



City of El Segundo

Office of City Council

Elected Officials

*Drew Boyles,
Mayor*

*Chris Pimentel,
Mayor Pro Tem*

*Carol Pirsztuk,
Councilmember*

*Lance Giroux,
Councilmember*

*Ryan Baldino,
Councilmember*

*Tracy Weaver,
City Clerk*

*Matthew Robinson,
City Treasurer*

Appointed Officials

*Darrell George,
City Manager*

*Mark Hensley,
City Attorney*

Department Directors

*Barbara Voss,
Deputy City Manager*

*Paul Chung,
Finance*

*George Avery,
Fire Chief*

*Rebecca Redyk,
Human Resources*

*Jose Calderon,
Information Technology*

*Michael Allen,
Community Development*

*Jaime Bermudez,
Police Chief*

*Elias Sassoon,
Public Works*

*Aly Mancini,
Recreation, Parks and Library*

February 23, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mayor Karen Bass
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Failed Management of the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Mayor Bass,

We are writing to you on behalf of the City of El Segundo with grave concerns regarding the appalling state of affairs at the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant under the current leadership. The recent string of failures and compliance breaches at Hyperion have made it abundantly clear that there are significant deficiencies in the management and maintenance of the facility, posing serious risks to public health and the environment.

As you already know, since the nearly catastrophic spill on July 11, 2021, El Segundo residents and businesses have continued to suffer from terrible odors and gases being released from the plant. Our community members have reported that the odor causes headaches, itchy eyes, nausea, and vomiting. It has been over 2.5 years since that unfortunate incident and there continues to be multiple compliance and equipment failures at Hyperion, resulting in South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issuing over 70 Notices of Violation (NOVs) to the plant.

At the end of 2023, it seemed that the situation with Hyperion was improving, and the plant was making progress toward complying with AQMD's orders of abatement. Further, we are very grateful to Ryan Jackson in your office, who has done great work connecting us with Hyperion leadership and taking action on a number of requests – he has been excellent to work with. After connecting with Hyperion, we thought we established improved lines of communication. However, it appears that has all fallen apart.

In the past three weeks:

- AQMD issued **FIVE** NOVs to Hyperion for odor.
- Air Quality Monitoring website failed.
- Electrical damage lead to storage of solid waste in truck loading areas.
- Process equipment failures caused biogas flaring and implementation of tanks with faulty covers.
- Extremely delayed - by 3-5 days - or non-existent, and incomplete communication to the community about odors and plant activities.
- Willful misinformation from Hyperion senior leadership to the City Manager and staff about plant activities. Stating that there were no odor causing activities or that the smell was caused by increased inflow from the rain, only to later discover:

- They were cleaning tanks without proper notice.
- The bar screens failed again, causing flooding.
- 25% of the bypass was opened, but they did not have a heavy equipment operator to open the system fully.
- Flooding, combined with the sludge released to the settling tank, caused pumps to fail.
- They are in violation of their water purity levels.

The repeated instances of equipment failures, lack of proactive maintenance, odor leaks, poor communication, faulty information, and flagrant violations of regulatory standards are nothing short of reprehensible. Such negligence and incompetence cannot be tolerated, especially when they jeopardize the health and safety of our community and the integrity of our natural resources.

We refuse to stand idly by while our constituents suffer the consequences of the gross mismanagement of Hyperion by the City of Los Angeles. We demand immediate and decisive action to remove Los Angeles Sanitation Director and General Manager Barbara Romero from office. The position must be replaced with an individual with extensive expertise and training in wastewater management, unquestionable integrity, and dedication to upholding the highest standards of environmental protection and regulatory compliance.

Our community deserves better. We will not rest until we see meaningful change and accountability at Hyperion. As elected officials, we are duty-bound to champion the interests of our constituents and hold those in positions of authority accountable for their actions—or lack thereof.

We expect nothing short of your full commitment and immediate action in addressing this request. The health and safety of our community depend on it.

Sincerely,



Drew Boyles
Mayor



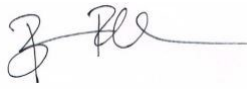
Chris Pimentel
Mayor Pro Tem



Carol Pirsztuk
Councilmember



Lance Giroux
Councilmember



Ryan Baldino
Councilmember

cc:

City of Los Angeles Officials

Honorable Eunisses Hernandez
 Honorable Paul Krekorian
 Honorable Bob Blumenfield
 Honorable Nithya Raman
 Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky
 Honorable Imelda Padilla
 Honorable Monica Rodriguez
 Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
 Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr.
 Honorable Heather Hutt
 Honorable Traci Park
 Honorable John Lee
 Honorable Hugo Soto-Martinez
 Honorable Kevin de León
 Honorable Tim McOsker
 Ryan Jackson, Public Works Director

State Representatives

Honorable Congressman Ted Lieu
 Honorable Senator Ben Allen
 Honorable Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi

Los Angeles County Officials

Honorable Holly J. Michell, L.A. County Supervisor District 2

El Segundo Officials

Darrell George, City Manager
 Mark Hensley, City Attorney
 Elias Sassoon, Public Works Director