



South Coast
AQMD

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Issues Violation to Hyperion Treatment Plant for Elevated Levels of Hydrogen Sulfide

DIAMOND BAR – Yesterday, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant in Playa del Rey, Calif., for elevated levels of Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) and for violating requirements to reduce odors impacting the community.

On June 19, 2023, fence-line monitoring at Hyperion showed elevated levels of H₂S, with a maximum one-hour average of 64.60 parts per billion (ppb) at one of the monitoring locations. This exceeded the facility's permit limit for H₂S of 30 ppb. Prior to the exceedance, Hyperion submitted a notification reporting that it had shut down several air pollution control devices (known as scrubbers) for planned maintenance and repairs. The scrubbers were returned to service within seven hours, and the fence-line monitoring system showed H₂S levels had returned to typical levels.

A South Coast AQMD enforcement team conducted an on-site inspection and found that Hyperion also violated recordkeeping requirements under its September 2022 order and failed to notify the agency within one hour of discovery of the elevated H₂S levels.

Hyperion is located at 12000 Vista Del Mar, in Playa del Rey and is operated by City of Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment (LA Sanitation). Since South Coast AQMD's investigation began in July 2021, inspectors have responded to over 5,500 complaints from members of the community and issued approximately 70 NOVs to Hyperion for public nuisance in violation of the agency's Rule 402, along with one NOV for excess visible emissions under Rule 401, and three NOVs for violations of permit conditions.

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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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