

## INFORMATION SHEET

**ORDER NO. R5-2010-xxxx**  
**BUENA VISTA BIOMASS POWER, LLC**  
**BUENA VISTA BIOMASS POWER PROJECT**  
**CLASS II SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT**  
**AMADOR COUNTY**

The Buena Vista Biomass Power, LLC is developing a biomass-fired electrical power facility capable of generating 18.5 megawatts of power. The facility is located at 4655 Coal Mine Road, Buena Vista, CA, approximately five miles south of the City of Lone.

The facility site is in the Sierra Nevada range lower western foothills, bordered by the Mokelumne River to the south, and Jackson Creek to the north. Surface elevations at the site range from approximately 150 MSL at Jackson Creek, to over 400 feet MSL near the power plant structure. Surface drainage for the site is to Jackson Valley Slough, an intermittent stream.

The biomass-fired power plant is being refurbished from an existing facility originally developed in 1986. The existing facility includes a double-lined class II surface water impoundment, which is also being refurbished to receive blow down waste water used to backwash scale from the boilers and cooling towers. The facility water treatment system consists of a brine concentrator, a reverse osmosis treatment unit, and a condensate polishing unit.

The class II surface impoundment has a capacity of approximately 3.3 million gallons, including two feet of freeboard. The surface impoundment is expected to receive significant discharge only when the plant brine evaporator is out of service, an estimated 15 % of runtime hours per year or 1,156 hours, due primarily to evaporator servicing events. During each servicing event of approximately 72 hours, the surface impoundment will receive discharge at a rate of 40 gallons per minute (gpm) totaling approximately 0.17 million gallons, or approximately 5% of the surface impoundment capacity. This discharge will be recycled back to the evaporator, once online, at a rate of 17 gpm. The total discharge from each 72 hr servicing event will be removed from the surface impoundment within 11 days.

During the normal plant operations, with the evaporator online, all plant process water will be routed through the brine evaporator for evaporation, reducing the discharge to the surface impoundment to approximately 6.2 gpm. This water will be re-routed back to the cooling towers at a rate of 4 gpm, resulting in a net discharge of approximately 2.2 gpm to the impoundment. With an area of the surface impoundment over 65,000 square feet, the depth of this discharge in the impoundment will be approximately 2.3 inches per month. The average annual evaporation rates measured 3 miles southeast of the site by the Western Regional Climate Center indicate monthly pan evaporation rates ranging between 0.72 inches in December and January, to 11.17 inches in July. Design specifications, provided by the Discharger, using a pan evaporation coefficient of .0.75 estimate an average evaporation rate of 3.6 inches per month over an annual basis, or 3.4 gpm. Therefore, except for estimated accumulation of less than 2 inches per month during December and January, no net

accumulation of discharge water is expected to accrue in the surface impoundment under normal operating conditions.

**Monitoring and Reporting Program**

This Order includes a monitoring and reporting program as required in Title 27 for evaluation, detection and corrective action which will include groundwater, vadose zone and leachate monitoring.

In addition, prior to the anticipated rainy season, the Discharger must conduct a facility inspection to assess the condition of the drainage control system and groundwater monitoring equipment. Any repairs and maintenance shall be completed by 31 October, and a report submitted to the Board by 15 November. Reporting must be made both semi-annually and annually.

**CEQA**

Under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) an Environmental Impact Report has been prepared and certified by Amador County, the lead agency, on 30 November 2010. A Notice of Determination was filed by the Amador County Board of Supervisors on 5 January 2011.