



# Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa

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August 10, 2021

Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant  
1200 Vista Del Mar  
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

Re: Hyperion sewage spill incident on July 11, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Residents of Westchester, Playa del Rey, and Playa Vista are neighbors to the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant. Since the most recent Hyperion sewage spill incident on July 11, 2021 that led to the release of 17 million gallons of sewage into the Santa Monica Bay, our neighbors have been dealing with a variety of air quality and health issues as a result. Still a month later, residents in our community continue to suffer a variety of consequences. The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa demands action to hold the agencies and responsible parties accountable while mitigating the environmental and financial costs burdening our community.

The sewage spill closed down our beaches for several days and the damage done to our community is immeasurable. While there have been periods of time at which the water was deemed safe, the smell alone has left community members wondering if the proper chemicals or biological agents are being utilized. Since July 11th, leakage of other forms continues - the air quality has been unbearable leaving many of our community members forced to stay indoors. We, the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa, demand relief and compensation for our affected residents as well as ongoing air quality tests with transparent published results. The City of Los Angeles has offered reimbursement to El Segundo residents for air conditioning, hotel rooms, as well as meals and incidentals due to the unsafe air quality. Although this is a good start, it's only the beginning of a necessary process to hold those responsible accountable. Residents of Playa Del Rey, Playa Vista, and Westchester, who also neighbor your facility, are facing the same consequences and our neighbors should also be entitled to the same reimbursement.

Compensation for hotels and an air conditioning unit isn't enough. We have countless people of all ages currently suffering from migraines, headaches, nose bleeds, coughs, dry/sore throats, dizziness, congestion, lethargy, and other conditions as a result of the toxic chemicals utilized to clean the mess. We are being woken in the middle of the night due to the overwhelming odors. The alternative is to run air conditioning at a time when we are being asked to conserve energy in California. This is expensive and not sustainable. It is imperative that we come to a sustainable resolve on this issue immediately. At this point, we have not been informed about what chemicals are being used and there is no end in sight, thus there is no way to measure the ramifications of this crisis as related to the health of our community members.

The health of our community is at stake, including the health of our children who will be resuming school very soon who will rely on clean air as a safety measure in the next phase of this pandemic. We must know what chemicals are being emitted so that we can adequately care for ourselves and for our environment. The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa would also like to request financial relief for the air conditioning we are being forced to run. At the very least, Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant must be held accountable. How do we know that this will not happen again? What assurance do we have that the appropriate measures will be taken to ensure we do not find ourselves in this situation ever again?

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Gerez". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and a cursive "Gerez".

Paula Gerez  
President, Neighborhood Council of Westchester / Playa

cc- Mike Bonin, CD 11 Councilmember