



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

822 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION/ LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
Telephone (213) 974-4444 / FAX (213) 229-3676

**JANICE HAHN**

Supervisor, Fourth District

January 27, 2022

Mr. Wayne Nastri  
Executive Director  
South Coast AQMD  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

**Re: Rendering Plant Odor Affecting Southeast Los Angeles Communities**

Dear Mr. Nastri,

I am writing to request that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) conduct a comprehensive investigation of current emissions, operations, and monitoring at five rendering plants in the City of Vernon, and their cumulative impacts on neighboring downwind communities who are routinely experiencing odors from these facilities.

Residents across Southeast Los Angeles, including Commerce, Maywood, South Gate, Cudahy Lynwood, Bell Gardens and Bell, have been reporting noxious odors for years. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health, initiated an investigation into these odor complaints on January 13, 2022 by contacting AQMD and Vernon's Environmental Health program. To date, there has been no response from AQMD.

Additionally, Environmental Health confirmed the existence of odors at three locations in Vernon during a site visit on January 14, 2022 to the affected areas. The Director of Environmental Health has determined that the cumulative impact of emissions from the five rendering plants in proximity to one other, coupled with suitable wind conditions, may be the source of these community-level odors and should be investigated further by AQMD.

Furthermore, four of the five rendering plants have obtained time extensions for required enclosures, and each of these four facilities has received numerous Notices to Comply and Notices of Violations over the last year. Recently, Baker Commodities received its fourteenth Notice of Violation since 2017. Due to the egregious history of non-compliance, and consistent and ongoing odor reports from downwind cities, I request that AQMD conduct a comprehensive investigation, report its findings to the public and take any necessary enforcement action to prevent future impacts.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please contact my Senior Health Deputy, Katie Butler, at [kbutler@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:kbutler@bos.lacounty.gov) or 213-974-4444. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles

cc: AQMD Governing Board Members