OroCarbo Commercial Biomass-to-Fuel Project: Status & Evaluation Report

1. Executive Summary

OroCarbo is actively developing a proposed commercial biomass-to-fuel production facility based in Oroville, California. The project aims to convert regional agricultural residues and forestry thinnings into low-carbon bio-methanol and bio-char via thermolysis (advanced pyrolysis). While OroCarbo has entered into vendor contracts and delivered preliminary presentations to regional air quality officials, the company has not yet secured land entitlements, finalized air permits, or designated a specific site.

This status aligns with disclosures made in the July 21, 2026, Oroville City Staff Summary, which confirmed that municipal evaluations of alternative energy systems with private developers remain in non-public, exploratory stages.

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2. Technical Overview & Commercial Partnerships

- **Core Process & Products:** The project utilizes indirect **thermolysis (advanced oxygen-free pyrolysis)** via Haffner Energy's patented process to convert wood waste into syngas while preserving solid carbon to produce bio-char. The facility aims to produce approximately 100 tonnes per day of bio-methanol, intended primarily to decarbonize maritime transport and chemical manufacturing.
- **Technology Suppliers:**
  - **Haffner Energy:** Contracted to supply two 20 MW SYNOCA® thermolysis modules that produce hydrogen-rich syngas without direct flame combustion.
  - **Maverick SynFuels:** Supplying equipment to synthesize the syngas into liquid bio-methanol.
- **Carbon Intensity Evaluation:** OroCarbo executed an agreement with AmSpec to perform an independent third-party Carbon Intensity (CI) assessment required for California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) regulatory pathways.
- **Target Timeline:** Commercial operations and commissioning are currently targeted for **early 2028**.

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3. Permitting Status & Agency Engagement

- **Air District Presentations:** Founder Brian Wong presented the project concept to the Butte County Air Quality Management District Board. The presentation outlined plans to utilize agricultural wood waste and forest management residues through thermochemical processing to mitigate open burning and wildfire risks.
- **Environmental Review (CEQA):** As of mid-2026, no California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been published for public review.

- **Air Quality Permits:** No finalized Authority to Construct (ATC) permit has been issued by the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD).
- **Municipal Entitlements:** No Conditional Use Permit (CUP) or formal site-plan entitlement application has been submitted to or approved by the Oroville Planning Commission or City Council.

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4. Site Selection Status

- **Location Designation:** OroCarbo lists its project location generally as Oroville, California, citing proximity to Central Valley agricultural orchards and Sierra Nevada forest management activities.
- **Parcel Filings:** OroCarbo has **not** publicly designated, purchased, or filed planning documents for a specific street address or parcel (such as the former Pacific Oroville Power Inc. / POPI site at 3050 S. 5th Avenue or other local industrial parks).

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5. Local Energy Planning & Environmental Context

- **City Staff Disclosures:** On July 21, 2026, Oroville City staff confirmed in an official summary that the City is evaluating local energy system concepts with private developers for South Oroville. Specific developer identities and formal proposals have not been released to the public.
- **Public & Community Scrutiny:** Local health and environmental advocacy groups—including the Dioxin Education Committee—are seeking full public disclosure regarding proposed thermochemical processing emissions (including process heater tail-gases), air monitoring protocols, and potential heavy diesel transport impacts in South Oroville.

Sources

Orocarbo, Bio-Methanol | Bio-Methanolwww.orocarbo.com

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Renewable methanol - Haffner Energywww.haffner-energy.com

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Haffner Energy Enters a Major Biomethanol Project in California with an Initial Contractwww.haffner-energy.com

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OroCarbo Activity Report As of 8/12/2026



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