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Encina Wastewater Authority

The Encina Wastewater Authority (EWA) is owned by six public agencies and governed by a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that facilitates cost sharing and enables economies of scale the owners could not achieve independently. The JPA was founded in 1961 by the communities of Carlsbad and Vista, which formed a partnership for the purpose of building a joint facility to treat wastewater. Over the next decade, the agency was joined by the Buena Sanitation District, Vallecitos Water District, Leucadia Wastewater District and City of Encinitas.

The EWA provides reliable and fiscally responsible wastewater treatment and resource recovery services to over 379,000 residents and businesses throughout a 125-square-mile service area of North San Diego County. Located in Carlsbad, California, the agency provides essential services for protecting the local ocean environment, preserving public health, and providing valuable water resources for the region.

The Encina Water Pollution Control Facility (EWPCF) was originally constructed in 1965, which included a 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD) treatment plant and ocean outfall. Over the years, the plant has gone through several major expansions that have increased the quality of treated water; improved odor control; added a cogeneration facility that generates electricity; upgraded the solids treatment process to produce a high-quality fertilizer product; and increased treatment capacity to 43.3 MGD. EWA's long-term Capital Improvement Program ensures that the EWPCF is able to handle future growth and meet increasingly stringent environmental regulations.