



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH COASTAL AREA ODORS AD HOC COMMITTEE

PO Box 190 • Huntington Beach, CA 92648

MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2017

I. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Michael Posey (Mayor Pro Tem), Billy O'Connell, and Patrick Brenden.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem, Michael Posey at 3:02 p.m.

II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2017**

A motion was made by Council Member Brenden to amend the minutes to direct the public to the City website for additional information. Staff Liaison Graham stated that a synopsis would be posted on the City website on the Coastal Area Odors Ad Hoc Committee page which can be found here - <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/council-committees/coastal-area-odors/>. Member O'Connell second, passed unanimously (3-0).

III. **Update from South Coast Air Quality Management District**

Debra Ashby, Senior Public Information Specialist from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SAQMD) reported that the District is committed to finding the source of the coastal area odors and that an investigation is currently underway. Last week there were 98 complaints and with the assistance of multiple agencies, samples were taken and results will be posted on the website. Debra Ashby will confirm if these complaints were actually from one day or over the course of the week. They are still not quite ready to pinpoint the source of the odor but are working closely with other agencies to investigate.

The test results from 10/17/17 are now posted online. Per Member Brenden, SCAQMD committed to a one week turnaround on test results and it took over a month. This needs to become a priority. According to the website this sample was tested for petroleum and not hydrogen sulfide. The sample was taken from a canister which does a petroleum test and does not specifically test for hydrogen sulfide. Council Member O'Connell inquired as to the status of the request for continuous monitoring at City Fire Stations. Ms. Ashby stated that she would report back to the Council by the next meeting. She also stated that at the next meeting she would bring the testing canisters so that the Committee Members could see what they look like. In the meantime, the City can help SCAQMD by letting the community know to call or go online to log the complaints and to be extremely detailed in the information that they provide to SCAQMD. This will help to pinpoint the source.

IV. **Update from Southern California Gas Company**

Jennifer Vaughn, Public Affairs Manager stated the Working Group held a meeting on November 2, 2017. At this meeting, Southern California Gas Company presented the working group a map of the complaints. Orange County Sheriff has been added to the group because they have jurisdiction 3 miles off the coast, additionally, the United States Coast Guard has been invited. The Naval Weapon station also tracks the odors and has requested to join the Working Group. The next meeting will be held in January 2018.

v. Public Comments (Open to the Public)

This is the time of the meeting for the City Council Ad Hoc Committee to receive comments from the public regarding items of interest. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the Ad Hoc Committee may not enter into discussion regarding items not on the agenda. Members of the public who wish to speak to a member of the Ad Hoc Committee or an item not on the agenda may consider setting up an appointment with the staff liaison. Each speaker is allowed 3 minutes, and time may not be donated to another speaker.

Gina Clayton Tarvin, President of the Ocean View School Board and resident, spoke about her continued concerns. She stated that there appears to be a pattern. Ms. Tarvin said she knows it is coming from off-shore. She was told this is a byproduct of the tankers doing off-gasing and SCAQMD is aware of this. The community would be best served to mount permanent infra-red cameras along the coast as well as work with the port.

Jeanie Fields, resident, sent an email to SCAQMD regarding the 11/7/17 incident, but has not received a response, even though it showed four people have read her email. She questioned as to how you report the symptoms when someone is sick.

Mark Sheldon, resident and member of the Environmental Board, stated that he has worked in the industrial air pollution control industry and it is very important to know whether this is hydrogen sulfide or another compound.

vi. Ad Hoc Committee Work Plan Request -

Mayor Pro Tem Posey requested additional information on the infra-red cameras, the technology, the canisters, and what the SCAQMD tests for.

Member O'Connell requested a status update on the continuous air monitoring at the Huntington Beach Fire Department locations.

Member Brenden has requested 1) additional AQMD presence to attend meetings to answer technical questions; 2) wants to see results plotted and the correlation with regards to the shipping traffic which may require coordination from the Port complex; 3) look into infra-red cameras being mounted along the coast in order to show what tankers are off-shore and at what time; and 4) staff to look into the California Air Resources Board to see what is available with regards to additional testing with prompt responses.

The next SCAQMD Board Meeting on December 2, 2017.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Room B8.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

For further information please contact Staff Liaison Antonia Graham, Assistant to the City Manager, at (714) 536-5537 or

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