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NEWS RELEASE

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THE STERLING NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER ADDS ANOTHER RESOURCE TO CREATE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND OFFSET OPERATING COSTS

Using state-of-art technology, the SNRC will combine unwanted food waste with material left behind during the wastewater treatment process to produce electricity.

HIGHLAND, Calif., (October 7, 2019) – Working to “Make Every Source a Resource” and striving toward a more sustainable future, East Valley Water District (District) Board of Directors approve the addition of state-of-the-art co-digester technology at the Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC) during the September 11, 2019 regular Board Meeting. This enhancement represents a significant improvement to the project by allowing the SNRC to produce enough renewable electricity to meet the facility’s energy needs, with additional electricity transferred onto the energy grid.

Using an advanced co-digestion process, the SNRC will give unwanted food waste collected by local waste companies a new purpose. Digesters will combine high-grade food waste with the material left behind during the treatment of wastewater to produce 3 megawatts of electricity. This is the equivalent amount of electricity needed to power about 1,950 homes.

“The incorporation of digester technology at the SNRC further supports the project’s vision of sustainability and the responsible use of resources,” said Chris Carrillo, East Valley Water District Chairman. “It ensures the facility reduces its carbon footprint while creating a new water supply for the community.”

To purchase the necessary apparatus that will provide long-term operational benefits and enhance the SNRC’s efficiency, the District will invest \$32.6 million toward the project. A portion of this cost will be covered by State and Southern California Edison programs that provide funding for projects that create energy. The facility’s overall guaranteed maximum price is \$182.6 million with funding being provided by State grants, low-interest loans, and development fees.

To accommodate the construction of digesters and provide enough space for this technology, the water treatment side of the facility will take on a slightly more industrial look. Modern architectural elements will be added to enhance the look as much as

possible. The administrative side where the demonstration garden is set to be located will still maintain a scenic, welcoming layout.

“The addition of digester technology represents a valuable investment toward the long-term operations of the SNRC and an opportunity to make a positive impact beyond the facility’s walls,” said John Mura, East Valley Water District General Manager/CEO. “We’re fortunate to have a strong team consisting of Balfour Beatty, Arcadia U.S., Inc., and Ruhnau Clarke Architects. Now we’re happy to bring Anaergia to help achieve the great expectations that we have for this project.”

Beyond wastewater treatment, the SNRC will provide many benefits to the local community in form of educational opportunities for local students and residents, community space, and neighborhood improvements.

Recently, the SNRC was awarded with a \$1.49 million Urban Greening Grant from the California Natural Resources Agency for the construction of a community demonstration garden. Additionally, the SNRC has also secured \$6.7 million in State grants and \$150 million in low-interest loans from California’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

For more information please visit www.eastvalley.org/snrc.

Photo caption: Sterling Natural Resource Center rendering displaying enhancements to the water treatment facility and the administrative side where the community center will be located.

Photo caption: Street view from 5th Street and Del Rosa Avenue of the Sterling Natural Resource Center water treatment facility.

About Sterling Natural Resource Center

The Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC) is a state-of-the-art facility located on North Del Rosa Drive between East Fifth and East Sixth Streets in Highland, Calif., that will provide a sustainable new water supply to boost the region’s water independence. Capable of treating up to 8 million gallons a day, the SNRC recharges the local Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin and creates new opportunities for the surrounding community in the form of education and training, community space, and neighborhood improvements. On October 2018, the project celebrated a significant milestone with over 300 local officials and community members joining East Valley Water District for the groundbreaking celebration of the SNRC. The project is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed in 2022. For more information visit eastvalley.org/SNRC and follow the project on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

About East Valley Water District

East Valley Water District was formed in 1954 and provides water and wastewater collection services to more than 102,000 residents within the City of Highland and portions of both the City and County of San Bernardino. EVWD operates under the direction of a five-member elected Board. More information is available at www.eastvalley.org.

About the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program is a federal-state partnership that provides communities a permanent, independent source of low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. Funding for this Sterling Natural Resource Center project has been provided in full or in part by the Proposition 1 - the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014

and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. California's Clean Water State Revolving Fund is capitalized through a variety of funding sources, including grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and state bond proceeds.



About the Urban Greening Program

The Urban Greening Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The cap-and-trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investment projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are made in disadvantaged and low-income communities. For more information, visit [California Climate Investments](#).



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