



## Metro Biosolids Center

### About the Plant

Located on 39 acres adjacent to the Miramar Landfill, the Metro Biosolids Center is the City of San Diego's state-of-the-art regional biosolids treatment facility. Biosolids are the nutrient-rich, processed organic material produced by the wastewater treatment process. The facility, which began operation in 1998, is an essential component of the region's wastewater treatment system.

### Treatment Options

The Metro Biosolids Center provides two treatment operations: Thickening and digestion of the raw solids (raw sludge) generated at the North City Water Reclamation Plant; and The dewatering of the wet biosolids from both the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant and North City Water Reclamation Plant. The facility produces dewatered biosolids that are approximately 30 percent solids and 70 percent water, the consistency of wet plaster.

### Biosolids Process

Raw solids from the primary and secondary treatment processes at the North City Water Reclamation Plant are pumped to receiving tanks at Metro Biosolids Center. The raw solids are thickened in five centrifuges before being pumped into one of three anaerobic digesters. There, the volume of organic matter is reduced in a process similar to human digestion. After digestion the organic solids are referred to as biosolids. From the anaerobic digesters, the biosolids are sent to a Digested Biosolids Storage Tank where they are mixed with biosolids from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### Energy Conservation

The Public Utilities Department was one of the first City departments to complete a comprehensive energy conservation plan. One of the key elements in the plan is cogeneration, the utilization of methane gas to power the largest City wastewater facilities. The Public Utilities Department has a long-term agreement with a private firm that uses methane generated by Metro Biosolids Center digesters and the Miramar Landfill to power both the Metro Biosolids Center and the North City Water Reclamation Plant.

### Recognition

The Metro Biosolids Center has received a number of awards including the 1998 Fiscal Watchdog Award from the San Diego County Taxpayers Association for its cogeneration and landfill gas.