



City of El Segundo

Office of the City Manager

September 6, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL

Honorable Chairperson Verdugo-Peralta and SCAQMD Hearing Board Members
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: Hearing Matter No. 1212-40: SCAQMD v. City of Los Angeles (Hyperion Plant)

Honorable Chairperson Verdugo-Peralta and Board Members,

Introduction and Overview

Please accept this letter as part of the record for the above-mentioned hearing. The City of El Segundo also requests that the communications it provided both in writing to the Board regarding Hearing Matter No. 1212-39 (SCAQMD v. City of Los Angeles/Hyperion Plant Flaring Operations) held in March of this year, also be made part of the record for this hearing.

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider the following information and requests from the City of El Segundo regarding your September 6, 2022, agenda item regarding the Hyperion treatment plants' continuous release of noxious gases and odors. The residents of El Segundo have now had to endure the failure by the City of Los Angeles to properly operate its Hyperion Plant for approximately 14 months now which has resulted in the residents having to inhale noxious odors and gases during this time period. Moreover, there is no reason to believe that the problems will be resolved within any reasonable time frame. In fact, there does not appear to be any clear schedule that Los Angeles is operating under to stop the release of noxious gases and odors from its wastewater treatment plant. The reason for this appears to be that the odors and gases do not impact City of Los Angeles' residents, so Los Angeles is not motivated to take action.

The City of El Segundo is only six square miles in size and is the only City that borders the Hyperion plant. The City of Los Angeles only technically borders/has jurisdiction over the small area where Hyperion is located. The closest City of Los Angeles residents are literally miles away from where the Plant is located and beyond the radius impacted by the odors and noxious gases. In contrast, the City of El Segundo has over 17,000 residents all of whom live directly east and southeast of the Plant.

The City urges the Board to take any and all actions that are available to it for the purpose of causing the City of Los Angeles to properly monitor and cease releasing noxious odors and gasses from the Hyperion Plant. El Segundo residents not knowing what is in the air around them is causing a lot of anxiety. The City of Los Angeles has the ability to

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Mayor

Chris Pimentel,
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Carol Pirsztuk,
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Tracy Weaver,
City Clerk

Matthew Robinson,
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Appointed Officials

Darrell George
City Manager

Mark D. Hensley,
City Attorney

Department Directors

Barbara Voss,
Deputy City Manager

Joseph Lillio,
Chief Financial Officer

Michael Allen,
Community Development Director

Deena Lee,
Fire Chief

Rebecca Redyk,
Human Resources Director

Jaime Bermudez,
Police Chief

Elias Sassoon,
Public Works Director

Aly Mancini,
Recreation, Parks, and Library
Director

properly monitor and cure the problems at Hyperion. What Los Angeles is lacking is motivation. Los Angeles must provide the El Segundo community with timely, accurate and reliable information regarding the release of noxious gases and odors from the Plant and drastically curb the release of such gases and odors.

The cost to the City of Los Angeles to accomplish these tasks as is less than budget dust to its massive operations but such is critically important to the El Segundo residents that live near the Plant.

Specific Requests Of Board

1. El Segundo is, again, requesting fence-line air quality monitors at the Hyperion that should test multiple gasses/chemicals on a 24/7 basis. The Plant already has air monitors in place that can easily be modified which would allow Hyperion have the capacity to monitor the various types of noxious odors and gases being generated by the Plant. The City of Los Angeles refuses, for reasons unknown to El Segundo, to install the technology in the air monitors, which is available, to properly monitor the Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) that are being emitted from Hyperion.

The Board stated at its March hearings that it did not have the authority to require air monitors at the Plant. If this is the case, then El Segundo is requesting that the Board: urge the AQMD to adopt regulations that would give the Board this authority; request the management of SCAQMD to seek legislation that would give the Board the authority to require air quality monitors at Hyperion; and, direct SCAQMD to contact federal authorities and request that they order the installation of air quality monitors pursuant to the Clean Air Act.

1. The City of El Segundo is, again, requesting that a warning system be implemented to alert El Segundo residents and businesses when there are unusual releases or hazardous releases of noxious odors and gases.

On behalf of the City, thank you for reviewing and considering the above information and request. El Segundo is interested in resolving the current problems so that its residents and businesses can once again enjoy the quality of life that they deserve.

Sincerely,



Darrell George
City Manager

- c: El Segundo Honorable Mayor Boyles and City Council Members
South Coast Air Quality Management District Honorable President Benoit and Board Members
Faye Thomas, Clerk of the Boards
City of Los Angeles Honorable Mayor Garcetti and Council Members
Elias Sassoon, El Segundo public Works Director
Mark Hensley, El Segundo City Attorney