

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**

**To:** Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation - State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth St, Suite 222  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5502

**From:** South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

and

Clerk of the Board, Bob Dutton  
County of San Bernardino  
385 N Arrowhead Ave, 2nd Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0130

**Subject:** Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21152 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(i)

**Project Title:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) Regional Plant No. 1 (RP-1) Project

**State Clearinghouse No:** 2016061064

**Project Applicant and Project Location:** Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA)  
South Coast AQMD Facility ID No. 009163  
2662 East Walnut Street, Ontario, CA 91761

**Lead Agency:** IEUA  
6075 Kimball Avenue  
Chino, CA 91708

**Responsible Agency:** South Coast AQMD  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

**Lead Agency Contact:** Pietro Cambiaso  
(909) 993-1639

**Responsible Agency Contact:** Sina Taghvaei, Ph.D.,  
(909) 396-2192

**Date of Project Approval by Lead Agency:** March 15, 2017

**Date of Project Approval by Responsible Agency:** May 27, 2026

**Project  
Description:**

IEUA, as the Lead Agency for the IEUA RP-1 Project, prepared and certified the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (Final Program EIR) for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on March 15, 2017. The Final Program EIR evaluated a long-term program of infrastructure improvements intended to support IEUA's wastewater treatment, recycled water, groundwater recharge, and utility operations. The analysis in the Final Program EIR assessed a broad range of reasonably foreseeable future projects across multiple IEUA facilities at a programmatic level and organized those projects into three categories: treatment facility upgrades, recycled water and groundwater recharge facilities, and auxiliary systems and support facilities.

The Final Program EIR evaluated a range of reasonably foreseeable future upgrade projects related to the modernization, rehabilitation, and improvements of the RP-1 facility, including: 1) solids treatment and capacity upgrades, such as solids treatment rehabilitation, sludge thickening upgrades, and capacity rehabilitation; 2) digestion system improvements, including digester gas mixing, digester mixing upgrades, and digester cleaning and rehabilitation; 3) digester gas handling and treatment improvements, including flare improvements, flare system improvements, and digester gas mixing, which ensure that gas produced at RP-1 is beneficially used; 4) thermal support systems for digestion, including expansion, rehabilitation, and optimization of digestion and solids treatment systems, with upgrades to solids processing, digester operation, and supporting thermal infrastructure; 5) emergency power generation and electrical system upgrades, including enhancements to support reliable plant operations and installation, or improvement of emergency power infrastructure to maintain operations during outages or peak demand; 6) odor control improvements, including projects identified as odor control improvements and odor control improvements evaluation, which include foul air treatment systems, clarifier covers, and odor control equipment; 7) chemical handling and disinfection system improvements identified as disinfection pump improvements and liquid treatment rehabilitation projects that encompass the upgrade and expansion of RP-1 liquid treatment and disinfection systems, such as increased liquid treatment capacity to meet projected flows, modernization of disinfection pumping and dosing infrastructure, and optimization of post-filtration chlorination; and 8) other improvements, including headworks rehabilitation, clarifier rehabilitation, mixed liquor return pump improvements, electrical and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system upgrades, and recycled water facilities.

The IEUA RP-1 Project implements a portion of the long-term modernization, rehabilitation, and capacity improvements previously analyzed for the RP-1 facility in the Final Program EIR. The project applicant seeks the following modifications to the existing Solids Thickening Facility pursuant to South Coast AQMD Application Number (A/N) 648840: 1) replacement of the existing sludge gravity thickeners, the sludge blending tank, and the dissolved

air flotation thickener and its associated recirculation pump with eight new rotary screen thickeners and two solids blending tanks, which will be installed within a new building; and 2) construction of three new acid phase digesters and one sulfur removal treatment system with four iron sponge units to treat the gas produced from the acid phase digesters.

The project applicant also seeks to install: 1) a new emergency diesel-fueled internal combustion engine (South Coast AQMD A/N 648201), rated at 2,206 brake horsepower, to provide supplemental backup power to the four existing emergency engines and ensure uninterrupted operation of the wastewater treatment process during electrical outages; 2) a new digester gas/natural gas-fired boiler (South Coast AQMD A/N 648202), with a rated capacity of 13.902 million British thermal units per hour, to provide additional heating capacity to the existing hot water loop system serving the seven existing anaerobic digesters and the three new acid phase digesters; and 3) a new odor control system (South Coast AQMD A/N 648203), with an operating capacity of 14,370 standard cubic feet per minute, comprised of one pre-treatment aqueous scrubber to remove ammonia from foul air and one biofilter to treat foul air from the sludge thickening building, rotary screen thickeners, sludge blending tanks, centrifuge sludge dewatering building, sludge silos, and drainage pump station.

Lastly, the IEUA RP-1 Project includes replacement of three existing 10,300-gallon sodium hypochlorite storage tanks with four new 12,189-gallon sodium hypochlorite storage tanks; however, these modifications do not require a permit pursuant to South Coast AQMD Rule 219(d)(13)(U).

The IEUA adopted Findings, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and a Statement of Overriding Considerations, as set forth in the IEUA Board of Director's Resolution No. 2017-3-1, certifying the Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans.

This is to advise that the South Coast AQMD, as the Responsible Agency, has considered the Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(i), approved the above-described IEUA RP-1 Project and made the following determinations:

1. The Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans was prepared and certified by IEUA, as Lead Agency for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans Project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
2. The IEUA adopted mitigation measures which were made a condition of the IEUA Facilities Master Plans Project approval.
3. The IEUA adopted Findings, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

4. The Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans concluded significant and unavoidable impacts after mitigation is applied for the environmental topic areas of: 1) air quality and greenhouse gas emissions during construction, 2) cultural resources, and 3) noise.
5. The Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Mater Plans concluded less than significant impacts after mitigation is applied for the environmental topic areas of: 1) aesthetics, 2) agriculture and forestry resources, 3) air quality and greenhouse gas emissions related to operational odor impacts, 4) biological resources, 5) geology, soils, and mineral resources, 6) hazards and hazardous materials, 7) hydrology, 8) land use and planning, 9) public services, 10) recreation, 11) traffic and transportation, and 12) utilities.
6. The IEUA RP-1 Project, which is a subset of the larger project evaluated in the Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans, will result in less than significant impacts after mitigation measures are applied for the environmental topic areas of: 1) aesthetics, 2) operational odor, and 3) traffic and transportation.
7. The IEUA RP-1 Project, which is a subset of the larger project evaluated in the Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans, will result in significant and unavoidable air quality impacts during construction, even after mitigation measures are applied.
8. All previously adopted mitigation measures in the Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Mater Plans that were identified as applicable to the IEUA RP-1 Project will remain in full effect and are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies to implement. The South Coast AQMD is not revising or adopting new mitigation measures or Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the IEUA RP-1 Project.
9. Because no new or substantially worsened significant impacts were identified for the IEUA RP-1 Project, a Statement of Overriding Considerations as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 is not required and was not prepared for the IEUA RP-1 Project.
10. The South Coast AQMD, after reviewing and considering the Final Program EIR, the Findings, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Statement of Overriding Considerations adopted by IEUA for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans, adopted its own Findings as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15096(h) concerning the significant impacts identified in the Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans relative to the IEUA RP-1 Project.
11. These Responsible Agency determinations for the IEUA RP-1 Project reflect the independent judgment of the South Coast AQMD.

This is to certify that the following documents are available to the public and may be examined at South Coast AQMD located at 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765: 1) the Final Program EIR for the IEUA Facilities Master Plans, the Findings, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and Statement of Overriding Considerations adopted by IEUA; 2) supporting

materials and the record of the IEUA Facilities Master Plans approval by IEUA; 3) the South Coast AQMD's adoption of its own Findings as Responsible Agency; 4) supporting documentation provided by the applicant; and 5) the record of Project approval by the South Coast AQMD.

**Date Received for Filing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:**

 May 29, 2026

Barbara Radlein  
Planning and Rules Manager, CEQA  
Planning, Rule Development, and  
Implementation