



San Diego County Air Pollution Control District

August 24, 2026

Dear Community Member:

This letter is to let you know that you live in an area that has potentially elevated health risks created by air toxic emissions from the following facility. The attached map shows the area of elevated health risks around this facility.

Facility Name: Encina Wastewater Authority
Address: 6200 Avenida Encinas, Carlsbad, CA 92011
Type of Business: Municipal Wastewater Treatment

State law¹ protects your right to know about possible health risks from stationary sources² of air pollution in your neighborhood by requiring the facilities which create elevated health risks to notify you. The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) is responsible for requiring public notifications and risk reduction from such facilities per SDAPCD Rule 1210³.

SDAPCD required a health risk assessment from Encina Wastewater Authority (Encina) based on their air toxic emissions from 2021. That health risk assessment shows that, in 2021, Encina released air toxic emissions, primarily formaldehyde from operating engines to produce heat and electrical power (cogeneration) by burning renewable fuel (digester gas) that is generated during the treatment of wastewater at this facility, that could increase the chances of developing cancer for people who live in the area by 16.0 in one million. (This represents the highest chance of developing cancer if a person is living at the same property and exposed to the emissions for 30 years).

In addition to cancer risk, the health risk assessment shows that the air toxic emissions from 2021, primarily formaldehyde from operation of the digester gas fired cogeneration engines, could cause other negative health effects. Specifically, the Health Risk Assessment shows the *Maximum Residential Acute Health Hazard Index (HHI)* for their 2021 emissions was 1.01. A hazard index above one indicates the

¹ Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act of 1987, Health and Safety Code sections 44360, et seq.

² Stationary sources include factories or manufacturing plants, power plants, shipyards, landfills, rock or asphalt plants, and other industrial, commercial and governmental operations that can emit air pollution

³<https://bit.ly/Rule1210>



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potential for certain individuals to possibly experience negative health effects, whereas an HHI below one means that means that negative health effects from the facility's air toxic emissions are unlikely. ⁴

SDAPCD Rule 1210 required this facility to submit a health risk reduction audit and plan to SDAPCD in 2024. In April 2025, SDAPCD approved the plan. Encina is currently making progress to implement the plan including completing testing which demonstrated reduced emissions. Additionally, SDAPCD has recently approved installation of the engine control systems proposed by Encina, and implementation of the risk reduction plan will be complete once these controls have been installed.

SDAPCD Rule 1210 requires an initial public notification and public meeting, as well as annual progress reports submitted to SDAPCD and annual public notification and public meetings until the facility has fully implemented the health risk reduction audit and plan and has demonstrated that risks have been reduced below the Rule 1210 Significant Risk Thresholds. **This notice is for the annual public notification and public meeting for this facility as a follow-up to a previous notification in 2024.** You can stay updated about their plan by subscribing to SDAPCD GovDelivery through the following link:

<https://bit.ly/SDAPCD-Updates> and clicking on the Air Pollution Control District News list.

Please join us at a public meeting on Zoom on September 15, 2026 at 5:00 PM at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/3mx6vsw5> for additional information or if you have any questions or concerns. You can also reach out to the facility by contacting Alicia Appel at (442) 320-7018 or AAppel@EncinaJPA.com. The attached fact sheet has additional information. If you have any questions, please contact us at APCDEngineering@sdapcd.org or at (858) 586-2600 and reference Encina Wastewater Authority.

Sincerely,

Mahiany Luther
SDAPCD Deputy Director

⁴ The noncancer health hazard index is calculated by dividing the estimated amount of emissions in the air emitted from a facility by the amount that is not expected to cause any health issues