

Lorena Saldana

From: Barbara Massey
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Lorena Saldana
Cc:
Subject: Comment on Discussion item G-1 for Aug. 19, 2021 Board Meeting

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August 17, 2021

Dear Board members,

I have some comment on the Draft Air Monitoring Plan. Western Goleta is very concerned about a number of issues associated with the release of H₂S from industrial and agricultural activities. We are located near oil and gas production and distribution facilities and next to Highway 101. We have had problems with H₂S due to lack of adequate County response time. There is also concern about particulate matter, which has been proven to cause serious health problems.

The plan appears to focus on meeting minimum compliance regulations for industrial discharges and there is little or no discussion of how best to address public health concerns. The network design doesn't provide adequate or timely public health or nuisance related information. This is due to the lack of monitors placed in areas that would serve to protect the western Goleta neighborhoods. Several years ago our monitor was removed and we were told there wasn't money for a new one. May I suggest that public health is extreme important and since cannabis is a money maker for the County, some of that money should go to supplying adequate monitoring sites and equipment for the protecting the public.

The monitors and monitoring systems should be in appropriate locations to be able to rapidly know what was released including the concentrations or levels. There should be a system in placed to report this information as it happens to someone who can take immediately action. People lives could depend on fast, adequate notification of the community.

The plan does not address how data will be tracked, processed, and distributed to the public. The monitoring system doesn't allow agencies to rapidly respond to harmful releases or to inform the public.

The Fire Department purchased a few hand-held monitors but this provides poor response time. By the time County staff gets to the site, conditions would have changed, the delays in getting accurate information, and depending on the results being phoned to APCD is a problem. Since adequate response time is not possible this Draft Air Monitoring Network Plan falls far short of the goal of protecting the public.

The monitoring network described in the plan does not provide any guarantee that air quality objectives for public health are being met within our community. Due to reductions in monitoring locations, western Goleta is inadequately monitored and has both industrial and

agricultural air quality issue. Data collection is only from a few poorly placed monitoring locations. This kind of inadequate monitoring and lack of timely reporting could well lead to deaths. This plan is inadequate and will not keep western Goleta safe, let alone the rest of the County.

Sincerely,

Barbara Massey
