to Encina's wastewater operations. Cancer risk is the probability that a person might contract cancer if exposed to toxic chemical emissions from remaining at their property continuously for 30 years. A cancer risk of 1 in one million means that in a population of one million people, not more than one additional person would have the chance of developing cancer as the result of the exposure to the toxic air pollutant<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/health-risk-assessment>

To put this in perspective, the average Californian has a 720 in one million chance<sup>2</sup> of getting cancer due to the toxics in the ambient air, with the majority from diesel particulate matter emissions, and there is an approximately 400,000 in one million chance<sup>3</sup> due to all causes.

### **Emission Reduction Measures**

Encina controls emissions by implementing a Capital Improvement Program and ongoing maintenance programs that evaluate, upgrade, and replace equipment to protect air quality and treat odors from the Facility.

### **About Encina Wastewater Authority**

Encina provides essential public services treating up to 43 million gallons per day of wastewater from over 379,000 residents and businesses throughout a 125-square-mile service area. Encina is owned by six public agencies and governed by a Joint Powers Authority that includes the Cities of Carlsbad, Vista, and Encinitas as well as Buena Sanitation, Vallecitos Water, and Leucadia Wastewater Districts. The Facility houses complex processes and equipment that protects the local ocean environment, preserves public health, and provides valuable water resources for the region. It also has extensive systems for process odor control, electricity generation from treatment process gas (cogeneration), and biosolids processing that produces a high-quality fertilizer product that is beneficially used.

### **More Information**

If you would like further information about Encina's facility, please contact Ms. Alicia Appel at (760) 268-8861 or [AAppel@encinajpa.com](mailto:AAppel@encinajpa.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia Appel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alicia" and last name "Appel" clearly distinguishable.

Alicia Appel  
Director of Environmental Compliance  
Encina Wastewater Authority

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/health-risk-assessment>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/statistics>