

MOTION

On July 11, 2021, huge debris flows overwhelmed the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant forcing the discharge of 17 million gallons of sewage to the ocean. According to the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS), approximately 17 million gallons of sewage (6% of daily load) was discharged one mile offshore, instead of the standard five miles, in order to prevent the Plant from discharging more sewage.

The BOS states that construction materials, including wood chips and pieces of concrete caused the Plant's system to clog. It is believed that construction materials were dumped in a maintenance hole somewhere along the City's 6,700 miles of sewage pipes.

The following day, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued a public advisory urging residents to avoid swimming in areas around Dockweiler State Beach and El Segundo Beach. Nearby residents raised concerns about not being immediately informed regarding the wastewater spill. Some residents indicated that they used the beaches the following day without knowledge of the discharge.

The BOS is currently engaged in extensive repairs of the Plant caused by the construction debris. As a result, noxious fumes and odors have impacted the local community causing additional concerns about the public health and welfare.

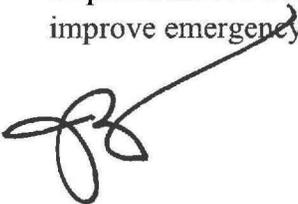
As a result, it is important that the BOS immediately report to the Council regarding the wastewater spill, its cause, impact on the ocean, beaches and water quality; and steps BOS can take to mitigate future occurrences.

In addition, the BOS should report on its coordination with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to notify the public about the incident.

Inasmuch as the BOS is currently engaged in repairing the Plant, it should report on the status of repairs and estimated completion. In terms of the noxious fumes impacting the local community, the BOS should report on steps it is taking to control the fumes and alleviating community concerns.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) immediately report to the Council regarding the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (HWRP) wastewater spill which occurred on July 11, 2021, including the cause of the spill; the impact on the ocean, beaches and water quality; and steps it can take to mitigate future occurrences including public education efforts.

I FURTHER MOVE that the BOS report on its coordination with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to notify the public about the wastewater spill, and ways it can improve emergency public notification protocols.

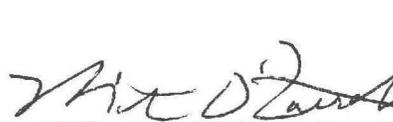


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I FURTHER MOVE that the BOS report on the status of repairs at the HWRP and its estimated completion; and the steps it is taking to control the noxious fumes and odors impacting the local community including alleviating community concerns.

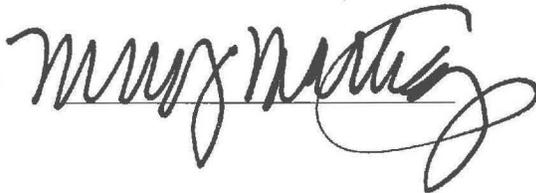
I FURTHER MOVE that the BOS report on opportunities to actively build Operation NEXT during the repair process in order to facilitate the City's transition to 100% recycled water.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL