

ODOR CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

Bahai Center
5750 Rodeo Road
February 12, 2007

MEETING #31 MINUTES

Attendees:

ADVISORY BOARD MEMEBERS	CITY OF LOS ANGELES REPRESENTATIVES
Ms. Carol Tucker	
Mr. Sam Hart	Mr. Adel Hagekhalil, Manager, Bureau of Sanitation
Mr. Milton Bassett	Mr. Nelson Sarti, Bureau of Engineering
Mr. Joseph Gardner	Mr. Scott Hare, Bureau of Sanitation
Ms. Opal Young	Mr. Ahmad Ghanem, Bureau of Sanitation

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Ahmad Ghanem, Bureau of Sanitation

Chairperson: Mr. Sam Hart

Handouts

1. NORS Siphon Fan Test Report
2. ECIS/NCOS/NORS ATF Proj. Update Report by Black & Veatch

Introductory Issues

Mr. Milton Bassett asked for the following items to be added to the agenda:

- 1- LCIS repair status
- 2- Status of pump station project at Buckingham Pkwy and MLK
- 3- Status of repair of the NOS between Arlington and LA River

The revised meeting agenda was approved.

The previous meeting minutes dated July 10, 2006 was approved.

NORS Siphon Fan Test:

Scott Hare of Bureau of Sanitation gave a summary of the NORS Siphon Fan Test that was conducted on November 7, 2006. The purpose of the study was to measure the extent of the back pressure caused by the NORS siphon and determine the extent that it affects sewer pressures in the Baldwin Hills area. In general, the study showed that while the NORS siphon does generate significant pressure upstream of the siphon, its effect on the Baldwin Hills area is small. The sewer pressure in the Baldwin Hills area is being caused by other factors that have a much greater effect than the NORS siphon.

ATF Program:

Nelson Sarti of the Bureau of Engineering discussed the schedule of two ATF construction projects. He stated that bids for the ATF at Jefferson/La Cienega will be opened in March 2007 and they expect the project to be awarded a few months after that. Bids for the NCOS ATF project will be opened near May 2007 with the award expected a few months later.

Questions, Answers and Action Items:

	Issues	Questions/Comments	Responses/Action Items
1-	NORS Siphon Fan Test	<p>Milton stated that the study didn't test the pressure dynamics of the siphon and is therefore useless.</p> <p>Joseph asked about the status of the water in the siphon's air line and expressed concern about the impact this has on air pressure.</p> <p>Milton stated that the siphon's air jumpers are undersized.</p>	<p>Scott explained that the study was not intended to test the siphon but was instead intended to study the impact that the siphon had on sewer pressure upstream in the Baldwin Hills area. Adel added that the study was conducted in response to Milton's claim that the NORS siphon is the primary cause of sewer odors in Baldwin Hills. Adel explained the general purpose of siphons and the backpressure they can produce.</p> <p>Adel explained that condensate in the airline had blocked the pipes but that it was cleared prior to the test. He also mentioned that we will monitor the pipes from hereon to prevent future clogging. He acknowledged that if the pipes fill with water, then it aggravates the pressure situation upstream.</p> <p>Adel acknowledged this fact and credited Milton with mentioning this previously. He added that the Fan Test simulated a sewer without a siphon (low air pressure) and that test results showed no significant pressure changes within Baldwin Hills which leads us to conclude that the sewer pressure in Baldwin Hills is from many different sources.</p>

	Issues	Questions/Comments	Responses/Action Items
		<p>Opal asked why we don't build another sewage reclamation plant to solve odor problems instead of many small projects.</p> <p>Joseph asked if the sewer air can be pulled downstream through the siphon's air jumper.</p> <p>Joseph asked why it will take two years.</p> <p>Joseph asked why there was water in the airline pipes.</p> <p>Joseph asked about the odors near Jefferson and Rodeo.</p> <p>Sam Hart asked why it will take 10 months.</p> <p>Joseph asked how many major sewers are passing through the Baldwin Hills area and what are the main causes of odors.</p>	<p>Adel stated that the City considered a reclamation plant but it is not a viable option.</p> <p>Adel stated that the City is investigating that option to determine whether it is something that can be achieved. He also stated that in two years, flow will be diverted from the WRS and WLAIS to the NOS which will reduce flow in the NORS.</p> <p>Adel stated that the City wants to consider all issues involved but that it may take less than two years.</p> <p>Adel explained that a water pump is suppose to remove condensate from the lines but that it was not working. He stated that it was repaired and is now working.</p> <p>Adel stated that it is from the breakage of an old pipe segment on the LCIS near that location but that the site had been sealed and a scrubber was installed about a week and half ago to contain the odor. He stated that the City will field-check the performance. The repair work is underway and is estimated to take approx. 10 months to complete.</p> <p>Adel stated that the reconstruction portion of the project from Blackwelder to Rodeo is a large undertaking and will take a while.</p> <p>Adel pointed to a drawing in a handout that shows all major sewers. He added that the cause of high pressure is the confluence of many sewer pipes with high flows that causes turbulence.</p>

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2.	ATF Program	<p>Opal said that the smell down Rodeo is too much to bear.</p> <p>Opal complained that the signs advertising the odor complaint phone number are too small.</p> <p>Sam Hart said that the ATFs are behind schedule and are continuing to fall behind schedule and he is concerned that projects will not be completed if these delays continue.</p> <p>Joseph asked what the City is going to do about solving odors while the planned ATFs are on hold.</p> <p>Sam Hart asked if there is a way to expedite the odor issues.</p> <p>Carol mentioned that the previous bids for ATFs were much higher than the City's estimate and the City postponed the construction. She asked what will happen if the upcoming bids for the two proposed ATFs also come in very high.</p>	<p>Adel stated that the probable source of that odor is related to the sink hole at Rodeo and Jefferson, however, over all odor is down by 60% and things have improved drastically. The City has conducted many H₂S and pressure tests and data shows that odor level is down. He added that we need people to call 311 and report sewer odors so we can identify any problems and the causes.</p> <p>Adel stated that the City will investigate the possibility of advertising the Odor Hotline phone number on the billboard at La Cienega and Rodeo.</p> <p>Adel stated that two ATFs are on schedule while the other ATFs are on hold in order to determine whether they will be as useful as originally assumed. He stated that the situation has changed in some areas and that the pressure problems have improved in others such as when ECIS went online and pressure dropped dramatically at certain locations.</p> <p>Adel clarified that the City has interim odor control scrubbers operating at the sites where the ATFs are proposed.</p> <p>Adel said that this is a high priority for us.</p> <p>Nelson stated that the City's estimates have since been increased to an amount that is considered more accurate to reflect the high costs associated with constructing the ATFs. This should decrease the likelihood of this happening again. Adel stated that if the bids still come in 15% or more over the City's estimate, then the City will have to re-evaluate the bids before awarding the project.</p>

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		<p>Carol asked if someone from the City would attend her association's meeting to brief the members about the traffic mitigation plan at La Cienega and Blackwelder. The meeting will be at Bahaii Center at 7 PM, Feb 27, 2007.</p> <p>She also wanted to know the reason why the City is grading the lot adjacent to See's Candy near the sink hole.</p>	<p>Someone from Bureau of Engineering will attend that meeting.</p> <p>BOS staff will investigate and get back to Ms. Tucker.</p>

Future Agenda:

- LCIS Rehab
- ATF update
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The next meeting will be scheduled at the Bahaii Center in approximately 3 months.