

1 **BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE**
2 **SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
3

4 **In the Matter of**

5 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY
6 MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,

7 Petitioner,

8 vs.

9 LOS ANGELES CITY SANITATION
10 BUREAU, HYPERION WATER
11 RECLAMATION PLANT

12 [Facility ID No. 800214]

13 Respondent.

Case No. 1212-39

DECLARATION OF SHERI SYMONS

South Coast AQMD Rule 3002(c)(1)

Hearing Date: October 8, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Hearing Board
 South Coast Air Quality
 Management District
 21865 Copley Drive
 Diamond Bar, CA 91765

DECLARATION OF SHERI SYMONS

I, Sheri Symons, hereby state and declare:

1. The following facts are known to me in my own personal knowledge or based on information and belief, as indicated, and I would competently testify to them if called to do so as a witness in this matter.

2. I am a Senior Environmental Engineer with the City of Los Angeles ("City"), working at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant ("Hyperion"). My prior duties included acting as an air pollution control manager and overseeing permit compliance. In this role, I managed Hyperion's Title V permit, which included ensuring that required monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting was done. As a result of that work, I became familiar with Hyperion's digester gas flare station, comprised of six flares (Nos. 1-6) (the "Flare Station"), which is the subject of these proceedings.

3. In my current role as Senior Environmental Engineer, I have continued to oversee the efforts to achieve permit compliance.

4. In my role as Senior Environmental Engineer, I am also familiar with the current Stipulated Order for Abatement adopted on June 23, 2023.

5. In the June 1, 2023 hearing on the Petition to Modify the Stipulated Order for Abatement filed by the South Coast Air Quality Monitoring District ("South Coast AQMD"), I testified about the purpose for the Flare Station; my professional background, role and experience; the efforts of the Los Angeles City Sanitation Bureau ("LA Sanitation") to comply with the Stipulated Order for Abatement; the status of the existing Flare Station at Hyperion; routine and preventative maintenance to be performed on the flare components; and aspects of the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant Flare Station Revised Implementation Plan (specifically, the siting of a new flare station at Hyperion, the timeline for completion of the replacement project; and plans for interim operations).

6. Condition 14 of the Stipulated Order for Abatement entered on June 20, 2023 requires the parties to appear before the Hearing Board for a status/modification hearing 45 days

1 after July 15, 2024. The hearing scheduled for September 11, 2024 was placed on the Consent
2 Calendar. The Clerk has scheduled a hearing for October 8, 2025. The parties have agreed to place
3 the matter on the Consent Calendar. A stipulation memorializing this agreement has been filed
4 concurrently with this Declaration. My declaration dated September 3, 2024 provides a summary
5 of key developments that occurred between June 2, 2023 (the hearing date) and September 3,
6 2024. This declaration summarizes the key developments since September 3, 2024. This
7 declaration is made in support of the Parties' Stipulation to Place Matter on Consent Calendar.

8 **Status Update**

9 7. LA Sanitation submitted monthly and then semi-annual progress reports as required
10 by Condition 3 of the Stipulated Order for Abatement.

11 8. Efforts to replace the existing Flare Station and to install new flares, as required by
12 Condition 8, are underway. As of the date of this Declaration, the project is in the design phase.
13 Brown & Caldwell, the consultant retained by LA Sanitation to prepare the pre-design report and
14 design of the new flare station at Hyperion, is preparing the design. The next project milestone is
15 the submittal of a complete permit application in February 2027. It appears that the consultant is on
16 schedule to meet that deadline.

17 9. In accordance with Condition 12, the flares have been operated and maintained to
18 prevent the release of raw digester gas to the atmosphere. The source tests of Flares 1-6 were
19 conducted on April 7-9, 2025, in accordance with the approved protocol. South Coast AQMD was
20 given advance notice of the scheduled source tests on March 24, 2025. As of the date of my
21 execution of this declaration, to my knowledge, South Coast AQMD has not yet had an
22 opportunity to complete its evaluation of the source tests conducted in April 2025 and has not
23 found that any of the flares are not in compliance.

24 10. LA Sanitation submitted monthly and semi-annual progress reports on the
25 implementation of the conditions of this Order to South Coast AQMD, in accordance with
26 Condition 13. The last semi-annual report was submitted on July 14, 2025.

27 11. The operation of the Flare Station under the Stipulated Order for Abatement is not
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1 expected to result in violation of Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 41700 (nuisance).

2 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is
3 true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

4 Executed on October 1, 2025, in Los Angeles, California.

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Sheri Symons

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SHERI SYMONS

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