



ENCINA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

A Public Agency

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June 3, 2022

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 a health protective estimate of the chance that a person may experience a health effect from exposure to chemicals based on computer modeling.

While any emission of toxic air pollutants is a concern to Encina, the estimated risk discussed in this notice is based on assuming a person 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.

While risk assessments can be used to estimate whether current or future chemical exposures can pose health risks to a broad population, they cannot predict actual health risks or be used to tell us if a particular health issue was caused by a chemical.

Results of Health Risk Assessment

The risk assessment conducted by the SDAPCD indicated that 14 residences may experience an excess cancer risk 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 an exposed 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 pollutant¹.

¹ <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 of getting cancer due to the toxics in the ambient air², with the majority from diesel particulate matter emissions, and there is an approximately 400,000 in one million chance due to all causes³.

Emission Reduction Measures

The health risk from Encina's 2017 emissions is below the significant cancer risk threshold of the District Rule 1210 for emissions that occurred prior to year 2018 and therefore, a risk reduction plan is not required at this time. 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.

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

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

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