



## NEWS Release

# *VWRA RNG Project Wins Award of Excellence*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2023

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**San Diego**—The Renewable Natural Gas project at Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority has won an Award of Excellence in Innovation and Resiliency from the California Association of Sanitation Agencies. The award was presented to VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen at CASA’s annual conference in San Diego on August 10, 2023. The award recognizes VWRA’s RNG project for its innovative application of technology in the wastewater field. “We are honored to be recognized by our peers for the innovative work we are doing here”, said Poulsen. “The RNG project is a showcase of how public agencies can work together with utilities and private companies to help resolve significant environmental challenges.”

The RNG project at VWRA is a public-private partnership with Anergia Inc. that collects methane or biogas from the co-digestion of sewer and food waste. The biogas is cleaned and converted it into renewable natural gas. The RNG is injected into a major Southwest Gas pipeline for distribution. 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. Methane is a greenhouse gas and is a contributor to atmospheric warming.

The food waste from commercial manufacturers is delivered to VWRA by large trucks. 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.

Established in 1996, the CASA Award of Excellence is a statewide program that recognizes achievements in the clean water community that advance the utilization of renewable resources and promote efforts to achieve environmental sustainability.

PHOTO:



VWRA General Manager Darron Poulsen and Anaergia's Project Development Manager Margaret Laub accept the CASA Award of Excellence in Innovation and Resiliency.