



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH COASTAL AREA ODORS AD HOC COMMITTEE

PO Box 190 • Huntington Beach, CA 92648

MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 13, 2017

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor, Michael Posey at 3:00 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Mayor Posey to approve the minutes seconded by Council Member Brenden, the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

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

Marian Coleman, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer – Compliance & Enforcement from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) reported that the District is committed to finding the source of the coastal area odors and that the investigation continues. The District has developed a protocol for air sampling following odor complaints and appreciates the cooperation of the Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD) which has been trained and provided with SUMMA canisters and Tedlar sampling bags to sample air as quickly as possible for the highest level of efficiency. Huntington Beach was the first City to partner with SCAQMD and the sampling taking place will aid in locating the source of any odors reported. SCAQMD employees are on call 24/7 to collect the samples and test them as quickly as possible. The first sample was identified as biological in nature and could be from an off-shore source meaning there could be various sources causing the odors.

Council Member O'Connell asked whether continuous 24 hour monitoring devices could be installed in the City stating the HBFD had volunteered to provide fire stations to locate that type of monitoring. Marian Coleman, SCAQMD responded the current plan did not include 24-hour monitoring and that the District's priority was to locate the source, but that the District was partnering with other agencies including the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Coast Guard, and Ports. Council Member Brenden asked if there was hydrogen sulfide collected in the last sample. Marian Coleman responded that there was, as well as sulfite and petroleum at 14 parts per billion (ppb), a higher concentration than normal and that odors detected at 30 ppb/hr. caused symptoms such as headaches and nausea. Council Member Brenden then asked if the dissipation rate had been studied or modeled. Sina Hasheminassab, Air Quality Specialist responded that it had not since the sources of the odors have not been located, but that the SCAQMD can run meteorological air models to try and estimate air parcel direction. Marian Coleman stated the District could study information from the lab to calculate how long hydrogen sulfide lingers.

Council Member O'Connell asked if any progress had been made, Marian Coleman responded there was and that the plan in place is looking at both on and off-shore possibilities, however some delays are due to the change in weather, since in warmer months there are more odor complaints

in comparison to the winter months. Mayor Posey asked if the duration of the odor episodes is monitored, Marion Coleman responded that it was, the time, caller, and location were being tracked with the help of the air monitoring group and other outside agencies currently assisting.

Sina Hasheminassab, Air Quality Specialist reviewed air monitoring efforts. The District has contracted out the deployment of optical remote sensing (ORS) technology over a two week period on the water. An update can be provided after the remote sensing is complete.

Council Member Brenden asked what the City can tell its residents and if a notification could be set up to alert when sample reports are posted on the SCAQMD website. The SCAQMD agreed to post online, set up active alert notifications for new reports posted and have Debra Ashby give weekly updates, pending legal restrictions on release of information. The District recommended the public be informed that the ORS was in place and a plan in in place to identify the source faster. While the results of the ORS are uncertain, the District would try to add a timeframe on its website. Council Member O'Connell followed up on his earlier question about 24 hour monitoring and the SCAQMD responded that there would not be 24 hour monitoring installed at this point because it would not be as effective as the current plan to locate the odor causing source(s).

iv. Update from Southern California Gas Company.

No representative from Southern California Gas Company in attendance. Ms. Graham, staff liaison stated that the next Working Group Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 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.

Jeanie Fields, resident, questioned whether the City had contacted CARB directly. Antonia Graham, City Staff responded that they had not and relied on the AQMD for contact. Fields also questioned whether the Optical Remote Sensing (ORS) would be extended if nothing was found. Marian Coleman, SCAQMD responded it is uncertain as the district can decide to extend or change to another testing avenue. She stated the SCAQMD would send out an update when the current ORS monitoring stops and if further testing will take place.

vi. Ad Hoc Committee Work Plan Request

The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Room B8.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

For further information please contact Staff Liaison Antonia Graham, Assistant to the City Manager, at
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