

Compliance and Enforcement Division **INCIDENT REPORT**

December 07, 2023

City of Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant/Veolia,
Site #A2482
601 Canal Boulevard
Richmond, California

December 5, 2023

Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) staff responded to a number of air quality odor complaints received by the Air District detecting sewage-like odors in the Point Richmond area. Wind direction varied between north and south variants, with generally calm wind speeds, ranging from 0-7 miles per hour (mph). Air District inspection staff traced ongoing odors to the City of Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant/Veolia (facility), located on Canal Boulevard in Point Richmond. Air District inspection staff observed that the facility's hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) fence line monitors registered elevated readings during the noted air quality complaint occurrence times, with a peak reading of 345.8 parts per billion (ppb)/5-minute average recorded at the facility's South Side monitor at 9:05 am.



By 11:00 am, Air District inspection staff had proceeded with an on-site investigation of the facility where the sewage-like odors were observed and confirmed. On-site staff stated that the facility was undergoing planned construction activities on equipment associated with the wastewater treatment process and those activities were projected to continue throughout the week. In addition, Air District inspection staff notified Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) and City of Richmond Fire Department of the H₂S odor issues. Air District incident response on-call staff were made aware of the H₂S odor issues in anticipation of any after-hours air quality complaints received.

December 6, 2023

The Air District's mobile source test van was mobilized to the Point Richmond area to continue monitoring for elevated H₂S concentrations. Air District staff are currently evaluating the incident for any violations of Air District regulations.

December 7, 2023

Air District inspection staff issued a notice of violation (NOV) to the City of Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant/Veolia for violating Air District Rule 1-301, Public Nuisance, because of documented sewage-like odors traced to the facility on December 5, 2023. Air District inspection staff continue to patrol the Point Richmond area for sewage-like odors and have observed that the facility's H₂S fence monitors have returned to baseline levels, which was verified by the Air District's mobile source test van monitoring patrols. To date, the Air District has received 11 air quality odor complaints.

The investigation is ongoing, and the incident report will be updated as new information becomes available. For more information on the issued NOV, please click the link to the [NOV web tool](#).