

ODOR CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

Foundation for the Junior Blind

5300 Angeles Vista Blvd

April 07, 2003

MEETING #9 MINUTES

Attendees: See attached attendance list

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

Handouts:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes of March 10, 2003 meeting
3. Public Service Announcement “What’s that Smell”?
4. Radio Stations for Odor Advisory PSAs
5. Proposed NORS/NOTF Pressure Monitoring Sites
6. Municipal Wastewater Treatment Air Emissions
7. Review of Draft Interim report, subject “Independent review of the sewer odor control program for the City of Angeles” by Bowker & Associates, dated March 14, 2003 – Samuel G. Hart, Vice President, Baldwin Hills Village Garden Homes Association, Inc.

Introductory Issues

Carol Tucker chaired the meeting.

Agenda Approval

Agenda Approved

Review and Approve Minutes from March 10 Meeting

The minutes were approved.

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	Comments/Responses	Action Items
1.	Public Services Announcements (PSAs)	Brent Indicated that as requested by the Board, the PSAs have been revised and distributed to radio stations. The revised PSAs and the list were also handed out.	The City will send the PSAs to the following Spanish FM radio stations: Klve and Laraza.

2.	How Long can these announcements run?	Brent- They can go as long as we request them to run.	None
3.	Carol – Do you (the City) have your own announcers or will you use the Radio Station announcers?	Brent – The Radio Station announcers will be utilized.	None
4.	Annabella – Why was sewer odor information and materials not made part of the Bureau of Sanitation exhibition at the April 5 th Neighborhood Council workshop at the Convention Center?	Brent- Odor control program information and materials will be part of future Bureau of Sanitation exhibits	The Bureau of Sanitation will include odor control program information and materials in future Bureau of Sanitation exhibitions.
5.	Odor Control Fan Testing.	Odor Control Fan Testing will likely be in early May, if not sooner and it will include a tour of Hyperion Treatment Plant for those Odor Control Board members that are interested. The fans would be portable units that will be used to pull air from the sewer system to simulate what would happen in a real event.	The City will schedule the fan testing and Hyperion tour and inform the Board members.
6.	What gases are expected to be drawn from the system, what will the activated carbon media do and what types of gases will be released.	Vlad – The gas to be pulled from the system will mainly be H ₂ S, which will be passed through activated carbon that will act as absorbent material. The activated carbon will remove most of the H ₂ S from the air by absorbing it. The resulting cleaner air will then be released as appropriate. Robert – This won't be an exact simulation of the real condition and all gases pulled during the testing will be treated before they are discharged.	None
7.	Terrence - What size fan will be used and what is noise decibel level expected?	The fans to be used will have the capacity to pull about 10,000 cubic foot of air, which is about the same capacity of the fans that will be used in the actual odor control facility. Brent – We will get back	The City to provide Board member with the fans' rated noise levels.

		to you on the noise level because we don't want to impact the public even if this is a test	
8.	Will the Fans run 24 hours?	Yes, it will run 24 hours a day for the approximate 10days of the testing.	None
9.	How long will it take to install the fans.	About a day for the testing, a day or two for the interim facility and for the permanent facilities, it will take the course of a regular construction project schedule.	None
10.	Are you getting architectural design input from the community?	Brent – I will confirm that the Bureau of Engineering but usually, such projects go through normal city architectural review	The City will confirm if architectural design input if being solicited from the community.
11.	Terence – Is it possible for these fans to suck out sewage liquid out of the system? Could these fans be so strong to suck sewage out?	Robert Bowker – It could suck out sewage but that is not expected under normal circumstances.	None
12.	Carol read out the schedule for resident interview and discussed the list of people contacted to be interviewed. Carol – If anyone shows up at the resident interview, without prior arrangement, would that be ok?	Brent – I don't think it would be a problem, but it is up to Robert Bowker to answer and to describe how he would run the resident interview sessions. Robert – We would be able to accommodate those not previously contacted. Robert then explained the purpose of the interview and indicated that he would want representatives of the various communities to attend.	None
13.	Carol – What is the mechanism to confirm attendance at the resident interview sessions?	The City would contact the residents and as at now, the City does not yet have firm confirmation of those that will attend. It is still very much open. They can also contact City directly or through the attorneys or the Board members.	None
14.	Would it be ok to have observers like the attorneys at the resident interview sessions?	Brian – I would think the preference would be not to have the attorneys there. Bowker – it	None

		really doesn't matter to me whether the attorneys are there or not but a decision have to be made to have them or not. They group decided to let whomever wants to attend to do so.	
15.	Do you plan to wait the entire time like at an open house event?	Bowker – I plan to be there the entire two hours, though we gave them specific time to attend.	None
16.	Annabella – Can Board members attend as observers	Brent – yes. The Consensus is that all the board members, the attorneys, and others can attend if they want.	None
17.	Carol – Will the Council Offices be invited.	Brent – We will notify the council offices and they are here today .	None
18.	Interim Report: Robert – Discussed the draft interim report, which was previously mailed to the Board members and indicated that the interim report will still be produced in October as scheduled.	Robert indicated that the draft report preliminary and is based on his review of the information that the City provided. He indicated that it was not generated in a vacuum, though he recognized that it doesn't have all the data that it could have. According to him, he put out the draft report in order share with the Board members the direction he is headed and to find out from the Board members whether he is headed in the right direction in his review of the City's odor problems.	Board members to review the draft interim report and provide Robert with a sense of whether he is headed in the right direction.
19.	Milton - Page 10, item 5 of the draft interim report should state that the siphon problems are due to design deficiency and not due to odor conditions as the draft interim report seems to indicate. We should be able to design siphons that work. Everything in this report regarding siphons could be resolved because they are design problems. Your report did not point out the cause	Robert. – It is really a design problem as you have correctly stated. Your comments are correct and have been noted.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.

	of the problems, which is design deficiency. If we can't design siphons that work, how can we trust that they can design biotrickling odor control facilities that would work?		
20.	Terence- Isn't the discharge of sludge a factor and your report did not recognize it?	Bowker – You are right. It is a factor and should and will be considered in the interim report.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
21.	Terence – Shouldn't you recommend that sewage be treated before the odor is generated? Wouldn't that solve some of the odor problems.	Bowker – You are right. It would definitely help with the odor problem. One may attempt to treat the odor with some chemicals such as Ferrous Chloride as the City of Los Angeles has tried but that can be expensive.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
22.	Terrence – Is there a way to measure H2S levels along the entire NOS alignment, since H2S has been identified as the main source of the odor problem in the area?	Bowker – That could be done and the City is already conducting that monitoring right now and I recommend doing it in non Maze areas as well	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
23.	Patrick – How much Ferrous Chloride do you use in the system.	Vlad – We have a continuous addition of Ferrous Chloride to the tune of 100 120 gallons per hour or there about.	None
24.	Sam Hart – Handed out his list of comments, handout #7 above, and asked why the number of owner trouble so high in the draft interim report. If it is that high, then we should make the owners aware of this condition, he said.	Bowker – It is high and it may be that the crew classified problems they could not resolve as owner's problems.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
25.	Sam Hart – There is no analysis, in the draft interim report that ECIS may not take care of the odor problems as claimed.	Bowker – Good point. Should be considered.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
26.	Sam Hart – M/H sealing has proven not to work. Why waste time with it.	Bowker – I agree, it transfers the problem to somewhere else, and it is really a bandage.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
27.	Milton – Evaluate removal of sludge through south central LA	Bowker – I will evaluate that.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
28.	Sam Hart – Discontinue the use of Ferrous Chloride and use	Vlad – That has been recommended. Bowker – Ferrous	Robert will address this issue in the

	some thing better.	chloride does work well and may be economical. You do need to conduct tests to determine the right chemical to use. . The City tried Magnesium Hydroxide and I will have to evaluate that in my report.	interim report.
29.	Sam Hart – Since the odor is still going on, there should be a consideration for increased maintenance until the permanent solutions are effectively implemented. It is not acceptable to just inspect maintenance holes, each time the City receives a report without actually resolving the problem. It is not acceptable to only inspect the maintenance holes just once every two years. It is not acceptable not to clean the trap maintenance holes regularly, mere inspection is not acceptable.	None	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
30.	Sam Hart – There need to be plan to provide additional City resources to tackle this continuing odor problems. The plan needs to be developed and implemented immediately. something done.	Brent – It is true that we are swamped with spills, etc, but I agree that additional resources would be need and your point is well taken.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
31.	Terrence – Does the City have enough resources to address the odor issues and will the report address	Bowker – I believe that is part of my scope and it will have to be addressed in my report. The City staff that currently works on the odor issues is presently swamped and I will compare City resources devoted to odor issues to those of other cities such as cities in orange county, in my report.	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
32.	Patrick – expressed concerned and doubt that the odor fans would work.	Bowker – The magnitude of the City’s Planned ATF in the collection systems is unheard of in the nation. It has never been done in this magnitude before. According to Robert, to pull out	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.

		10,000 to 12,000 CFM of sewer odor from seven locations, within the collection system and treat them before discharge is so large it is unheard of. It is unique to Los Angeles. Sam – This is why I am concerned that ECIS may not be able to solve the problem, especially when you factor in future population growth.	
33.	Carol – How do we resolve this issue of lack of resources? Do we have to file a lawsuit to get the resources we need or do we start with our councilpersons. Do we need to have Commissioner Valerie Shaw here?	<p>Terrence – I don't believe a lawsuit is necessary at this time, we need to allow Bowker to analyze it first before we could know what to do. I certainly hope it is a different ball game as the City is beginning to seem to be more responsive.</p> <p>Brent – I will bring this up during my Bureau budget discussions for consideration. There may be a need to bring on-board the ATF consultants and/or CH2Mhill as additional resources to this odor control program, on the interim, while working through the City process to obtain more personnel resources.</p>	Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
34.	Annabella – Why would you contract out the job to the consultants when there may be qualified City staff to do the job? Why make the consultants rich?	Carol – Since it is a temporary solution, it may be ok and necessary to bring the consultants on-board, immediately. Brent – Why don't we do both, get someone to evaluate the situation and recommend a permanent city resource to handle this project in the long run since this problem will not go away any time soon.	City will provide odor control staffing plan and a master plan for resolving the odor problems. Robert will address this issue in the interim report.
	Sam Hart – Authored a motioned that the City assign a full time person to manage the odor control effort and report back to this board with a workplan on how to investigate odor sources citywide and	All members present unanimously approved the motion.	City will request staff for odor control coordinator to develop Odor Control Master Plan for resolving the odor problems.

	develop a Odor Control Master Plan.		Robert will also be including a recommendation to this effect in the Final Interim Report.
36.	Bowker – Do you feel you are getting the right information?	Vlad will sort and organize city data so that Board members can understand the causes and reasons for odor.	The City will sort and organize city data so that Board members can understand the causes and reasons for odor.
37.	Bowker- How do you interact with the community you represent?	Sam – indicated that he meets and briefs his organization as well as place odor information on the organization website for his community’s use. He also brings feed back from community back to the Odor Advisory Board. Carol, Annabella and Milton indicate that interest in their communities is not that high unless something happens that draws attention to it. Nonetheless, they try to keep their communities informed. Terrence indicated that he meets and informs a lot of people in his community and beyond.	Board members are encouraged to continue to keep their communities and organizations informed of the Board and City’s odor control efforts.
38.	Carol – Asked the City Council office staff present to consider attending the Board meeting more often. Carol - Does the minutes go to Council offices?	Brent – We will send the minutes to the Council offices. The council offices present (CD8 and 10) indicated their interest in the issues raised.	City will send minutes to City Council offices
39.	Patrick – requested another notebook binder.	Brent we will provide	City will provide additional notebooks to Board members.
40.	Carry board report to agenda of next meeting.	Brent – The next meeting agenda will include odor complaints, draft interim reports. Staffing plan and odor long term plan,	City will develop and distribute next meeting agenda.