

Chapter 5g: Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant

Community Concerns

Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant is a biomass electrical generation facility located on the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians Reservation at 62300 Gene Welmas Dr, Mecca, CA 92254. It has been in operation since 1992, first as Colmac Energy, Inc. and then in 2011, the power plant was purchased by Greenleaf Power. Biomass (e.g., urban wood waste, orchard removal trees) is used at this facility as a fuel to help generate electricity. This facility operates as a steam-electric power plant¹. Typically, these power plants operate by burning fuel in a furnace to generate heat that is used in a boiler to produce steam. The steam flows into the turbine and spins the blades inside a turbine, which is connected to a generator to create electricity.



Since this facility is located on tribal land, it is regulated by Region 9 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).² The ECV CSC expressed concern about visible emissions and smoke from the facility and the limited information about the facility that is available to the community.

Actions to Address the Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant

To address community concerns and reduce emissions from the Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant, South Coast AQMD developed actions for the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). Table 1 below provides goals, actions, responsible entities, metrics, and a timeline to achieve emission reductions from the Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant.

¹ Greenleaf Power, LLC, Desert View, <http://www.greenleaf-power.com/facilities/desert-view-power.html>, Accessed October 25, 2020.

² USEPA, Title V Permit to Operate, <https://www.regulations.gov/contentStreamer?documentId=EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0266-0001&contentType=pdf>, Accessed October 25, 2020.

Table 1 – Goal: Reduce Emissions from Greenleaf Desert Power View Plant

	Action	Responsible Entity	Metric	Timeline	
				Start	Complete
A	<p>Work with the CSC, tribal government and USEPA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify air quality concerns related to Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant (e.g., CSC survey) Compile air quality information about the facility (e.g., emissions, compliance history, applicable air quality regulations, existing air pollution control technologies) Conduct PM monitoring near the facility, identify strategic locations for air quality sensor deployment to capture potential PM2.5 emissions from the facility, and assess the potential impact on the community Identify appropriate tree planting locations near areas of concern (e.g., mobile home parks and schools) and seek opportunities to implement tree planting projects around the perimeter of the facility Develop strategies to reduce emissions and exposure (e.g. planting shrubs, trees and native plants around the perimeter of the facility) from the facility Identify funding to implement weatherization projects and to install and maintain air filtration systems at schools, community centers and homes to reduce exposure to industrial, commercial and other sources. 	South Coast AQMD	TBD	1 st quarter, 2022	3 rd quarter, 2022
B	Pursue a collaborative partnership with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to consider requiring all future allocations of funds from the Greenleaf Desert View Power Plant in the ECV community to reduce air pollution emissions or exposures	South Coast AQMD, CVAG	TBD	4 th quarter 2022	TBD