



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 25, 2020

Mr. James Gazeley, Mayor
City of Lomita
24300 Narbonne Avenue
Lomita, California 9071

Dear Mayor Gazeley,

I received your November 6, 2020 letter. Thank you for reaching out to me. In your letter, you expressed concern that residents in the City of Lomita are not receiving adequate communication regarding the ongoing investigation and remediation efforts related to the Skypark Commercial Properties site, which are being undertaken with our regulatory oversight.

I want to assure you that the investigation and cleanup of the contamination associated with the Skypark Commercial Properties site is a high priority for the Los Angeles Water Board. We are also committed to communicating information about the ongoing investigation and remediation to all stakeholders, including the affected residents of the City in a timely manner.

Communication and engagement with communities affected by our decisions is a priority across all Los Angeles Water Board programs and it is an integral component of our process for investigating and cleaning up sites. We communicate and engage with communities and other stakeholders, including city governments and interested parties in a variety of ways. These include responding in a transparent and timely manner to inquiries from the public, including residents adjacent to properties where investigation and cleanup of contamination is occurring, preparing and distributing written information on sites, including site-specific fact sheets, community updates, and “frequently asked questions” (FAQs), soliciting, considering and responding to public comments on proposed workplans and decisions, and holding community and one-on-one meetings with residents to discuss any questions or concerns they may have to help them understand the Los Angeles Water Board’s role, responsibilities and actions regarding polluted sites that may impact them.

Our staff and management team have been actively involved in community outreach related to the Skypark Commercial Properties site, particularly with the residents and

IRMA MUÑOZ, CHAIR | RENEE PURDY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

business owners in Lomita whose homes and business are in proximity to the site and with your City staff.

Below is a summary of our community outreach in the City of Lomita since Summer 2019.

- We distributed a fact sheet and FAQs to the community in August 2019, describing the results of the onsite investigation and preliminary offsite investigation as well as the planned activities related to additional offsite investigation in the City of Lomita. The FAQs also provided basic information on the nature of the contamination, including the specific chemicals of concern, and addressed many of the questions that we had received from residents via emails and phone calls.
- We hosted an open house / public meeting at the City of Lomita's public library in December 2019, at which we provided the results to date from the onsite and offsite investigation of groundwater, explained next steps related to installing and sampling additional soil vapor probes and groundwater monitoring wells in the City of Lomita, and provided information on the safety of Lomita's drinking water.
- We distributed work notices to the community related to the installation and sampling of the additional soil vapor probes and groundwater monitoring wells in public rights-of-way in Lomita so residents and business would understand the nature of the construction activity occurring near their homes and businesses.
- We provided a written community update in June 2020, providing up-to-date information on the offsite investigation in Lomita, including testing of soil, soil vapor and groundwater, and the next steps in the offsite investigation.
- We hosted a virtual community meeting in July 2020, which included a comprehensive presentation on the regulatory history of the site, a detailed discussion of the results of the offsite soil vapor and groundwater investigation in the City of Lomita to date, and an explanation of the next steps, including testing at individual private properties in the City of Lomita that are in proximity to the site.
- We participated in the planning for and gave a detailed presentation and answered questions at a community meeting hosted by the City in September 2020.

In addition to these specific events and informational materials, we have had on-going communication with a number of residents living in proximity to the site, both via email and phone calls to provide information and answer their questions. And, as we receive the results of testing at individual properties, we have written individual letters to these homeowners regarding the testing results. We have also had a number of meetings and discussions with your City Manager and Public Works Director over the last year.

In closing, we remain committed to keeping Lomita residents informed about the status of investigation and cleanup activities in a timely fashion. We hope to work with the City as a partner in this process. We look forward to attending the City Council meeting on

Mayor James Gazeley
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December 1, 2020 to provide an update to the City Council on the status of the investigation and cleanup.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything related to the investigation and cleanup, please do not hesitate to contact me at Renee.Purdy@waterboards.ca.gov or Mr. Hugh Marley, one of our Assistant Executive Officers, at Hugh.Marley@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Renee Purdy
Executive Officer

cc: Ryan Smoot (r.smoot@lomitacity.com)
Carla Dillon (c.dillon@lomitacity.com)
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