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August 25, 2021

BPW-2021-0601

The Honorable City Council
Room No. 395
City Hall

**MOTION - HYPERION WATER RECLAMATION PLANT SEWER DISCHARGE
INCIDENT AD-HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

As recommended in the accompanying report of the City Engineer, which this Board has approved, the Board of Public Works recommends that the City Council:

1. AUTHORIZE the Establishment of Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee to provide guidance to and review third-party and internal assessments of the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant incident of July 11, 2021, and develop a summary report identifying the cause(s) of the incident as well as other conclusions regarding recovery, costs, and recommendations to avoid recurrence of similar future incidents.

Sincerely,

DR. FERNANDO CAMPOS,
Executive Officer, Board of Public Works

FC:lc



Motion No. 1
August 25, 2021

BPW - 2021-0601

APPROVED BY THE BOARD
PUBLIC WORKS OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

CD Nos ALL

AUG 25 2021

MOTION


**Executive Officer
Board of Public Works**

Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant Sewer Discharge Incident Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee

On July 11, 2021, a significant incident took place at Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant. The key entry point (also known as Headworks), where all wastewater/sewage flows into the plant from the five sewer trunk lines across the City, was overwhelmed and flooded by an unusually high amount of trash and debris. The results included 17 million gallons of raw sewage discharged into the ocean; risk, harm and frustration for residents of surrounding communities and on-site workers; environmental and financial damage; and concern throughout Los Angeles and its partner agencies about how to ensure an incident of this magnitude and impact never occurs again at Hyperion or other LA City water reclamation facilities.

On August 18, 2021, the Board of Public Works (BPW) convened a Town Hall Meeting to hear from impacted stakeholders and constituents and to provide a forum where the Bureau of Sanitation presented a deep dive into:

1. What happened and what is known about why it happened;
2. How we are assisting the community; and
3. How to prevent recurrence and plan for and address the future.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for regulatory agencies and non-profit partners to share their perspective on the impacts, lessons learned and their respective roles moving forward.

While the Bureau of Sanitation has engaged multiple third-party consultants, and deployed internal staff as well, to carry out after-incident investigations and assessments, it is absolutely crucial that that work be overseen, reviewed and evaluated by its oversight body and the General Manager of the Department of Public Works - the Board of Public Works. Toward those ends, and through this MOTION, the BPW will establish an Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee to provide oversight and guidance to the Bureau's third-party and internal assessment teams, and to generate a PW Department report, compiling and summarizing the investigative findings of the various after-incident assessments, as well as a set of recommendations moving forward. President Greg Good will chair this Advisory Committee and Commissioner Teresa Villegas will serve as Co-Chair. The Committee will work with outside experts, including but not limited to, individuals such as Felicia Marcus, former head of the CA State Water Quality Control Board; Mark Gold, Deputy Secretary of the CA Natural Resources Agency; Gary Lee Moore, Los Angeles City Engineer; organizations such as LA Waterkeeper, Heal the Bay and NRDC; academics and other public agencies and industry experts, but the Advisory Committee will be solely comprised of two BPW Commissioners.

Motion No. 1
August 25, 2021

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Public Works establish an Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee to provide guidance, oversight and review to the Bureau of Sanitation's third-party and internal assessments of the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant incident of July 11, 2021, and develop a summary report identifying the cause(s) of the incident as well as other conclusions regarding recovery, communications, costs, and recommendations to avoid recurrence of similar future incidents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Good".

Greg Good
President, Board of Public Works

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Teresa Villegas".

Teresa Villegas
Commissioner, Board of Public Works