



Encina Wastewater Authority – Fact Sheet

The Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA) is a wastewater treatment agency based in Carlsbad, California. EWA serves over 400,000 residents and regulates approximately 600 businesses in a 125 square mile service area of Northwest San Diego County. A model of excellence and innovation, EWA protects public health and the Pacific Ocean in a cost effective and transparent manner. Six (6) public agencies own EWA through a Joint Powers Agreement that facilitates cost sharing and enables economies of scale the owners could not achieve independently. EWA's member agency owners include: the City of Carlsbad; the City Vista; the City of Encinitas; the Vallecitos Water District; the Buena Sanitation District; and, the Leucadia Wastewater District.

Sound Planning and Investment

EWA's ability to provide compelling value for its owners and rate-payers depends upon rigorous long- and short-term planning that drives appropriate investment in resources and infrastructure. To this end, EWA staff anticipate changes in regulations and legal requirements by participating in industry associations, and regularly collaborate with their Board of Directors, member agency staff, and community leaders on appropriate standards, challenges, and investment alternatives. But addressing legal concerns and developing standards are not our only challenges. EWA must also understand and anticipate changes in the natural environment, community needs, and risks associated with aging infrastructure. Thus, EWA maintains an ongoing master planning process that includes plans for asset management, capital investments, energy efficiency, biosolids management, and ultimately the use of Encina's valuable water resources

Protecting Public Health and the Ocean

EWA protects public health by ensuring that wastewater is always contained and is processed through the wastewater treatment plant. This means that pumping stations and the main treatment plant must be highly reliable. High treatment-plant reliability is also essential for protecting the Pacific Ocean, which ensures that anyone visiting local beaches enjoys a fishable and swimmable marine environment. Furthermore, protecting the ocean and the recreational use of beaches is essential to maintaining the region's economy and quality of life. Given what is at stake, EWA meeting its standard of 24/7/365 treatment plant reliability and

meeting its Pacific Ocean discharge permits are of utmost importance. Protecting public health also applies to air quality, specifically by meeting EWA's standard of no discernible odors coming from its treatment plant, and, the production of recycled water which meets or exceeds all regulations for irrigation and other non-potable uses.

Developing EWA's Water Resources

With drought, increased stress on water supplies, and the uncertainties that come with systematic climate change, EWA's water resources will increase in value and will inevitably provide a locally produced supplement to the region's water supply. Although EWA is not a water utility, the region needs a collective approach to developing EWA's water resources. Consequently, EWA has begun facilitating a collaborative dialogue with its member agencies and the water community on regional water reliability and the timing for developing EWA's water resources.

Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility

EWA is committed to continuously increasing efficiency and regular reports on efficiency activities and improvements. This commitment to efficiency includes becoming functionally independent of the electricity grid. EWA's commitment to efficiency is complemented by strong internal financial controls which are designed to meet the financial and budgeting needs of member agencies, comply with governmental accounting standards, maintain appropriate financial reserves, and ensure fair and equitable allocation of costs. These standards for efficiency and finance mean that EWA is a cost-effective supplier of services and value.

Transparency

As a service organization committed to protecting the public interest, EWA must understand and meet the needs of the communities it serves. EWA strives to be extremely clear about the motivations and standards driving its activities, policy decisions, and proposed investments. Information about EWA's roles, value, and standards is easy to find and understand and EWA responds quickly to requests for information. The result is a dialogue focused on standards of reliability and quality that are consistent with the values of the member agencies and that help protect the quality of life that North County residents have come to expect.