



***From the Victor Valley  
Wastewater Reclamation Authority***

# ***Renewable Natural Gas Facility Commissioned at VWRA***

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**Victorville, CA**—Representatives from the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority, SoCal Biomethane (a subsidiary of Anaergia Inc.) and Southwest Gas officially commissioned operations today on a renewable natural gas facility on the grounds of VWRA.

The new facility will convert raw biogas made from anaerobically digesting food waste along with municipal sewage from VWRA's wastewater treatment process, to create pipeline quality RNG. The RNG is expected to be injected into the Southwest Gas system in the coming weeks. Once in production, the facility could divert more than 6,000 metric tons of methane, which is equivalent to 1.5 million CO<sub>2</sub> tons, per year. VWRA will be the first wastewater treatment plant in California to inject renewable natural gas made from both wastewater solids and food waste into a utility pipeline.

The new facility will assist municipalities in complying with California's [Senate Bill 1383](#) regulations, which require every municipality to divert residents' and businesses' food and other organic waste from landfills, with the goal of reducing the amount of organic waste landfilled by 75% by 2025.

"Under Senate Bill 1383, every California municipality must now find a way to reduce food waste and other organic waste going to landfills. Anaergia offers a unique set of technologies that convert existing infrastructure at wastewater treatment plants into highly efficient systems capable of treating both wastewater residual solids as well as food waste," said Andrew Benedek, Chairman and CEO of Anaergia.

“Our partnership with VVWRA is an example for the entire state on how to solve the current requirements efficiently.”

“This simple idea has many benefits”, said VVWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen. “Now there’s less food waste going to landfill, which means reduced landfill methane emissions. It also means we are able to produce more biogas, so we can send RNG to the gas grid, replacing the fossil fuel with a carbon negative fuel.”

According to Southwest Gas President and CEO John Hester, the facility will add more than 320,000 MMBTU of renewable natural gas (RNG) to the pipeline each year, enough to offset the emissions of more than 2,000 homes.

“There’s great demand for this carbon-negative fuel, especially for heavy-duty trucks, and that results in far cleaner air for San Bernardino County’s transportation corridors,” said Hester.

“The renewable natural gas being created here will generate a clean carbon-negative transportation fuel significantly contributing to California’s decarbonization strategy while supporting California clean tech jobs,” said Richard Corey, Executive Director of the California Air Resources Board, the agency tasked with reducing air pollution in the state.

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***See photos and captions below.***

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Representatives from VVWRA, Anaergia Inc., and Southwest Gas are joined by local elected officials to cut a ribbon at the RNG Commissioning Ceremony.



Biogas treatment facility where methane or biogas is scrubbed (cleaned) and converted to RNG.





This is the site where cleaned and pressurized RNG is injected into a Southwest Gas pipeline.



VVWRA's Brandon Talley watches as the first load of food waste is pumped into the digesters.