

**Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

<b>SCH #</b>
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**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lead Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Location:** County: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Nearest Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cross Streets: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" N / \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_\_" W Total Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Assessor's Parcel No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Waterways: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Airports: \_\_\_\_\_ Railways: \_\_\_\_\_ Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

**Document Type:**

CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR	NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI	Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR	<input type="checkbox"/> EA	<input type="checkbox"/> Final Document
<input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec	(Prior SCH No.) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FONSI	_____

**Local Action Type:**

<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Rezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Annexation
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Prezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**Development Type:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____	

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater
<input type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Minerals	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading	<input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

**Project Description:** (please use a separate page if necessary)

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

## Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".  
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

### Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ending Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone: _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/16/23

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

## **Project Description:**

SJR proposes to construct and operate a biofuel facility that would convert orchard wood waste and nut shells into biochar (a charcoal-like material), renewable natural gas (RNG), and coproducts including ammonium sulfate fertilizer and carbon dioxide through a non-combustion thermal conversion process called gasification. Biomass materials would be collected from local orchards and nut processing facilities and delivered to the site by truck. Orchard wood waste, which would arrive at the facility already chipped, would comprise approximately 70 to 90 percent of the feedstock used at the facility while a mixture of various types of nut shells would comprise the balance. RNG production would be achieved by combining oxygen, nitrogen, steam, sand, limestone, and biomass in the gasifier converter to produce a gas mixture called syngas. The oxygen and nitrogen used by the gasifier converter would be produced by another set of equipment at the facility called an air separation unit (ASU), which separates the various constituents of air into concentrated streams of both gas and liquid oxygen, nitrogen, and argon. A component of the ASU would include a 250-foot-tall cold box. The syngas is processed to remove biochar, sulfur, and nitrogen compounds and then converted into a mixture of methane, carbon dioxide, and water. Once carbon dioxide and water are removed, the methane would meet the safety requirements of Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and would be injected into the SoCalGas pipeline, which runs on the northern and eastern sides of the site. The SJR facility would process up to 1,500 bone-dry tons per day (BDT) or 1,764 wet-basis (typically 15 percent moisture content) tons per day of agricultural waste biomass into approximately 12.5 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of RNG. The RNG would be sold for use as a biofuel in transportation, electricity production, or any other application that uses natural gas. The outputs of the gasification process that would be trucked off the facility for sale include liquefied oxygen, nitrogen, and argon; biochar; and ammonium sulfate fertilizer. The carbon dioxide would either be vented to the atmosphere; trucked to an off-site, approved injection well; or manufactured into dry ice or liquified on site and shipped from the facility by truck for sale. In addition to the gasification area, air separation unit area, and possible dry ice production area, the facility would also include a maintenance and operation building, truck repair building, two administration buildings with one of the buildings containing a visitor center, a scale house, a biomass receiving and storage area (shell storage area and wood yard) with truck tippers to unload the biomass and conveyers to move the material to the storage area, a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station with six fast-fill fueling points open to the public, an enclosed biomass grinder, up to ten acres of solar panel arrays, liquid storage tanks, two stormwater infiltration basins, a flare, roadways and parking lots, and an electric power generation facility that would produce electricity to power the facility (Figures 2 and 3). A PG&E electrical substation is located in the northeast corner of the project site and would remain operational but would not supply power to the project. Primary access to the site would be via Melcher Road with secondary emergency access and exit gates off Elmo Highway. Biomass feedstock deliveries would occur from 6 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday, and from 6 AM to Noon on Saturdays. During busy seasons for feedstock suppliers, feedstock receiving hours

would be extended to Sunday from 6 AM to Noon. Biomass would be stored in outdoor, uncovered piles at the facility, with enough stockpiled inventory storage to enable one month of operation without deliveries. The facility is planned to operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, except for scheduled maintenance outages and any unplanned shutdowns. The facility is projected to require 63 on-site employees and 86 truck drivers for a total of 149 full-time employees. Trucks delivering biomass from State Route 99 to the site and trucks transporting marketable products from the site would be directed to use the State Route 99/Pond Road intersection to Garzoli Avenue, Elmo Highway, and Melcher Road. Construction of the SJR facility is expected to take 12 to 18 months and is expected to begin in the second or third quarter of 2024. It is estimated that there would be approximately 475 personnel needed for the construction of the facility. San Joaquin Renewables has entered into a Project Labor Agreement with the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and the Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties Building and Construction Trades Council to utilize union workers during construction.