

Lorena Saldana

From: Ken Pearlman
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:17 AM
To: Lorena Saldana
Subject: Comment on Discussion item G-1 for August 19, 2021 Board Meeting

Dear Board Members,

Adequate air monitoring is an important topic in western Goleta. In recent years we have experienced multiple exposures to the release of H₂S from industrial and agricultural activities. I have several concerns with the existing Annual Air Monitoring Network Plan.

First, the plan seems to focus on meeting minimum regulatory compliance for industrial discharges, but it contains minimal discussion of how best to address public health concerns that arise from toxic releases. There is a need for sensors and a monitoring systems that could identify the following:

- The source of H₂S releases in western Goleta.
- The duration and concentration range of H₂S releases.
- The daily, weekly, monthly and annual particulate matter exposures to western Goleta residents and information as to whether the exposures detected constitute a health hazard.
- Odors emitted from cannabis grows, which are expected to develop from nearby agricultural operations, as I understand the cannabis grows will depend on drilling water wells, the source of past toxic H₂S releases

Second, the plan does not address how the data collected will be tracked, processed, visualized, and distributed to the public. In other words, will the Network include the ability to promptly notify residents of toxic emissions? A few years ago, it was discovered that the system in place was unable to produce a timely alert to a dangerous H₂S release. It took several months to learn the source of the release. How does the APCD's new Air Monitoring Network Plan address this critical problem?

Overall, it appears the new monitoring network will do very little to assure that air quality health objectives are being met. The collection of data from sparsely distributed monitoring locations without the ability to quickly process and disseminate public alerts when dangerous releases or exposures occur will not adequately protect the public.

I understand that economic resources may restrict the APCD's ability to expand its services. However, an automatic monitoring and response system should more than pay for itself due to the cost savings from reduced labor requirements, such as the manual efforts required to identify the source of toxic emissions.

Thank you for considering these comments. The health of our community is critically important, and the role performed by the APCD is greatly appreciated.

Kenneth Pearlman