

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

In accordance with Section 15072 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this notice is to inform any responsible agencies, interested parties, and organizations that the City of Desert Hot Springs has completed a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the **Coachillin' Anaerobic Digester Facility on APN 666-360-015**.

Project Location: The Proposed Project is located in the City of Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California. The project site is located east of Indian Canyon Drive, between 18th and 19th Avenues.

Project Description: The Proposed Project consists of an Anaerobic Digester (AD) Facility that will take organic waste from local jurisdictions in the Coachella Valley and convert it to electricity. The facility would be located on an approximately 9.76-acre parcel north of 19th Avenue and east of Calle De Los Ramos in the City of Desert Hot Springs, California. The Proposed Project would take approximately one year to build.

The Proposed Project will accept delivery of the weighed organic material and grind the organic product for delivery to the multi-stage anaerobic digesters. The facility will use a misting system with odor control sprayers to reduce odor production and will accept up to 250 tons of organic material per day. The facility will incorporate up to five multi-stage 1,750-ton digesters. The digesters will be developed in stages to accept the processed organic material. The CO₂ and CH₄ gas by product will be transported to low pressure gas balloons. Liquid and solid fertilizer produced during the AD process shall be separated and transported to 600-ton liquid fertilizer mixing and conditioning tanks and solid fertilizer aeration and conditioning bunkers for transport and/or sale. Excess liquid organic matter (if any) will be removed to a retention tank to be combined with additional organic material to be reprocessed by the ADs at a later date, by a sand filter pump. The retention tank will also act as a retention basin to accept excess drainage to be mixed and sent to the AD. The power generated by the pressurized gas will then be sent back into the system under a power purchase agreement. A 3.6-megawatt turbine will also be utilized to send high pressure gas to the Coachillin' Specific Plan development located west of the site for end user cogeneration. The site will be fenced for security and will be accessed by 19th Avenue, which will be paved from the site to Indian Canyon Drive as part of the Proposed Project. Calle de los Ramos will also be paved to a half-width accommodate traffic from 18th Avenue via Indian Canyon Drive as part of the adjacent Coachillin Specific Plan. The AD facility will incorporate drought tolerant landscaping across the 19th Avenue frontage as required by the City. The Proposed Project's operations will be phased over approximately 10 years to allow for start-up and growth in organic waste recycling demand.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: No potentially significant impacts to resources were identified in the Initial Study. All impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

Hazardous Waste Sites: The project site is not located on any known listed toxic sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Public Review Period: In compliance with CEQA, the City has established a 30-day public review period beginning October 7, 2019 to solicit comments and input on the Draft IS/MND. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND should be submitted no later than November 6, 2019 to:

Rebecca Deming
Community Development Director
City of Desert Hot Springs
65950 Pierson Boulevard
Desert Hot Springs, California, 92240
rdeming@cityofdhs.org

Copies of the Draft IS/MND are available for public review at the City of Desert Hot Springs Planning Department at the above address.