NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT BIOSOLIDS CONVERSION PROJECT

PROJECT TITLE: Valley Sanitary District Biosolids Conversion Project

LEAD AGENCIES: Valley Sanitary District

PROJECT LOCATION: The Valley Sanitary District (VSD) owns and operates an approximate 85-acre Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) at 45-500 Van Buren Street, Indio, CA**.** This site has been in operation since 1925 and is heavily disturbed with existing wastewater treatment infrastructure within a fenced, secured perimeter with surveillance systems. VSD provides wastewater conveyance and treatment for approximately 92,000 residents, commercial, and industrial users in the City of Indio, City of Coachella, and portions of the City of La Quinta, and unincorporated Riverside County. The project site is shown in Figure 1 – Vicinity Map.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: VSD proposes to build an addition to their existing WRF that would convert wastewater biosolids, the byproduct of the treatment process, into a pathogen-free, nutrient-rich fertilizer for agricultural use. The proposed project would avoid the need for off-site disposal by treating biosolids onsite. Using a proprietary technology known as Lystek Thermal Hydrolysis Process (Lystek THP®) heat, high-speed shearing, and alkali addition are applied to break down the biosolids material into a pathogen-free, high-solids liquid product called LysteGro®. LysteGro is considered a Class A product by the United States Environmental Protection agency (USEPA) and is registered with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for use as an agricultural soil amendment. The project would require construction of a 2,400-square-foot building adjacent to the existing dewatering building to house the Lystek THP system; installation of the THP Reactor and ancillary equipment, including: dewatered biosolids tank, high-speed disperser, dual-fuel steam boiler, 5,000-gallon potassium hydroxide storage and dosing system; biogas handling equipment, and truck loading station; and a 2,000,000 gallon storage tank (approximate diameter 100 ft, height 40 feet) in the drying bed area. The project would connect to existing potable and recycled plant effluent water, natural gas, biogas, electrical power (480V) and drainage system.

The LY10 Module would operate 28 hours per week under current flow conditions producing approximately 2,665,650 gallons of LysteGro liquid fertilizer annually. While the LysteGro biosolids fertilizer is in storage, the LysteMize process will generate biogas due to digestion. The biogas would be captured and used to the fuel the dual-fuel steam boiler that is part of the Lystek system and the existing WRF boilers. Surplus biogas would be piped to the existing flare which currently operates in compliance with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) permit requirements. No hazardous byproducts would be generated by the Lystek system. The LysteGro biosolids fertilizer will be delivered via tanker truck twice annually to area agricultural operators.

Construction of the proposed project would require approximately 24 months from groundbreaking to commissioning. All construction staging and laydown areas would be contained within the existing WRF property, primarily adjacent to the existing dewatering building and north drying bed areas. No offsite staging areas would be required.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES: The Project site is not located on known listed toxic sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

PROJECT CONTACT: Ron Buchwald, PE, District Engineer
Phone: (760) 238-5400
Email: rbuchwald@valley-sanitary.org

PUBLIC REVIEW AND WRITTEN COMMENTS: The review period for submitting written comments

on the Negative Declaration pursuant to State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15105 commences on December 29, 2025, and will close on January 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding the project or Mitigated Negative Declaration, please contact Ron Buchwald by e-mail or phone as indicated above.

Written comments should be addressed to:

Ron Buchwald, PE, District Engineer
Valley Sanitary District
45500 Van Buren
Indio, CA 92201
rbuchwald@valley-sanitary.org

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Negative Declaration is available for review at the Valley Sanitary District, 45500 Van Buren, Indio, CA 92201 and may also be accessed on the District's website at: http://www.valley-sanitary.org.

PUBLIC HEARING: The proposed Project, including Negative Declaration, will be reviewed and considered for approval at a Valley Sanitary District Board Meeting to be held on February 10, 2026.

Figure 1—Vicinity Map - **Project Site**