

CITY OF LOS ANGELES CELEBRATES OPENING OF AIR TREATMENT FACILITIES

LOS ANGELES (March 15, 2011)—The City of Los Angeles announces the opening of two Air Treatment Facilities (ATFs) and will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, March 16 at 5:00 p.m. at the facility located at 6000 Jefferson Boulevard, 90016.

In full partnership with the Odor Advisory Board and local community groups, the ATFs were constructed as part of a comprehensive odor management plan to mitigate and address sewer odors in Los Angeles. The City values the participation of the community-based Odor Advisory Board who volunteered and dedicated their time and effort for nearly 10 years for the betterment of their neighborhood.

The ATFs treat foul air generated in the sewer system through an innovative biological process. The ATFs are a major accomplishment of the City of Los Angeles Collection System Settlement Agreement (CSSA) in conjunction with the City's comprehensive odor control program. The City not only succeeded in reducing sanitary sewer overflows by 80%, from 687 in FY 2000/2001, to 139 in FY 2009/2010, but effectively minimized sewer odors throughout the City. The full operation of both the ATFs, along with flow management and the installation of improved maintenance holes, has drastically reduced odor complaints Citywide.

The ATFs use microorganisms that feed on sewer gases and produce a harmless byproduct. The microorganisms used to treat the air passing through the ATFs are safe and commonly found in nature. They consume hydrogen sulfide (the gas that causes rotten egg odor in the sewer) and convert it into a non-odorous acid that is discharged into the sewer. The air then passes through a carbon scrubber to further remove any residual odor remaining after the biological process. The City of Los Angeles is the first municipality to use this process at a location other than a wastewater treatment plant.

"Sanitation is proud that this cutting-edge technology has been successful in treating sewer odors. We have seen consistent results of complete removal of odor-causing hydrogen sulfide—good news for us and for the neighborhood," said Department of Sanitation General Manager Enrique C. Zaldivar. "With the opening of the ATFs, the City continues its efforts to fulfill the goals outlined by the CSSA. We look forward to continued cooperation and communication with the community and to improving quality of life in the City's neighborhoods."

Sanitation protects public health and the environment through the administration and management of three program areas: Clean Water (Wastewater), Solid Resources (Solid Waste Management) and Watershed Protection (Stormwater). These infrastructure programs collect, treat, dispose and recycle the solid and liquid waste generated by the nation's second largest city of more than four million residents in a 468 square mile area. Through these essential programs, Sanitation delivers a triple bottom line of economic, environmental and social benefits that sustain the quality of life in the City of Los Angeles.

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