VICTOR VALEY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

To: San Bernardino County
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

and

Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VVWRA)
20111 Shay Road
Victorville, CA 92394

Project Title: Victor Valley Bioenergy Facility (VVBF) Project

SCH Number: 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 from landfill disposal in compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 1383, and process an additional 875 TPD (at 2.2 percent solids) of VVWRA onsite waste streams into soil amendment. 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.

Project Sponsor(s): Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority

This is to advise that the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority, acting as the lead agency, has prepared an Initial Study to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment and is proposing to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration based on the following finding:

☐ The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

☒ The Initial Study identified potentially significant effects but:

(1) Revisions in the project plans or proposal made or agreed to by the applicant before this proposed Negative Declaration was released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and,

(2) There is no substantial evidence before the agency that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

A copy of the Initial Study and all other material which constitutes the record of proceedings upon which the VVWRA based its decision to adopt this Mitigated Negative Declaration may be obtained at:

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority
20111 Shay Road, Victorville, CA 92394
POC: Darron Poulsen, General Manager
Tel: (760) 246-8638
Email: dpoulsen@vvwraca.gov

Additionally, the Initial Study is available online at VVWRA's website at the following web address: www.vvwraca.gov. The CEQA-required public review period of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration begins December 5, 2023 and ends on January 18, 2024 (45-days). Written comments on the Initial Study should be submitted to Mr. Darron Poulsen at the mailing address listed above no later than January 18, 2024 by 5:00 PM.

Darron Poulsen GENERAL MANAGER 11/27/23

Signature Title Date

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Date received for filing and posting

☒ Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
☒ OPR