



CITY OF LOMITA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water Board Orders Hi-Shear, Other Properties to Implement a Vapor Intrusion Response Plan

CITY OF LOMITA, CA, June 5, 2020 – After the City of Lomita secured an agreement to facilitate Hi-Shear Corporation’s soil and vapor sampling plans within the public right of way within parts of the Lomita community, Hi-Shear has completed its initial investigative work and now the Water Board is requiring Hi-Shear and other responsible parties to take the next step: to conduct sampling to determine the extent of potential contaminants beneath building foundations as well as potential air quality impacts contaminated soil may have caused to indoor air of residential and commercial properties in the City.

On May 12, the Los Angeles Water Board, the regulatory agency charged with overseeing the investigation and clean-up efforts, issued an investigative order to Hi-Shear and other responsible parties requiring them to take the next steps to determine the extent of the impacts of potential vapor intrusion – the process of vapors moving from contaminated soil and groundwater into nearby buildings, potentially impacting indoor air quality. Hi-Shear and the other parties are now being required by the Water Board to implement a vapor intrusion response plan for the commercial and residential properties east of Crenshaw Boulevard and to submit a work plan assessing the vapor intrusion risk for the occupants at three commercial properties in Torrance.

The order follows the completion of Hi-Shear Corporation’s initial investigation, which took place between September 2019 and March 2020, to determine the extent to which pollution from the commercial properties west of Crenshaw Blvd. may be spreading into the City of Lomita. According to the report, the investigation identified elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in soil vapor in the investigation area, including the area between Crenshaw Boulevard and Pennsylvania Avenue and the area between Amsler Avenue and 247th Street.

The investigation also identified VOCs in one of its four samples of subsurface water (not drinking water). VOCs are a class of chemicals which easily evaporate in the open air. However, when VOCs are beneath the ground, vapor can move from contaminated soil into nearby buildings potentially impacting indoor air quality.

“Our number one concern continues to be the health and safety of Lomita’s residents,” said City Manager Ryan Smoot. “We are glad to see the Water Board holding the responsible parties accountable and we’re going to continue to push them to move forward immediately with additional testing and clean-up efforts.”

The LA Water Board summarized Hi-Shear’s investigation report in a [fact sheet](#) distributed to community members living or working near the investigation area. In the fact sheet, the Water Board identifies potentially responsible parties in addition to Hi-Shear including the City of Torrance; Magellan Aerospace, Middletown, Inc. (formerly known as Aeronca, Inc. formerly known as Aeronca Manufacturing Corporation); Excellon Industries, Inc. (also known as Excellon Automation Company and now known as Excellon Technologies, LLC); Esterline Technologies Corporation; Robinson Helicopter Company; and Dasco Engineering Corporation.

The continued investigation and clean-up efforts are focused on the extent of VOC contamination, specifically trichloroethene (TCE) and tetrachloroethene (PCE), that were used at multiple commercial properties west of Crenshaw Blvd. in Torrance including:

- 2600 Skypark Drive, currently occupied by Hi-Shear Corporation (Hi-Shear)
- 24777 and 24751 Crenshaw Boulevard, currently occupied by South Bay Lexus
- 24707, 24747, and 24701 Crenshaw Boulevard, currently occupied by Dasco Engineering
- 2530 and 2540 Skypark Drive, currently occupied by Robinson Helicopter

The Board will be scheduling a public information meeting to provide a project update and address community questions and concerns. That meeting, initially projected to take place in spring 2020, is now projected to take place in summer 2020 and will be held virtually given current guidance on public gatherings. The public will be notified of the meeting in advance, along with instructions on how to participate. For additional information about the report and the ongoing investigation and clean-up efforts, please visit the [LA Water Board webpage on this investigation](#).

For additional City of Lomita news and resources related to the environmental investigation, including the [first community fact sheet dated August 2019](#), please visit <http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/hishear.cfm>.

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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.