



VWRA's RNG Project Wins a Global Water Award

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Victorville, CA—The state-of-the-art co-digestion and biogas upgrading facility at Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority has won the Global Water Award for Wastewater Project of the Year. The announcement was made May 9th during an award ceremony in Berlin, Germany. The project is a public-private partnership between VWRA, SoCal Biomethane, a subsidiary of Anaergia Inc. and Southwest Gas. The facility collects methane from the co-digestion of food waste and municipal sewage and converts it into renewable natural gas (RNG). The project, which was commissioned in 2022, treats 235,000 tons a year of food waste and biosolids collecting 320,000 Mmbtu of biomethane which is converted into RNG. The RNG is then injected into a Southwest Gas pipeline for commercial distribution. It is North America's largest privately financed co-digestion-to-biomethane project for pipeline injection at a wastewater treatment plant.

By co-digesting off-site waste, the plant makes VWRA a regional champion for waste reduction even beyond its own wastewater responsibilities. The renewable disposal of food waste has become increasingly in demand with the passage of California's SB 1383 which requires 75% of organic materials like food waste be diverted from landfills.

"We are deeply honored to receive this international recognition for the innovative work we are doing with our partners", said VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen. "The RNG project at VWRA is a showcase of how public agencies, utilities and private business can come together to help resolve significant environmental challenges." "I also want to salute our staff for their hard work in making this project a success", said Poulsen.

"For several decades Anaergia has been helping cities, utilities and industries decarbonize by converting their waste into carbon-negative fuel and diverting organics from landfill disposal", said Andrew Benedek, Anaergia's Chairman and CEO. "Our facilities help reduce methane emissions at scale and make net zero possible around the globe every day."

Established in 2006 by Global Water Intelligence, the Global Water Awards recognize the most important achievements in the international water industry within several categories, and reward

those initiatives in the water, wastewater and desalination sectors that are moving the industry forward through improved operating performance, innovative technology adoption and sustainable financial models. Each year, the coveted Global Water Awards are presented at the Global Water Summit, the major business conference for the water industry worldwide. VVWRA competed against projects from Egypt, China, and Saudi Arabia

About VVWRA: VVWRA is a regional resource recovery facility in the Victor Valley that produces recycled water, renewable natural gas, and nutrient rich soil amendments.