

ODOR CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

Village Green
5300 Rodeo Road, Los Angeles
February 10, 2003

MEETING #7 MINUTES

Attendees: See attached attendance list

Meeting Minutes Recorded by: Hyginus O. Mmeje, City of Los Angeles,
Bureau of Sanitation, Wastewater Engineering
Services Division

Handouts: The following handouts were presented and explained at the meeting.

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes of the January 13, 2003 Odor Control Advisory Committee Board Meeting)
3. Odor Control Advisory Committee Board Meeting Schedule (As of February 10, 2003)
4. A set of two draft Public Services Announcements (PSAs) entitled: "What's that Smell?"
5. Survey Method for Hotline
6. Goals of Odor Advisory Board
7. Odor Complaint Hotline Follow-up (August 2001 – December 2002).
8. Odor Compliant Response Form
9. IRP Tier I Stakeholders

Introductory Issues

Patrick McCullough chaired the meeting. Brent announced that teleconferencing facility is not available at the location and proceeded to contact members not present by phone. Before the last meeting minutes could be adopted, Ted pointed out that his name is not on the list of attendees for the last meeting, a meeting which he chaired. Katrina asked the group whether they agree that the goals on page 1 of the meeting #6 minutes are the goals for the group. After some discussion, the group agreed that the said goals on page 1 of the minutes are not the sum total goals for the group but are outreach items. The Group agreed that the goals for the group is as stipulated in the court order. Then, Sam read the court order goals, starting from line 28 of page 5 of the court order. The Group agreed with Sam that what he read are the goals they will go by. Katrina then said that the objective during the last meeting discussion was to determine how to accomplish the bigger court stipulated goals for the Board. Following these discussions, the minutes was adopted.

Review of Public Services Announcements (PSAs)

Brent handed out and discussed a set of two draft Public Services Announcements (PSAs) entitled: “What’s that Smell?” handout No. 4, and a survey of how the hotline callers learned of it, entitled: “Survey Method for Hotline,” handout No. 5. The group liked the PSA title: “What’s that Smell”? However, the Group recommended changes to the actual announcements. According to Brent, 40 – 50 survey post cards were mailed out to residents of Council Districts (CD) 8, 9 and 10. Brent, said the Group’s recommended changes to the PSAs will be make and then, the City will begin distributing the revised PSAs to the news media/organizations suggested by Board members and those to be identified by the City, including the City’s Channel 35, National Public Radio, etc. Brent indicated that both the list of the news media/organizations and the revised PSAs would be provided as part of the minutes and/or at the next meeting.

Odor Advisory Board Goals

Deborah Harris distributed a one-page document entitled: Goals of Odor Advisory Board, handout No. 6 and requested that members keep it in mind while Calvin Hall and Terrence Montgomery speak. The Group members, then, invited to Calvin and Terrence to address them.

Calvin spoke first and he introduced himself as the president of Baldwin Hills Village Garden Homes Association. According to him, the association was formed many years ago in response to various issues the communities have had to deal with. It is essentially a coalition of other organizations in the area that have come together to solve the problems common to their areas. Calvin indicated that sewer odor later became an issue in the area, in 1993, particularly, near the intersection of Pico Blvd and La Brea. Since then, the odor problem has gradually increased and spread to areas as far as the West LA College. He indicated that the City attempted to solve the odor problem by lining the area sewers but that did not resolve the odor problem. According to him, City staff encountered a problem with the lining process. The liners, particularly, in the areas near the intersection of La Cienega and Rodeo, did not connect well or form a tight seal as expected. At that time, the City staff agreed to fix the liner and the continuing odor problems and asked the community to support their request for additional funds. The community responded by sending letters to officials and the money was provided. According to Calvin, even with the additional funds, obtained with the support of the community, City staff is yet to correct the problems. Calvin said that at a point, the City didn’t seem to care anymore about the community and the City went as far as proposing an alignment of the East Central Interceptor Sewer (ECIS) through the community, something that, he said, raised the community awareness. He maintained that the odor problem has gotten worse as both the catch basins and the storm drains, in the areas, have also started to smell and the City has stopped attempting to help the community. This condition, he said, led the community to feel that it had no other recourse than to join others in suing the City, in order to get the City back to the negotiating table, and back to attempting to work with the community to solve the odor problem. Calvin indicated that

he is now happy something good, that is the formation of the Odor Advisory Board, has resulted from the lawsuit and that he looks forward to having the odor expert, also hired as result of the lawsuit, talk with the odor impacted community to share their frustration. Towards the end of his speech, Calvin reported his experience with the odor hotline. According to him, he once called the hotline to report an odor problem and was told that it was a DWP problem.

Terrence was next to speak and he spoke from the same handout No 6, provided by Deborah, entitled: “Goals of the Advisory Board.” He discuss in detail the missions and goals contained in the handout. He urged the Board not to deviate from their mission which he indicated is contained in a consent decree. He asked the Board to focus on solving the odor problems now, not in 3 to 4 years time when ECIS will be completed. He feels that the odor consultant needs to understand that this board will review his work, that he cannot rely solely on information submitted by the City, and that he should talk with the community. Terrence indicated that he has called the odor hotline before but is yet to see his name on the list of those that have called the hotline. Ted agreed that the Board members should not deviate from the Board’s mission as Terrence has indicated and that the Board should focus on their court stipulated goals.

After lengthy discussion by all Board members on the goals for the Board, the Group seems to agree on the following goals: to review the odor complaints, to review odor investigations, to review mitigation measures and to review work of the consultant.

Protocol and Response to Odor Control

The City presented handout No. 7 – Odor Compliant Hotline Follow-up (August 2001 – December 2002) to the Board members for their review. Following a review of the follow-up report, Sam Hart said that the City doesn’t seem to realize that repeated odor complaints from a particular location should warrant a change in City’s response approach and implementation of a new solution, including a permanent solution. He believes that other solutions should be investigated and tried. He said, “I want to see the City resolve the problems, not responding repeatedly with the same solution that has not worked.”

Questions, Answers and Action Items: The following are some of the questions or issues, and the answers or comments, as well as action items that I was able to capture.

	QUESTIONS/ISSUES	RESPONSES/COMMENTS	ACTION ITEMS
1.	Ted requested that the court stated goals be stated in the minutes exactly.	The Stipulated Case Management Order stated the goals of the Sewer Odor Control Advisory Board as follow: "to review odor complaints, investigations, mitigation measures being conducted by the City, and	None

		review the work of the Odor Consultant."	
2.	The Board recommended changes to the actual announcements and requested copy of the revised PSAs and a list of media and news organization that will receive the PSAs be provided.	Agreed.	Recommended changes to the PSAs will be made and then, the City will begin distributing the revised PSAs to the news media/organizations suggested by Board members and those to be identified by the City, including the City's Channel 35, National Public Radio, etc. The list of the news media/organizations and the revised PSAs will be provided.
3.	Bassett asked about odor traps in sewer maintenance holes.	Vlad indicated that the traps are to prevent odors from large lines to the secondary lines.	None
4.	Bassett asked how frequently the traps are maintained once identified as the source of odor.	Vlad indicated that once identified as the problems the Bureau of Sanitation works with Bureau of Engineering to resolve the problem. Additionally, the traps are scheduled for quarterly routine maintenance.	None
5.	Deborah and Ted pointed out that the odor compliant file distributed at last meeting shows that it takes months to get a City response to odor complaints.	Vlad and Brent indicated that those were preliminary and initial information that needed to be revisited.	The City will review the data and update it.
6.	Sam said that the Odor Complaint Hotline Follow-up report does not contain details of the specific actions being taken by the City to resolve reported odor conditions. Ted said that the follow-up report should contain a column for engineering comments on the response actions taken for each reported odor condition.	Vlad – Agreed. The City needs to improve in getting back to the complainant to gauge their level of satisfaction.	The City will revise report to include requested changes at the next one to two meetings.
7.	Sam wants the odor complaint follow- up Report	Agreed.	The City will revise report to include requested changes at the

	to contain a clear definition of the investigations conducted for the odor complaints, a description of what was fixed and statement indicating whether the problem was solved.		next one to two meetings.
8.	Ted - What is meant by sealed maintenance holes and does it force the gas to go elsewhere.	Vlad and Brent – Yes, when maintenance holes are sealed, gases do flow down streams to escape from areas of least resistance. Vlad indicated that the \$45 million planned odor facilities will control the problems by actually pulling the gases out and treating them.	None
9.	Terrence where will the odor facilities will be installed.	Vlad said that one would be installed on NOS/NCOS in the interim and along ECIS. The permanent facilities will be built afterwards.	None
10.	Milton asked if gases could escape from a trap maintenance holes.	Brent – traps operating properly are not expected to allow gases to escape.	None
11.	Deborah Harris wants to get a report on the effectiveness of the chemical dosing and injection program.	Requested noted.	City will provide report at the next one or two meetings
12.	Mr. Calvin asked, what happens if the odor facilities don't work and whether it has worked effectively elsewhere.	Brent – It has been reported to work well at other places.	None
13.	Calvin wanted to get the boundary of the odor hotline outreach area.	Requested noted.	Maps will be provided at the next meeting.

	Calvin asked about the chemical injection program and the extent of areas covered by it.	Vlad explained the process and a description of the areas covered.	None
14.	Ted would like the Odor Complaint Response Form (OCRF) used by City crews to report their activities in the field to be included in the Hotline follow up report or as a minimum include most of the OCRF contents in the follow-up report to provide more details of City's response effort.	Vlad – That will be done in the next one to two meetings.	City will modify the follow-up report to include the requested changes in the next one to two meetings.
15.	Sam suggested no billboards in the area and that posters on telephone poles be removed.	The Board adopted Sam's recommendation.	None
16.	Ted wants no negative ads and prefers less intrusive advertising of the odor hotline such as using the PSAs.	The City will reflect the requested changes in the follow-up report.	None
17.	Sam asked why Terrence's name is not in the compliant list.	Vlad said that he has seen it before but will check on it. The group agreed that complainant names should not be used in the odor hotline follow-up report and the address and date of call should be indicated.	None
18.	Follow up meeting 6 action items.	Brent updated the group on the status of action items from the last meeting. PSAs, notification of IRP Stakeholders, etc. Brent then explained what the IRP is all about.	None
19.	Ted requested a copy of the IPWP Guiding Principles.	Agreed	The City will provide members with copies of the IRP Guiding principles at the next meeting.

20.	Milton asked if the soil pile at Northwest corner of La Brea and Rodeo Road is from ECIS and if it is why is it being stored there.	No information available at this time. The City will investigate and report back.	The northwest corner of La Brea/Rodeo Road is not in the vicinity of ECIS construction. Field investigation disclosed that there is an ongoing construction for a future Save-on Drug.
21.	Future agenda items	Sam – Suggest Odor that Board members might be interested in witnessing a testimony, demonstration and operation of the odor control facilities, even at Hyperion or elsewhere to see how it works. City will arrange odor trip for the Board members.	The City is arranging with Bureau of Engineering for a tour of the odor facility testing and demonstration for the Board members.
22.	Requested information regarding chemical dosing in relationship to complaints (whether it is going down chemicals used, may be an MSDS. Explanation of what chemical dosing accomplishes and hazardous impacts of the chemicals used should be provided, including copies of the MSDS for the materials used.	Agreed.	The City will provide the requested information with the minutes or at the next meeting.
23.	Brent indicated that he received email from the odor control expert suggesting how to meet with the community. Bowker is suggesting focus groups and talking to those that have frequently called the odor hotline. Calvin wants to be supportive but wants the approach that will not be confusing and an approach that will provide the community with advanced warning.	The group recommended that the meeting be held at the Bahai Center	Brent suggests that the city will obtain Bowker the number of community attendees at each meeting, and will provide the community with early notice of the meeting. The City will investigate having a community meeting at the Bahai Center.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Odor Control Advisory Board will be held at the Foundation for the Junior Blind, 5300 Angeles Vista Blvd, on March 10, 2003. City will send out minutes and other meeting materials prior to the next meeting date and will confirm the next meeting location.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at about 9:00 pm.