



December 19, 2019

Dear Resident or Business Owner or Facility Manager:

This notice is being sent to inform you of possible exposures to toxic air pollutants. State law requires that businesses and other sources of air pollution study possible public health effects from their emissions. A facility in your area has done such a study (called a health risk assessment or HRA). The results indicate that you may be exposed to toxic air pollutants from that facility.

The City of San Diego Public Utilities Department owns and operates Pump Station #2 which is an integral component of an essential public service to convey, treat, and dispose of wastewater for approximately 2.2 million people within the City of San Diego and 15 municipalities. The station is located at 4077 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, California, 92101. The facility releases chemicals (air pollutants) to the atmosphere that are considered toxic by the State of California.

The HRA for Pump Station #2 estimates that people in the area could face some increased risk of developing cancer due to Pump Station #2 emissions. The estimated increased risk due to exposure to air pollutants from this facility could range from from zero to 33 in one million for a worker, and zero to 15 in one million for a resident. The higher risk estimate is for a hypothetical worker exposed continuously to the highest concentrations of these pollutants at work for 46 years and a resident exposed for 70 years.

The HRA study is intended to overestimate risks for the public so that decisions will be more likely to protect children and individuals more sensitive to toxic air pollutants. However, the study does not include the combined health effects from other nearby air pollution sources. These sources can include motor vehicles, paints, solvents, other industries, and household products.

The Air Pollution Control District ("District") has determined that the estimated health risks from these emissions are not above significant risk levels and Pump Station #2 will not be required to reduce its emissions under this program. However, the District will encourage voluntary steps to reduce emissions, and will re-study Pump Station #2 emissions every four years.

Enclosed is more detailed information about the Pump Station #2 study and the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" program. If you would like more information, please complete and return the enclosed survey card. If you would like to attend a public meeting about this notification, please indicate this on the card.

For answers to your questions, please call the District's Toxics Engineering Section at (858) 586-2812 or the City of San Diego's Public Information Office at (619) 515-3500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Adams".

Jon Adams, Assistant Director  
Air Pollution Control District

Enclosures

## **Public Notification of Public Health Risks Under the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program**

Note: Businesses should distribute this notice to employees or post it in an area where it can be viewed.

### **Why this notice?**

Homes and businesses in your community are receiving this notice because the City of San Diego "Pump Station #2" located at 4077 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA releases chemicals (air pollutants) to the atmosphere that are considered toxic by the State of California. Under a state law called the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act of 1987, facilities that emit toxic air pollutants are required to study possible health effects from their emissions.

Pump Station #2 has prepared a report evaluating possible health effects resulting from estimated public exposures to the toxic air pollutants emitted from its facility. This report is called a public health risk assessment ("HRA") and is available at the Air Pollution Control District ("District") for review.

The HRA is based on estimated levels of these pollutants in the community, not on actual measurements of pollutant concentrations. Emissions from Pump Station #2 were estimated for 2005. Computer models approved by the state were then used to estimate the concentrations of these pollutants in the air. The procedures used are designed to overstate potential pollutant levels to prevent public health risks from being underestimated. Therefore, your actual exposure to these contaminants may be less than the HRA predicts.

### **What chemicals are emitted by Pump Station #2?**

The chemicals that the facility emits include formaldehyde, polycyclic aromatics, carbon tetrachloride, 1,4-dioxane, trichloroethylene and acetaldehyde. These emissions occur throughout the year from the continuous operation of a sewer pump station.

### **What are the potential health risks?**

The HRA for this facility estimates that people in the area could face some increased risk of developing cancer due to Pump Station #2 emissions. The estimated increased risk due to exposure to air pollutants from Pump Station #2 could range from zero to 33 in one million for a worker, and zero to 15 in a million for a resident. The higher risk estimate is for a hypothetical worker exposed to the highest concentration of these pollutants at work for 46 years and a resident exposed for 70 years.

### **How serious is this risk?**

The risk assessment study is intended to overestimate risks for the public so that decisions will be more likely to protect children and individuals more sensitive to toxic air pollutants. However, the study does not include the combined health effects from other nearby air pollution sources. These sources can include motor vehicles, paints, solvents, other industries, and household products.

To help put these estimated health risks into perspective, consider that in the United States about one-third of women and half of men get cancer for one reason or another during their lifetime. In other words, the odds of getting cancer in your lifetime are 333,333 in one million for women and 500,000 in one million for men. The average risk of contracting cancer from breathing toxic air contaminants in the ambient air in San Diego County (and other metropolitan areas) is about 480 to 500 chances in one million. The majority of this risk is due to motor vehicle emissions. Based on the HRA

estimate, this background risk could be increased by zero to 33 chances in one million for workers and zero to 15 chances in one million for residents as a result of exposure to emissions from Pump Station #2.

Diesel particulates also contribute significantly to ambient risk levels. Although a method does not exist to directly monitor diesel particulate concentrations, the Air Resources Board (ARB) has suggested methods that can be used to estimate diesel concentrations. Based on ARB estimates, diesel particulate emissions could add an additional 420 in one million to the ambient risk levels, in San Diego County. The ARB has estimated that risk from diesel particulate has decreased by about 50% from 870 in one million since 1990.

**What are the City of San Diego and the District doing about this risk?**

The District does not consider these estimated potential increased health risks to be significant nor to warrant mandatory emissions controls at this time. In 2014, the City of San Diego installed oxidation catalysts to the Pump Station #2 engines which significantly lowered emissions from this site. You will continue to receive this notice every two years until the estimated health risks are below prescribed levels. In addition, the District will re-study the site's emissions at least every four years, and each time any new or modified equipment that emits toxic air pollutants is proposed.

**What can I do about these health risks?**

If you would like more information or would like to attend a public meeting about this issue, please complete the enclosed public response survey card and mail it back to the District. You can call the District's Toxics Engineering Division at (858) 586-2812 or the City of San Diego's Public Information Office at (619) 515-3500 if you have questions, want to discuss this notice, or have comments or requests for either the District or the facility.

You can also contact the City of San Diego to discuss emission reductions of toxic air pollutants.

Besides the emissions from Pump Station #2, there are many other sources of toxic air pollutants, including motor vehicles, paints, solvents, household products and various industries. Federal, state and local programs are reducing emissions from these sources, but you can help by carpooling, combining errands, keeping your car tuned and maintained, and by reducing use of paints and products containing solvents.

There are many other causes of cancer (smoking, diet, over exposure to the sun, etc.). The San Diego Chapter of the American Cancer Society can provide you with information on how to reduce your overall risk of cancer. They can be reached at (800) 227-2345 or at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

**Where can I review the health risk (HRA) assessment for Pump Station #2?**

HRA are available for public review at the District's offices located at 10124 Old Grove Road, San Diego, CA 92131. Please call the District's Toxics Engineering Section at (858) 586-2812 to make an appointment.

## **Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program Fact Sheet**

### **What is the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program?**

The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act is a state law requiring facilities to report emissions of toxic air contaminants to the Air Pollution Control District. The program is designed to quantify the amounts of potentially hazardous air pollutants released, the location of the release, the concentrations to which the public is exposed, and the resulting potential public health risk. Based on an examination of these reports, the District may then require specific facilities to prepare a public health risk assessment to describe possible health effects of exposure to toxic air contaminants.

### **What is a toxic air contaminant?**

Toxic air contaminants are gases, liquids, or particles which are emitted into the atmosphere that may cause adverse health effects. Adverse health effects can range from relatively mild temporary conditions such as minor eye or throat irritation, shortness of breath or headaches, to permanent and serious conditions such as cancer, birth defects, or damage to lungs, nerves, the liver, the heart, or other organs. For purposes of the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" program, toxic air contaminants are approximately 800 listed compounds that have been determined to have potential adverse health impacts.

### **What is a health risk assessment?**

A health risk assessment is a report that estimates the possibility of adverse health effects from emissions of toxic compounds to the air. Public health risk estimates are not based on actual measured air concentrations of toxic compounds. Instead, computer models are used to estimate risk. Each assessment is prepared using procedures developed by the State of California and the Air Pollution Control District and based on approved emission estimates. Risk assessments are reviewed and approved by the District and the California EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

### **How accurate is the health risk assessment?**

By their nature, health risk assessments cannot be completely accurate. Scientists don't have enough information on actual public exposure and on how toxic contaminants affect people. When information is missing or uncertain, risk analysts make assumptions that tend to overestimate the potential risk. This provides a margin of safety in the protection of human health. An example of this is the assumption that residential exposures occur 24 hours per day for 70 years, even though people typically are not at their residences 100 percent of the time for 70 continuous years. However, some factors that may tend to underestimate risk are difficult to evaluate. These include the cumulative (combined) effect of emissions from other nearby facilities and the potential for complex mixtures of toxic air contaminants to create an additional health problem by their combined reaction to each other could not be evaluated. Also, emissions are sometimes based on averages for a particular type of equipment and actual emissions from an individual piece of equipment may be higher or lower.

**How are adverse health effects expressed?**

Adverse health effects are reported as "excess lifetime cancer risk", or as a "total hazard index."

**Excess cancer risk** is the maximum estimated increased risk of contracting cancer (*above normal background levels*) caused by chronic exposure to a chemical suspected of being a human or animal carcinogen. Excess cancer risk is expressed as the probability of a person contracting cancer over a lifetime of exposure to chemical emissions. To calculate this, the health risk assessment follows a conservative formula which defines lifetime exposure as 24 hours per day, every day for 70 years.

**Non cancer risk** is based on the health impact on a single organ in the body from toxic air contaminants for acute (short) and chronic (long-term) exposure which are calculated as fractions. These fractions or hazard indices are the maximum acceptable public exposure level to a toxic air contaminant. The acceptable exposure level is generally the level at (or below) which no adverse health impacts are expected. The sum of these hazard indices is called the total hazard index and is an indication of the likelihood of experiencing chronic or acute (non cancer) health effects. A total hazard index of less than one (1.0) is not likely to result in adverse health effects including for sensitive individuals. With a total hazard index above one, there is a greater potential that adverse health impacts may result.

**AIR TOXICS "HOT SPOTS" (AB2588)  
PUBLIC RESPONSE SURVEY CARD**

**Request for More Information or Involvement**

If you are interested in finding out more about your risk from toxic air pollutants emitted by City of San Diego Pump Station #2, please return this completed card within 21 days of receipt. Please check all that apply:

Si usted desea conocer más acerca del riesgo estimado de los contaminantes tóxicos emitidos al aire por la Estación de Bombeo #2 de la Ciudad de San Diego, por favor envíenos esta tarjeta debidamente llenada dentro de los 21 días posteriores a su recepción.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information about: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in attending a community meeting on this issue.  
Please inform me if one is scheduled.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer additional communication to be in a language other than English.  
Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yo preferiría la comunicación adicional en otro idioma  
Por favor especifique: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Je préférerais la communication supplémentaire pour être dans une langue autre qu'anglais.  
S'il vous plaît spécifiez: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Ich würde zusätzliche Kommunikation vorziehen, in einer Sprache ander zu sein als englisch.  
Schreiben Sie Bitte vor: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Io preferirei comunicazione supplementare per essere in una lingua altro che l'inglese.  
Per favore specifichi: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE FOLD ALONG DOTTED LINES AND SEAL WITH TAPE; DO NOT STAPLE)



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COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
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SAN DIEGO, CA 92131-9716

