



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
SHEILA KUEHL  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
36.		Favor	Alexandra Berard	
			Alison Lakoff	
			Benjamin Harris	
			Chris Garcia	There needs to be a full review of the failure to notify the public after a major sewage spill
			Corrie Zupo	Please see my attachment of questions we need public answers too.
			Danielle Busse	<p>Dear Supervisor Hahn,</p> <p>I am an El Segundo resident and small business owner) and we are currently running our A/C and fans 24/7 to eradicate the human excrement smell coming in strong all over El Segundo currently due to the July 11th Hyperion disaster.</p> <p>The only information we've had from the LA Department of Sanitation and from Hyperion is that larger debris overwhelmed grates, during a non-rain event, and it will take weeks/months to fix the flooding of the facility and that more than 17 million gallons of raw sewage was released at the 1-mile marker, as well as through a manhole on Vista del Mar and grating at Dockweiler beach.</p> <p>What is being done to expedite a speedy cleanup? What is the air quality safety for those of us in El Segundo, is it safe for our kids and pets? What chemicals are being used to clean this up and are they toxic to local residents breathing this air? What is to stop this from happening regularly? What are the environmental concerns to both our waterways and our air quality? What is being done to speed up communication when the beaches need to be closed faster (kids' camps were in the water and the beaches were not closed in a timely fashion).</p> <p>What is being done, besides hotel and a/c installation reimbursements? It is impossible for us to leave our house and stay at a hotel for weeks/months while this is fixed. We have pets and my husband and from our home office. We have been forced to run our A/C (with hepa filter) 24/7 just to keep from being overwhelmed with the smell of human excrement that is near constantly wafting in all hours of the day and night. Our electrical bill will be astronomical. The power was out in El Segundo today and we had to keep our windows closed but the smell still seeped in. It is miserable and we aren't even in the hardest-hit area. I can't imagine how those people are coping.</p> <p>Is this something that needs a federal investigation? Does FEMA need to be called in for this cleanup and repair that we are told may take MONTHS? It</p>

			<p>really is bad here and I feel as if the only thing we get from Hyperion are press releases telling us how awesome they are and how the upgrades they did last year helped to avert catastrophic results. This doesn't help me to pay my upcoming electric bill or give me any piece of mind that my son will be safe running in the cross country sports program at El Segundo High School each morning. Yes, we chose to move here 9 years ago and live near the Hyperion water treatment facility, but the current conditions are inhumane and have never been this bad before. We frequently feel nauseated from the stench.</p> <p>I appreciate any help/guidance you can offer. Thank you for pushing for answers and accountability.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Danielle Busse El Segundo Resident and Small Business Owner</p>
		Donald Tippie	I support an investigation into the last sewage spill to figure out why it happened, who should be held responsible, and how it can be prevented in the future.
		Douglas J Saribay	I support an update to sewage spill protocols to ensure the public is notified ASAP, instead of the day after a spill.
		Jennifer Ava Fairchild	Help the City.
		Katherine Pease	Please see attached letter.
		Kathy Walker	I support Janice Hahn's motion. I support sewage spill notification protocols to be updated for ASAP communication; a full review of the sewage spill within 30days, investigation and correction of the cause of the spill; continued research into how the plume behaved. Thank you.
		Kirsten Quezambra	
		Laura Adery	
		Megan Fure	
		Sharon L Apostle	The handling of this release and the necessary public notification were failures. We at Heal The Bay, suggest additional recommendations, such as implementing rapid testing methods for water quality and tracking the plume through satellite imagery and other methods.
		<b>Item Total</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>15</b>



Heal the Bay

1444 9th Street  
Santa Monica, CA  
90401  
(310) 451-1500

July 26, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Comments on Agenda Item 36, Ensuring Coordinated Response and Notification for Emergency Sewage Discharges**

Honorable Chair Solis and Supervisors Mitchell, Barger, Kuehl, and Hahn:

On behalf of Heal the Bay, we offer comments on Agenda Item 36, Ensuring Coordinated Response and Notification for Emergency Sewage Discharges. Heal the Bay is an environmental organization with over 30 years of experience and 15,000 members dedicated to making the coastal waters and watersheds of greater Los Angeles safe, healthy, and clean. We would like to acknowledge that Heal the Bay is located on the traditional lands of the Tongva People and pay our respect to elders both past and present.

Heal the Bay was horrified to learn of the discharge of 17 million gallons of raw sewage into the Santa Monica Bay from Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant and the ensuing failure to adequately notify the public and close the beaches immediately. The protocols currently in place to close beaches and notify the public were not followed and even if they had been followed, are not adequate and need to be updated. It is unacceptable that the health of beachgoers was put at risk. This incident highlighted many areas that need immediate improvement to ensure the health and safety of our waters and the people that depend on them. Further, we demand accountability and appropriate repercussions for the failures to protect public health. What are the consequences of the failures in protocol and how do we ensure this does not happen again?

Heal the Bay supports the board motion put forth by Supervisor Hahn to ensure a coordinated response and notification for sewage discharges. We also support the completion of a more comprehensive report (“After Action Report”) in 30 days, with clear recommendations for improved response and notification.

We have reviewed the expedited report by CityGate Associates, LLC, which is enlightening, if not disturbing. Heal the Bay supports the initial recommendations in the report such as active communication, tiered notification processes, and built-in redundancy in processes.

We also request the following recommendations be included in the After Action Report and intra-agency protocol:

- Public notification needs to be immediate and effective. To be effective, the information must actually reach people and multiple methods of communication must be utilized including, but not limited to, social media, signage, text messages, and television and radio notices. Further, communication must be conducted in multiple languages.



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### Heal the Bay

- Ocean water contamination should be tested using rapid methods in addition to traditional regulatory methods. Rapid methods, such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based methods, should be employed to better protect public health as well as track the sewage plume. Rapid methods can provide results within a few hours compared to traditional methods which take 18 to 24 hours.
- The sewage plume should be monitored using remote sensing and water quality monitoring to understand its path, to predict impacted locations, and to increase monitoring in predicted locations of impact.
- An effective sewage spill/discharge protocol must ensure that all parties are properly notified, including all cities in the Santa Monica Bay, non-profits, and other stakeholders. Heal the Bay supports the multi-agency workshop that is recommended by CityGate and we respectfully request to be included in this workshop. Further, we request that we are able to review and provide feedback on the new and updated protocols given our role in protecting public health and the Santa Monica Bay, our expertise in water quality, and our history of advocacy on the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant.

The events that occurred on July 11 and 12 must never happen again, from the discharge of 17 million gallons of sewage to the failures in protecting public health. Heal the Bay is committed to working with agencies, elected officials, and stakeholders to ensure the protection of the health of the Bay and all the people who use it and love it.

We thank Supervisor Hahn for her leadership on this issue and appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Katherine Pease at [kpease@healthebay.org](mailto:kpease@healthebay.org) or (310) 451-1500 ext.141.

Sincerely,

Katherine Pease, PhD  
Director of Science, Policy & Outreach  
Heal the Bay

My name is Benjamin Harris, and I am the staff attorney at Los Angeles Waterkeeper. I submit this comment in response to Agenda Item 36 at the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 27, 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity for members of the public to weigh in on the recent sewage spill into Santa Monica Bay. I acknowledge the strain that the County, especially the Department of Public Health, is experiencing following this incident, and I appreciate all of the hard work that the County has put into investigating the matter.

We at LA Waterkeeper strongly support Supervisor Hahn's motion for a detailed After Action Report to be issued within 30 days, which we think will help bring to light more information about the County's response to the spill.

Understandably, we are concerned with the findings in the initial Citygate report about the extensive notification failures that occurred within the EH Program following the spill.

Our interactions with lifeguards, fishers, beachgoers, and other community members immediately following the incident show that the public needs faster and more robust notice of incidents like these, to ensure that nobody is unknowingly exposed to waters contaminated with sewage, as we heard was the case for some of the callers on Agenda Item 36 during the public comment session earlier this morning.

We believe the public deserves to know the precise steps that the Environmental Health Program, and other County agencies, will take to ensure that public notice is delivered immediately following any future events, including any new rules and procedures necessary to address the deficiencies in the Citygate report as well as measures to ensure that those procedures are followed.

We also would like to know how the County intends to work with the City of LA to address the harm from the spill, including any public health or economic harms that might have resulted from delayed public notice.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Dear Supervisor Hahn,

I am an El Segundo resident and small business owner) and we are currently running our A/C and fans 24/7 to eradicate the human excrement smell coming in strong all over El Segundo currently due to the July 11<sup>th</sup> Hyperion disaster.

The only information we've had from the LA Department of Sanitation and from Hyperion is that larger debris overwhelmed grates, during a non-rain event, and it will take weeks/months to fix the flooding of the facility and that more than 17 million gallons of raw sewage was released at the 1-mile marker, as well as through a manhole on Vista del Mar and grating at Dockweiler beach.

What is being done to expedite a speedy cleanup? What is the air quality safety for those of us in El Segundo, is it safe for our kids and pets? What chemicals are being used to clean this up and are they toxic to local residents breathing this air? What is to stop this from happening regularly? What are the environmental concerns to both our waterways and our air quality? What is being done to speed up communication when the beaches need to be closed faster (kids' camps were in the water and the beaches were not closed in a timely fashion).

What is being done, besides hotel and a/c installation reimbursements? It is impossible for us to leave our house and stay at a hotel for weeks/months while this is fixed. We have pets and my husband and from our home office. We have been forced to run our A/C (with hepa filter) 24/7 just to keep from being overwhelmed with the smell of human excrement that is near constantly wafting in all hours of the day and night. Our electrical bill will be astronomical. The power was out in El Segundo today and we had to keep our windows closed but the smell still seeped in. It is miserable and we aren't even in the hardest-hit area. I can't imagine how those people are coping.

Is this something that needs a federal investigation? Does FEMA need to be called in for this cleanup and repair that we are told may take MONTHS? It really is bad here and I feel as if the only thing we get from Hyperion are press releases telling us how awesome they are and how the upgrades they did last year helped to avert catastrophic results. This doesn't help me to pay my upcoming electric bill or give me any piece of mind that my son will be safe running in the cross country sports program at El Segundo High School each morning. Yes, we chose to move here 9 years ago and live near the Hyperion water treatment facility, but the current conditions are inhumane and have never been this bad before. We frequently feel nauseated from the stench.

I appreciate any help/guidance you can offer. Thank you for pushing for answers and accountability.

Sincerely,

Danielle Busse  
El Segundo Resident and Small Business Owner

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Public Comment, Item 36

07/27/21

As an El Segundo resident with a family of 4 living on the borders of the Hyperion Plant, I'm outraged at the recent sewage spill and vastly concerned with the maintenance and operation expectations leading up to such an event. Primarily, I demand assurance that the facility will be operated with the highest of standards given the nature of its purpose.

1. Are the standard operating procedures and maintenance frequency requirements and records being reviewed and scrutinized by a third party?
2. What is the action plan if there is a determination that standard maintenance has not been adhered to, not just the actions particular to this event and communication mistakes?
3. Will 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors be brought in on a go forward basis to ensure the appropriate maintenance is being conducted and recommendations are being completed in a timely manner?
4. What is the appropriate frequency of checking the filters for debris? Was current frequency not adequate or not being adhered to?
5. With the current clean up measures occurring round the clock, have those measures been deemed appropriate by the proper authorities? In other words, has an agency determined that the flaring is safe for residents and are the chemicals safe for residents and beachgoers?
6. Which agency is the appropriate one to voice health related concerns to? I filed a health complaint to LA Public Health on 7/25 and received a response that my health concerns should be addressed to LA Sanitation Bureau & Environment Department? Does that sound like the appropriate agency?
7. As it currently stands, I understand that the Hyperion Plant will not be able to respond to any increased demand capacity and is moments away from another disaster. What are the interim plans should capacity load overtake the facility? Is waste being diverted elsewhere? Are trucks on standby to pump out excess sludge should it overtake the facility again?
8. Is the recent waste water increase currently being applied to the residents being appropriately spent or managed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party?

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a mother of a 2 and 4-year-old, resident of El Segundo, and an environmental professional for over 15 years. I have the following questions that I would like the City of Los Angeles to please provide public answers too:

1. Is the flaring safe to breath? *LA Health Department needs to provide a statement and not a spokesperson statement from Hyperion who doesn't have a science background.*
2. Are the chemicals being used to clean the spill safe to breath? *LA Health Department needs to provide a statement and not a spokesperson statement from Hyperion who doesn't have a science background.*
3. Are the filters checked daily for debris?
4. Where'd the debris come from since it was a non-storm event?
5. Where all the routine preventative maintenance followed through?
6. What control measures will be in place to ensure this never happens again?
7. How will LA Sanitation meet future demand as housing increases under CA Housing Element?
8. If residents use a hotel/AC voucher, does that mean they're never allowed to hold LA Sanitation accountable in the future?
9. What steps are being taken to ensure the community has proper notification in the future? Will Hyperion begin using Nixle text alerts?
10. Where's all the sludge that flooded internally being discarded?
11. Besides the 17 million gallons of untreated waste that got released, is all the remaining waste being properly treated?
12. What's being done to control mosquitos?
13. We have seen several heavy-duty truck loads of large diesel pump engines getting delivered. Are these permitted through the air district with the proper cancer risk assessments required for Title V air permit facilities?
14. Is LA Sanitation able to install AC in the schools so kids don't have to breath sewage for the next couple weeks/months?
15. Is COVID found in sewage wastewater? Should families that were in the ocean 7/11 get tested for COVID?
16. Info. on the need for calling AQMD daily if odor persist.
17. Any information from the health department?
18. Will water rates increase more than the amounts announced at the 8/18/2020 ES City Council Meeting?



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Public Comment, Item 36

7/26/2021

19. Are residents going to get help with our power bills to cover AC cost?

20. How can people get help if they don't have the \$600-\$1200 to put up front for AC or \$182 for the hotel?

21. How are resident that don't have access internet staying updated on Hyperion matters?

Thank you for your time and public service.

Best regards,

Corrie Zupo

**From:** [Arreola, Carlos](#)  
**To:** [PublicComments](#)  
**Cc:** [LaMarque, Jennifer](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on Item 36 in today's BOS meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:48:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Hi,

Please include the email below to today's public comment record.

Thanks,

Carlos Arreola Lopez  
Operations Deputy  
LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn  
(213) 974-4444



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**From:** Craig W. Cadwallader <[craigc@surfrider-southbay.org](mailto:craigc@surfrider-southbay.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:26 PM  
**To:** LaMarque, Jennifer <[JLaMarque@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:JLaMarque@bos.lacounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment on Item 36 in today's BOS meeting

Here is what I tried to send via the LA County BOS comment form:

Craig W. Cadwallader  
[craigc@surfrider-southbay.org](mailto:craigc@surfrider-southbay.org)  
PO Box 3790, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
Agenda Item: Item 36 – Ensuring Coordinated Response and Notification for Emergency Sewage Discharges

Item 36: In Favor

Comment:

We only learned of the Hyperion sewage spill indirectly from a colleague out of town who referenced an LA Times article on the spill late on Monday night (7/12). We are very active in the community, and have had direct contacts with management at Hyperion and the City of LA for many years, and I am an active participant in the Hyperion 2035 Technical Advisory Group as well as the Hyperion 2035 Community Advisory Group, and have been active with the Surfrider Foundation for

just short of 2 decades, and was active in the investigation of the 2015 Hyperion spill investigation, and there needs to be a more effective way to communicate such a sewage spill so we can help get the word out to Surfrider's members and to members of the public. I understand that people were in the water and observed beach closure signs being posted... this is not acceptable, and there needs to be a better way to communicate such an event on a more timely basis. If I understand properly, this problem started at the Hyperion plant I believe sometime on Saturday, July 10, then got much worse on Sunday, July 11, and we only heard of this indirectly late on Monday night (July 12). This is far too long of a response time for an incident such as this, and there needs to be a better way to communicate such an urgent matter. I hope that Supervisor Hahn's motion will help find an appropriate solution to this matter, and we strongly support this motion, and strongly urge the entire Board of Supervisors to approve this motion today!

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**Craig W. Cadwallader** | **SURFRIDER FOUNDATION** South Bay Chapter  
[craig@surfrider-southbay.org](mailto:craig@surfrider-southbay.org) | [surfrider-southbay.org](http://surfrider-southbay.org)