

PUBLIC STATEMENT RE SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
AND CITY OF LOS ANGELES JANUARY 25, 2023, STIPULATED ORDER
REGARDING THE HYPERION WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

On September 14, 2022, in response to more than a thousand complaints of odor nuisance from the Hyperion, the Hearing Board of the SCAQMD issued a Stipulated Abatement Order to Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment Department. At that time there was somewhat limited information available as the hearing board was gaining knowledge of what was and was not happening at the Hyperion Plant so the order was somewhat compliance details and deadlines.

At the subsequent Hearing Board hearing on January 25, 2023, the AQMD based upon significant information it had gathered from its staff, complaints from El Segundo residents, and information and detailed requests being provided by the City, issued an extremely robust order with action items and deadlines that if implemented should result in the nuisance that has been going on for 18 months being resolved and measures to help ensure it does not happen again.

The Odor Control Study, prepared pursuant to the initial OA found that the primary clarifier batteries, influent and headworks, secondary treatment, and the intermediate pump station generated the highest H₂S concentrations from the entire plant. SCAQMD concluded the odors being emitted from the primary clarifiers are believed to be due to degraded covers that are over 20 years old. There are four components that must be repaired and replaced and only one can be offline at any time.

The new odor contains 28 extremely significant additional conditions. A summary of these new conditions are as follows:

- Hyperion must submit a report detailing all equipment undergoing refurbishment or planned to undergo refurbishment within the next year, together with a project timeline for each. This is important so that the residents know what is happening at all times.

Short Term Items to Reduce or Stop Odors from being released into El Segundo:

- No later than February 9, 2023, evaluate the viability and potential effectiveness of windbreaks along the eastern border of the plant. If deemed viable by AQMD, complete installation within 180 days. Again, this is an attempt to assist the residents by redirecting odors away from their homes. It is yet to be seen if it will be successful but is a creative step being taken by AQMD to stop the odor problem.
- Install temporary enclosures around the primary clarifiers while the covers are open for refurbishment, maintenance, repair, or replacement. Covers to be installed by February 1, 2023. This is another significant measure being required to stop the odors from being released into El Segundo. Hopefully, the impacts of this will be felt immediately. And there are more conditions aimed at quickly fixing the odor problems:
- Install temporary enclosures around the primary clarifiers while the covers are open for refurbishment, maintenance, repair, or replacement. Covers to be installed by February 1, 2023. Hopefully, the impacts of this will be felt immediately.

- Ensure negative pressures within the primary clarifiers to prevent fugitive emissions and, no later than April 14, 2023, equip all primary clarifiers with differential pressure gauges. Take pressure readings daily and submit to AQMD. Another, measure to stop the odors from being released into El Segundo. As you can see, there are numerous redundant and backup measures being taken to address the odor issue.

Longer Term measures:

Long term really means over the next months and by the end of the year with regard to most of the AQMD conditions:

By March 27, 2023, retain a contractor to design, incorporate, and maintain redundant capacity for all odor control equipment at the facility. Beginning April 6, 2023, prepare monthly progress reports on this task. This is critical as a redundant measure to stop odors is a new component and will benefit the residents if the primary system fails.

- By May 25, 2023, install temporary covers on Primary Clarifier Batteries B, C, and D and by December 31, 2023, complete refurbishment of all covers and seals on the batteries that are online and in service. All covers and seals to be refurbished by June 6, 2024 (Again, more measures to protect our residents and the original deadline proposed by LASAN was December 2025, so this is accelerated significantly).
- Complete Primary Treatment Chemical Scrubbers refurbishment by September 30, 2023. This combined with other repairs that the measures speed up the time frame for resolving potential future and long-term odor problems.
- By February 8, 2023, submit a detailed report prior to performing chemical scrubber upgrades and, by October 31, 2023, submit a detailed report after chemical scrubber upgrades.
- Conduct a root cause analysis upon detection of H₂S at levels of 15 ppb or greater for a one-hour average. This is AQMD increasing monitoring on a more expedited basis with very short interval goals for compliance.

The Hearing Board is going to meet again no later than June 20, 2023, to, among other things, assess the status of each of these conditions. However, we have been assured that if Los Angeles does not stay on top of the above measures and deadlines, the Board can call meetings sooner to address the issues.

It has been a long 18 months which is very unfortunate and a huge burden on the community. I want to thank the AQMD, our residents and the staff for keeping the pressure on the City of Los Angeles to fix the problem. With that said, and while this appears to be a very significant initial victory towards ultimately fixing the nuisance created by Hyperion, the City and staff are taking nothing for granted and will continue to monitor this situation daily and closely.