



# City of El Segundo

## Public Works Department

October 26, 2022

*SENT VIA EMAIL*

Dr. Cui Xiaofei, Ph.D., P.E.:

This is in response to the PUBLIC NOTICE regarding NPDES Permit No. CA0109991 for Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant.

Please note that shortly after the unfortunate incident of 7/11/2021 at Hyperion, an Advisory Ad Hoc Committee was formed by the Board of Public Works, City of LA to oversee and review the investigative after-incident assessments carried out by LA Sanitation internally, as well as assessments carried out by outside consultants - with the objective of compiling a summary report with recommendations moving forward. The objective was to learn about what happened, what needed to happen, and what needs to happen to prevent another similar incident from ever happening again.

The final report by this Committee was published in February 2022. Here is a summary of the 33 recommendations which were outlined in this report:

- Under “Capital Improvements”, the Committee recommended the following:
  1. Additional High Level Bypass to Grit Chamber that does not require operator interaction
  2. Reworking road to reroute flood flows and gravity flow connections to emergency storage
  3. Submarine doors to protect critical areas
  4. Securing entrances to the tunnels
  5. Redesign of screenings removal to prevent recycling
  6. Install video monitoring (including closed circuit TV) to visually detect increases in bar screen loads
- Under “Conveyance System Improvements”, the Committee recommended the following:
  1. Repair the Problems found by Brown and Caldwell in their initial report
  2. Develop a program to use the new survey technology to monitor headworks and conveyance system
  3. Participate in nation-wide programs to identify increased accumulation in conveyance systems caused by reduced flow by reclamation and climate change
  4. Communicate findings to other agencies

### Elected Officials

*Drew Boyles,  
Mayor*

*Chris Pimentel,  
Mayor Pro Tem*

*Carol Pirsztuk,  
Councilmember*

*Scot Nicol,  
Councilmember*

*Lance Giroux,  
Councilmember*

*Tracy Weaver,  
City Clerk*

*Matthew Robinson,  
City Treasurer*

### 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*

*Jose Calderon,  
Information Technology Director*

*Jaime Bermudez,  
Police Chief*

*Elias Sassoon,  
Public Works Director*

*Aly Mancini,  
Recreation, Parks, and Library  
Director*

Under “Assessment and Audits”, the Committee recommended the following:

1. Rank alarms and alert staff for a timely response
2. Hyperion has had as much as 800 MGD (million gallons per day) storm flow and the plant currently treats an average of 260 MGD. Study the conveyance system to determine peak flows and assess risk to the plant from peak flows
3. Review needs for emergency power
4. Analyze the event to see what additional capabilities are needed and should be added to the current capabilities of the DCS system
5. Audit capabilities of the public information system

• Under “Operations and Procedures-Headworks Building”, the Committee recommended the following:

1. Evaluate responsibilities for the staff on duty to operate and maintain the headworks
2. Evaluate annunciating and responding to alarms, routine “boots on the ground” inspection of key process equipment, and documentation for actions to be taken
3. Develop a new standard operating procedure to identify best practices for using and removing barriers
4. Evaluate and develop revised procedures as appropriate for back up screens, choppers, and spiral lifts
5. Identify and implement improvements of documentation to ensure that all shifts practice the same procedures and communicate with each other. Develop and/or update to make sure new operators are trained for this critical function create a standard inspection round for all shifts
6. Evaluate and conduct reviews (i.e. quarterly or other frequency as appropriate) of logs to identify potential problems and improve communication
7. Evaluate and develop as appropriate a specific plan of action with appropriate training for a future bar screen failure event

• Under “Training and Staffing”, the Committee recommended the following:

1. Ensure back up operators are trained and cross trained for emergency response
2. Train to recognize and respond to emergency alarms
3. Train to coordinate system operation with DCT and Glendale treatment plants
4. Adopt policies, protocols and training to promote a better intra and inter agency response
5. Coordinate a protocol with LA DPH to facilitate and accelerate beach closures
6. Develop a protocol to initiate additional water quality sampling
7. Evaluate modeling techniques to predict will affect beach water quality

And finally, under “Emergency Response”, the Committee recommended the following:

1. Adopt policies, protocols and training to promote a better intra and inter agency response
2. Coordinate a protocol with LA Dep of Public Health to facilitate and accelerate beach closures
3. Develop a protocol to initiate additional water quality sampling
4. Evaluate modeling techniques to predict will affect beach water quality

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The City of El Segundo's comment is that the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant needs to implement the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee in a timely manner. Furthermore, Hyperion needs to inform the public about the status of these recommendations on regular basis.

If we have any further comments, we will let you know. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your communication with the City of El Segundo.

Regards.

Elias Sassoon  
Public Works Director