

backed grants of low-interest loans for wastewater improvements, and lack of support from the California legislature.

The *Press* said the California Environmental Protection Agency plans to “dump massive amounts of chlorine into the river,” but that such an effort would not treat the chemical contaminants.

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## Wastewater Sludge to Produce LA Power

A new project in Los Angeles is planned to convert organic sludge byproducts from wastewater treatment into electricity in a

first-of-its-kind operation, reported the *Los Angeles Times*. The sludge will be injected into depleted oil and gas reservoirs more than a mile below the surface, where high temperatures and pressures will create “methane gas that will be captured to power fuel cells on the surface,” according to engineers interviewed by the *Times*.

The process will also sequester carbon dioxide that would normally be released into the air by the decaying organic material, which is now transported by truck and spread on city-owned agricultural fields in Kern County.

According to the *Times*, the project will cost \$3 million to \$4 million to build;

it will take three years to complete, although some elements are expected to become operational next spring; and it will generate 3.5 megawatts of electricity per year (enough for 3,000 homes).

The electricity will supply Port of Los Angeles-related facilities near the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant. The amount of energy necessary to inject the sludge into the reservoirs was not reported. The project will consume half of the solid waste now taken to Kern County, saving an estimated \$1.6 million annually in hauling costs.

Visit [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com).

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