

August 2024,

I'm regretfully writing the AQMD board to express my dissatisfaction in how the plant is managed and more importantly how poorly Hyperion acts as a steward and neighbor.

I've all but given up on the co playing process but wanted to express to the board that AQMD is our ONLY advocate. The city of El Segundo treads with political kid-gloves that are ineffective and the city of Los Angeles does not care enough to police this situation.

This plant is one more accident away from a catastrophe. Management, communication, determination of information are all poor. Air quality, health concerns and overall quality of life for neighbors of the plant continue to be an poor.

I've given up reporting. The process is archaic, the fines ineffective and I'm led to believe that the fines have not even been paid. Even if money has changed hands the amount is simply another cost of doing business. The process, complaining and speaking up for ourselves has proven to be completely ineffective.

I've included my correspondence from the last time I wrote to the hearing board for your review. I'd like to say that in the past six months the improvement in all of these issues remains completely unchanged. We may have a step forward and a day without the smell of chemicals or sewage only to be reminded that nothing is permanent and that we live next to one of the nations largest and most poorly run reclamation plant.

I implore you to stay the course in babysitting Hyperion, its executives and protecting the neighbors. As individuals we are exhausted to the point of giving up.

Sincerely

Charles Espinoza

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Hyperion Water Treatment Plant continues to pollute the air and oceans.

- Hazardous Chemical Pollution –High H2s numbers. Numbers that cause residents nausea, headaches, burning eyes and pet health issues. [Hyperion Air Monitoring \(sensibleiot.com\)](https://sensibleiot.com) Numbers are “not concentrated enough to warrant further study” according to Hyperion executives.
- Inability to control and manage plant operations – it smells like shit 70% of the days in El Segundo and surrounding areas.

- Inability to follow abatement order
- SQAMD is our only method of advocacy and they are powerless against LASAN and city of LA.

I have been a resident of El Segundo since 2015. El Segundo has always had a reputation of smelling a little funky. But with prevailing offshore winds it was largely bearable with pockets of time where the smell was noticeable.

After the catastrophic accident in 2021, Hyperion was ordered by AQMD to make long overdue necessary repairs.

[Human error, equipment failures caused Hyperion sewage spill - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

Over the course of the past ~3 years Hyperion has made many improvements but was found to be in such total disrepair that they have not been able to reduce the smells and high hydrogen sulfide numbers that were largely in check before the accident. The high H2S numbers have resulted in complaints all the way up to the national EPA level but because the elevated numbers are not concentrated for very long periods of time (the wind dissipates the H2S) our health concerns have been ignored.

The residents have reached out to city officials and their answer was to work on legislation which requires the monitoring of the H2S at the source instead of the current fence line monitors which are affected by winds and topography. Legislation was passed and will not take affect until 2027. El Segundo City officials have worked with the City of LA (party responsible for Hyperion) as well as local and State representatives.

[Newsom signs bill ordering Hyperion to detect, control sewage spill odors – Press Telegram](#)

On July 12, as a result of the rain Hyperion had another failure and it has smelled like a porta potty ever since. Resident's only recourse is to file a complaint with South Coast Air Quality Management. On most days Hyperion is issued a notice of violation for pollution but continues to pollute.

The residents are at wits end and have exhausted our efforts to seek help from government and state officials (Fed EPA kicks down the complaint to the state level which kicks it down to AQMD).

There are dozens of residents that would be willing to go on the record to express their issues with the lack of oversight, poor management and continued health concerns. Los Angeles Dept of Sanitation, the city of El Segundo and the City of LA have failed to make our lives bearable.

If you are interested I suggest joining and browsing the facebook group : " Neighbors of Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant" to see the level of complaints from residents from Westchester to Manhattan Beach.

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