

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (RECIRCULATION)

Lead Agency: Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority
20111 Shay Road
Victorville, CA 92394

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Project Title: Victor Valley Bioenergy Facility (VVBF) Project

SCH No.: To be assigned

Project Location: The Project would be located at 20111 Shay Road, City of Victorville, San Bernardino County, California 92394 within VVWRA's WWTP property. The Project site is in Section 13 of Township 6 North and Range 5 West, San Bernardino Meridian, at latitude 34°36'54.9" north and longitude 117°21'26.9" west. The site can be viewed on the USGS – Victorville Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series topographic map. The Project will occupy approximately 30 acres.

Project Description: The VVBF Project will divert up to 1,450 tons per day (TPD) from offsite Southern California's organic waste streams plus 875 TPD (at 2.2 percent solids) of VVWRA's onsite waste streams from landfill disposal in compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 1383. The Project includes three main elements:

- ▶ Anaerobic Digestion and RNG System. The first element is an organic polishing system and anaerobic digester that will process up to 700 TPD of recovered organic waste and up to 200 TPD of liquid organic waste and will produce up to 805,920 million British thermal units (MMBtu) per year of renewable natural gas (RNG) from biogas treatment for injection into the Southwest Gas utility pipeline and up to 170 TPD of soil amendment.
- ▶ Pyrolysis and Biochar System. The second element is a biosolids drying and pyrolysis system that will process up to 550 TPD of diverted offsite C (WWTP) biosolids plus 875 TPD (at 2.2 percent solids) of VVWRA's digestate (dewatered biosolids) to produce up to 71 TPD of biochar.
- ▶ Solar System. The third element is an approximately 14-acre solar array to generate up to 7 megawatts (MW) of electricity (approximately 12,910 megawatt hours [MWhs] / year) with backup batteries for potential use by both VVBF and VVWRA operations.

Finding: The VVWRA's decision to implement this proposed project is a discretionary decision or "project" that requires evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on the information in the project Initial Study, the VVWRA has made a *preliminary* determination that a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be the appropriate environmental determination for this project to comply with CEQA.

Initial Study: Copies of the Initial Study can be reviewed at Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority office at 20111 Shay Road, Victorville, CA 92394 and is available online at VVWRA's website www.vwwraca.gov. The public review period for the Initial Study begins December 5, 2023 through January 18, 2024.

Mitigation Measures: All mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study are summarized on pages 2-92 through 2-100 and are proposed for adoption as conditions of the project. These measures will be implemented through a mitigation monitoring and reporting program if the Mitigated Negative Declaration is adopted.

DRAFT
Signature

Title

Date