



## ENCINA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

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A Public Agency

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May 30, 2025

Dear Business Owner:

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 your business is within an area predicted to have an acute health risk slightly above the public notification threshold as a result of the 2021 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 a worst-case scenario of 1-hour exposure to emissions. Since all sources could operate simultaneously, this scenario includes the maximum emissions from each source category even though they may not operate simultaneously.

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 approved by the SDAPCD indicated that a few businesses may experience short-term, non-cancer health impacts due to Encina's operations.

The public notification thresholds are set at a level designed to protect the most sensitive individuals in the population. If an acute risk is predicted to be equal to or greater than 1, this means there is a potential for a short-term (1-hour) health impact. The modeling predicted the maximum occupational acute risk to be 1.17.

The analysis used maximum simultaneous hourly emission rates from all sources in the analysis, even though all sources do not operate simultaneously or continuously.

## **Emission Reduction Measures**

As part of this Health Risk Assessment, Encina prepared a risk reduction plan that SDAPCD approved on April 22, 2025. Encina will reduce emissions by installing digester gas conditioning and oxidation catalysts on the four existing cogeneration engines and will conduct source testing to better evaluate facility emissions. Additionally, 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 36 million gallons per day of wastewater (average dry weather flow) 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 (442) 320-7018 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