


Date: October 15, 2021

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

Subject: **Requesting Support for the Dominguez Channel Odor Incident**

Beginning on October 7, 2021, an odor has emanated from the Dominguez Channel between Main Street and Avalon Boulevard in Carson. The Dominguez Channel is under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County and does not fall within the purview of the City of Long Beach, nor is the channel inside City boundaries. However, residents in Carson, West Carson, and neighboring communities including Long Beach have reported short-term impacts due to the incident.

Both Los Angeles County and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) are monitoring air quality surrounding the impact zone. County Public Works, Public Health, and Fire Hazardous Materials are working to address the source of the odor, and are hosting daily conference calls to update the City of Long Beach and other regional stakeholders on the issue. The County also offers temporary relocation assistance and funding to purchase air filters for residents who are impacted.

County officials believe the source of the smell is organic waste materials drying out in low tide within the Dominguez Channel. The natural decomposition process releases hydrogen sulfide into the air, causing the odor. While levels of hydrogen sulfide are elevated near the site and can cause short-term symptoms such as headaches, nausea, and irritation, County officials say the odor does not present long-term health hazards.

The City is concerned about this issue and its potential impacts on Long Beach residents and neighboring communities, and has submitted the attached letter to the relevant regional, State, and federal agencies and delegation calling for additional resources and support to resolve the issue and address the impacts to residents.

If you have any questions, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Manager of Government Affairs, at (562) 570-5715.

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MEREDITH REYNOLDS, SPECIAL DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FOR RECOVERY
REBECCA G. GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS

October 15, 2021

Renee Purdy
Executive Officer
Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 W. 4th St., Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary
California EPA
1001 I St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Deborah Jordan
Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 9
600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 94
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Executive Officer Purdy, Secretary Blumenfeld, and Regional Administrator Jordan:

The City of Long Beach is concerned about the odor nuisance emanating from the Dominguez Channel between Main Street and Avalon Boulevard in Carson, and we request the continued efforts of regional, State, and federal partners to address this issue and to identify ways to prevent it from happening in the future.

We appreciate that Los Angeles County and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) have been monitoring air quality surrounding the impact zone and are working to eliminate the source of the odor. The County has hosted daily conference calls to update the City of Long Beach and other regional stakeholders on the issue, and they offer temporary relocation assistance and funding for air filters to impacted residents.

While officials say the odor does not present long-term health hazards, elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide near the site have caused short-term symptoms such as headaches, nausea, and irritation for residents in Carson, West Carson, and neighboring communities, including some reports of impacts to Long Beach residents.

Thank you for your leadership to address this issue. We ask that all relevant regional, State, and federal partners coordinate with local response agencies as appropriate and provide additional resources and support to the County and AQMD to find a solution to the odor and impacts on neighboring residents.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47th District
The Honorable Congressmember Nanette Barragan, 44th District
The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District
The Honorable Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County Supervisor, 4th District
Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County
Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer, South Coast AQMD
Sharon Landers, City Manager, City of Carson

