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May 19, 2022

Ms. Barbara Romero, Director and General Manager
Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment
1149 S. Broadway Street, Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

**RE: PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE TO OFFER RELOCATION TO RESIDENTS
IMPACTED BY ODORS FROM THE HYPERION WATER RECLAMATION PLANT**

Dear Ms. Romero:

In response to last year's sewage spill at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (HWRP), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) submitted directives to the Bureau of Sanitation on July 23, 2021, July 30, 2021, and August 6, 2021. The directives were issued to mitigate the health impacts of the sewage spill and required the Bureau of Sanitation to 1) provide Public Health with a description of the actions taken to abate the odor nuisance, 2) offer assistance to impacted residents, and 3) restore the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (HWRP) to normal operating conditions while ensuring the safety of nearby residents from emissions.

On April 6, 2022, Public Health received numerous complaints from residents that noxious odors were emitting from the HWRP and were causing health symptoms. Review of data on the LA Sanitation and Environment's website has revealed multiple elevated readings of Hydrogen Sulfide, as high as 27.0 parts per billion (ppb). These elevated readings suggest that the HWRP is not yet operating at a standard that meets health and safety needs of the surrounding community.

Public Health continues to raise the following concerns:

1. The Bureau of Sanitation has not provided evidence that equipment currently in service is sufficient to provide treatment and processing of daily sewage flow. The Bureau of

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Sanitation must provide a clear and detailed plan for repairs and/or replacement of equipment; and must show how these actions will ensure future malfunctions will be mitigated.

2. The Bureau of Sanitation's current monitoring protocol of daily and instantaneous readings for Hydrogen Sulfide is insufficient. Sporadic readings have revealed elevated levels of Hydrogen Sulfide on multiple occasions, thus underscoring the urgent need for a robust fence line monitoring system as recommended by both Public Health and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). This urgency is confirmed by recurring resident reports of noxious odors emitting from HWRP during nighttime and early morning hours.

Public Health urges the immediate installation of a continuous fence line monitoring system as the Bureau of Sanitation discussed with the AQMD in September of 2021. In the interim, the Bureau of Sanitation must provide Public Health with the Bureau's plan to increase the frequency of instantaneous measurements at the fence line to include both nighttime and early morning hours.

Additionally, Public Health recommends the Bureau of Sanitation work with a consultant to develop a comprehensive protocol for monitoring a wide range of sewage related gases such as hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, methane, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxides, volatile organic compounds, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Public Health is requesting a response by May 31, 2022, to address the concerns outlined above.

Please reach out to me directly at (626) 430-5100, if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Liza Frias, REHS

Director, Environmental Health