



City of El Segundo

Office of the Mayor

March 22, 2022

Councilmember Mike Bonin and Los Angeles City Councilmembers
City Hall Office
200 N. Spring St. #475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Hyperion Treatment Plant

Honorable Councilmember Bonin,

On behalf of the El Segundo City Council and the residents of the City of El Segundo, I address this letter to you and your colleagues on the Los Angeles City Council to bring to your attention some critical issues and needs at the Hyperion Treatment Plant bordering our City.

As you know, back on July 11, 2021, the plant was flooded causing El Segundo and residents to endure months of terrible odors forcing many people from their homes. Additionally, at least 17 million gallons of untreated sewage was released to the 1-mile outfall into the Santa Monica Bay. As a result of investigating this incident, it was discovered that the flare systems were in such a state of disrepair that the quality and quantity of gases from the plant could not be measured and it was possible that more dangerous/poisonous gases were being released. In sum, this failure at the plant caused massive hazards for El Segundo residents.

The July incident certainly set off alarm bells about the plant based upon the overwhelming odors that impacted El Segundo for several months. In essence, we understood the plant has been operating for months without the proper federally required air quality permits. After a recent meeting with AQMD staff from the Enforcement Division, and watching a hearing conducted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the City was made aware that the flaring system and potentially other systems have not been properly maintained or tested for perhaps five or more years. There are also expired air quality permits and violations that may result in tens of thousands to several million dollars in fines to date.

At an AQMD Hearing Board meeting held this past March 9th, it was also identified that Hyperion has had long term compliance failures and lack of urgency in fixing these issues. A Hyperion staff member attempted to blame the pandemic and budget cuts allegedly made by the Mayor, but the evidence presented showed the violations were happening for years before the pandemic. Finally, it is also our understanding that Hyperion hasn't even paid for current permit fees. We point these matters out for purposes of hopefully gaining your understanding what appears to be severe mismanagement at Hyperion. For your information, the March 9th meeting has been continued to March 24th. The City will have staff attend the meeting on March 24th to gather information from the Hearing Board, and I implore you to also send Los Angeles Public Works staff.

Given the quantity and quality of failures that has occurred with the flaring system, the lack of concern or motivation expressed by staff about the failures and really no statements made to the effect that the issues would be resolved quickly, the City has been put in a position to strongly request that you and your staff immediately take measures to reverse the deplorable conditions and

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Michael Allen,
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Elias Sassoon,
Public Works Director

system failures emanating from this plant. Addressing the many concerns currently plaguing the facility can be mitigated if the entire Hyperion Plant is brought into compliance as quickly as possible, and proper ongoing oversight measures are implemented.

In closing, the City of El Segundo is requesting the following measures be taken by City of Los Angeles in order to prevent Hyperion from threatening the health and safety of the residents of El Segundo.

1. Immediately implement items defined in the February 11, 2022 Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Report, spearheaded by the L.A. Board of Public Works.
2. Install a fence line air quality monitoring system with 24/7 continuous monitoring of all types of harmful emissions, including monitoring for volatile gases and NOx emissions.
3. Install air quality monitoring system at the flare stations and 24/7 continuous monitoring of all types of harmful emissions, including monitoring for volatile gases and NOx emissions.
4. Implement Quality Assurance compliance done by third party.
5. Expedite the needed repair work at the flare station, so that these stations function properly, and pass the source test in full compliance with all AQMD requirements.
6. Review of all critical functions and operations at Hyperion and institute monthly, quarterly and annual reports for purposes of establishing and monitoring maintenance operations, testing and testing results of the critical components, and establishing capital improvement schedules and monitor the timely implementation of capital improvements.

Thank you in advance for your understanding of the serious concerns we have in El Segundo, and our desire to never have to incur the problems and ongoing failures at Hyperion facility at the expense of our safety.

Sincerely,



Drew Boyles
Mayor

cc: **City of Los Angeles Officials**

Honorable Eric Garcetti
Honorable Gil Cedillo
Honorable Paul Krekorian
Honorable Bob Blumenfeld
Honorable Nithya Raman
Honorable Paul Koretz
Honorable Nury Martinez
Honorable Monica Rodriguez
Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr.
Honorable John Lee
Honorable Mitch O'Farrell
Honorable Kevin de Leon
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State Representatives

Honorable Congressman Ted Lieu
Honorable Senator Ben Allen

Southern California Air Quality Management District

Honorable Ben Benoit, Chair
Vanessa Delgado, Vice Chair

Los Angeles County Officials

Honorable Holly J. Mitchell, LA County Supervisor District 2
Honorable Janice Hahn, LA County Supervisor District 4
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director - LA County Dept. of Public Health

Environmental Protection Agency

Deborah Jordan, US EPA Region 9 Deputy Director
Amy Miller, US EPA Region 9 Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Div.

El Segundo Officials

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Pimentel
Councilmember Carol Pirsztuk
Councilmember Scot Nicol
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