

Faye Thomas

From: FThomas@aqmd.gov
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Please provide to board members prior to 7/31 for Hyperion hearing meeting

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From: Erin Falati <erinfalati@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Clerk of Board <clerkofboard@aqmd.gov>
Cc: Michal Haynes <mhaynes@aqmd.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please provide to board members prior to 7/31 for Hyperion hearing meeting

Dear Members of the Board,

I am a resident of El Segundo. My family and I have been suffering from the noxious odors from Hyperion since the July 2021 incident. We continue to smell odors daily, and our health and happiness have been severely impacted. We smell sulfur, sewage, chemicals (such as bleach and ammonia), a floral deodorizer, and a nondescript sour smell.

I report odor complaints to AQMD almost daily. However, it seems that we (the residents) only receive calls back to verify odors between Tuesday and Friday from the hours of 10am-2pm. Outside of those hours, our we are told our complaints are "logged". For example, if I submit an odor complaint late Friday afternoon, I will not receive a call from AQMD until Tuesday morning. This provides the ability for Hyperion odors to go unverified for days, so the data (odor verification) becomes inaccurate. When AQMD inspectors do come out to El Segundo the odors are very often verified, but because they are only available to us a few hours per week there is little ability to get the 6 necessary verifications in one day in order for a nuisance violation to be issued. Additionally, many residents are not home during the day to file complaints, and many residents have simply given up due to the exhaustion and time consumption of submitting and verifying odor complaints for three years. Please do not look at the decrease in issued nuisance violations as proof that Hyperion is not a nuisance to the community.

Hyperion also recently performed maintenance to their fenceline monitors. The residents received very little notice about what LA Sanitation called "planned maintenance." The fenceline data was not available on certain monitors for days, and during those days the odor was incredibly intense. We even received a notice from Montrose that the H2S levels had exceeded 27ppb, but days later LA Sanitation sent an email saying the levels were inaccurate. I'm here to tell you that I was present those days, I experienced the extreme odor, and there is no way the data was inaccurate. Since the maintenance, the Central monitor has been reporting extremely low or even nonexistent levels of H2S despite it continuing to smell strongly of H2S. Also the South monitor has been showing 0.00 mph wind despite the central and north monitors showing wind speed. We are hoping AQMD will inspect the monitors to ensure the data is correct and not just take Hyperion's word for it as it seems that we are getting inaccurate data since the maintenance was performed.

Prior to the Hyperion incident in July 2021, we did not have odors in our town that impacted our daily living. However, the enjoyment of our home and neighborhood has greatly changed since July 2021. We are unable to take our kids to enjoy the parks in town, to school, to neighborhood activities, to go for walks, etc. without worrying about being exposed to the odors. Additionally, we cannot use our yard and cannot open windows or doors without the odors coming into the house. It is pervasive and constant, and should not be expected or tolerated at any level.

We have been dealing with this for three years now. I know the board members cannot imagine what that is like but we are hoping that the members can empathize enough to understand it is crucial to keep the current abatement orders for Hyperion. The plant continues to emit odors that impact the community of El Segundo and surrounding areas.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Erin Falati