



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## **Six Violations Issued to Hyperion Treatment Plant for Ongoing Odor Issues**

**DIAMOND BAR** – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) issued six Notices of Violation (NOVs) in the past month to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant in Playa del Rey, Calif., for causing odors that have impacted local residents on multiple occasions.

Since June 2022, South Coast AQMD received more than 360 public complaints of waste sewage smells from Hyperion. Inspectors were dispatched, confirmed odors with members of the community and then traced the odors back to the facility. Six NOVs were issued on June 22, July 7, July 9, July 17, July 19 and July 20 for violations of the agency’s public nuisance rules. South Coast AQMD Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code Section 41700 prohibit the discharge of air contaminants which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to a considerable number of persons or the public.

Hyperion is located at 12000 Vista Del Mar, in Playa del Rey and is operated by City of Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment (LA Sanitation). On July 11, 2021, a blockage in the facility’s filter system flooded the plant and resulted in an emergency discharge of approximately 17 million gallons of raw sewage into the ocean.

On February 16, 2022, a petition was filed before the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board for an Order for Abatement that would force Hyperion to comply with air quality rules and permit conditions relating to its flare equipment. South Coast AQMD is currently preparing to take further action before the Hearing Board to address the recent public nuisance violations that were issued to the facility in June and July 2022.

Since South Coast AQMD’s investigation began in July 2021, inspectors have responded to over three thousand complaints from members of the community, and 46 NOVs have been issued to Hyperion under Rule 402 (public nuisance), one NOV has been issued under Rule 401 (visible emissions) and one NOV was issued for permit condition violations.

NOVs can result in civil penalties. In some cases, the company can choose to implement voluntary measures to reduce emissions or, otherwise, prevent further violations. If no settlement is reached, a civil lawsuit may ultimately be filed in superior court.

More information on South Coast AQMD's ongoing activities related to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/community-investigations/hyperion-water-reclamation-plant>.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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