



CITY OF LOMITA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **City Finalizes Agreement with Hi-Shear Regarding Investigation and Clean-Up of Potential Pollution**

**CITY OF LOMITA, CA**, September 25, 2019 – The City of Lomita and Hi-Shear Corporation have signed an agreement to expedite Hi-Shear's investigation into pollution that may be spreading into Lomita from the Hi-Shear site, among other potential locations in Torrance. The signed agreement can be viewed [here](#).

The agreement will allow Hi-Shear right of way access at multiple locations in Lomita to conduct its investigation, as required by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, to test for presence of pollution migrating from the area west of Crenshaw Blvd. into Lomita. Hi-Shear consultants will be drilling small probe wells into the ground, including in the middle of certain residential streets, to test the soil and ground water in those areas. With the agreement in place, Hi-Shear may finalize necessary documentation to apply for an encroachment permit that will be subject to the City's approval before drilling can begin.

The agreement reflects protections requested by the City on behalf of our residents to ensure a transparent process with minimal impact to neighborhoods, and guarantees the City's access to information gathered as part of the investigation. Main points of the agreement are as follows:

- Pauses the statute of limitations for legal actions with Hi-Shear;
- Requires Hi-Shear to share with the City data collected within 15 days of a request, as well as any reports that are submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- Requires notice prior to the commencement of each phase/mobilization effort that involves heavy equipment, more than one person, or that may generate noise audible at the adjacent property line;

- Requires Hi-Shear to submit an initial deposit of \$35,000 with the City to cover permit fees and offset the costs of the City's retention of an independent hydrogeology firm to review environmental data and communications team to help ensure Lomita residents are informed throughout the process.
- Commits Hi-Shear to prioritize the phases of their work plan most directly affecting the City's residential areas over those in the neighboring commercial areas in Torrance;
- Contains a broad indemnity clause and insurance requirements to protect the City and its residents;
- Requires restoration of City property once the work is complete.

"The City of Lomita is committed to protecting our residents' interests related to the potential pollution from the area around the Hi-Shear site," said City Manager Ryan Smoot. "Our agreement with Hi-Shear protects residents and taxpayers in Lomita and brings transparency to the investigation so we can keep our residents informed. The Lomita City Council has made it clear that we are to push to protect our community's interests at every phase of this investigation and response. With the agreement in place, we will work aggressively to support the Water Board's continued investigation and to hold Hi-Shear accountable for testing and the publication of test results. The City appreciates their commitment to this process and their cooperation in signing the agreement."

For additional information on the Hi-Shear site investigation, visit [www.lomita.com/cityhall/hishear.cfm](http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/hishear.cfm).

### **About the City of Lomita**

Located in the South Bay area of LA County and near the Pacific Ocean, over 20,000 Lomita residents enjoy a quiet lifestyle featuring friendly neighbors, access to services and burgeoning social scene. As a family-friendly community, the City of Lomita strives to creatively and consistently provide excellent public service and employee performance, with the intent to enrich the quality of life for every citizen, worker and business owner. The mission of the City of Lomita is to provide a healthy, safe and friendly small-town community where everyone can successfully live, work and play.

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