



ENCINA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

A Public Agency

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

July 22, 2026

Dear Business Owner:

Encina Wastewater Authority (Encina) is providing this letter to supplement the information provided by the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) regarding the recently conducted Health Risk Assessment based on 2021 operations of the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility located at 6200 Avenida Encinas in Carlsbad.

Per SDAPCD Rule 1210 (d)(3)(v), please post or circulate the SDAPCD public notification letter for review by all onsite employees of your business. The SDAPCD letter can be posted onsite, mailed, or emailed to each employee that works onsite.

For more information regarding the SDAPCD's Air Toxics Hot Spots program, please contact the SDAPCD at 858-586-2600 or via email at APCDEngineering@sdapcd.org. For more information regarding the facility please contact Ms. Alicia Appel at (442) 320-7018 or AAppel@encinajpa.com with Encina Wastewater Authority.

Sincerely,

Alicia Appel
Encina Wastewater Authority



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July 21, 2026

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. Since approval of the Risk Reduction Plan, Encina has actively implemented measures to reduce potential health risks, including conducting source testing to the Odor Reduction Facilities (ORFs) to better characterize emissions from these systems demonstrating there are no ethylene dichloride (EDC) emissions and the overall TAC emissions are lower than the previous tests from the 1990s.

Encina has permitted the installation of a digester gas conditioning system and oxidation catalysts on all four existing cogeneration engines to reduce toxic emissions by more than 90%.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia Appel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia Appel
Director of Environmental Compliance
Encina Wastewater Authority