

DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL ODOR REMEDIATION PLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs):

What's happening in Dominguez Channel?

A pungent odor radiating from the Dominguez Channel has affected communities surrounding the channel and in the City of Carson. Los Angeles County officials have been working collaboratively since Oct. 6 to investigate and address the pungent odor.

Who is responding to the issue?

The responding agencies are LA County Public Works, LA County Department of Public Health, LA County Fire Health Hazmat, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District, in consultation with state and federal advisers.

What is causing the smell?

Air quality sampling has found elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide in the air. Decomposing organic material within the Dominguez Channel appears to be the source.

How can hydrogen sulfide affect my health?

In most cases of contact with hydrogen sulfide in the air, your symptoms are usually related to how strong the odors are and the way your body responds to those odors. We refer to that as a “physiological response.” Since the beginning of the incident, hydrogen sulfide levels in the air have been low enough that symptoms resulting from the odor are expected to be transient (short-term) and reversible. Symptoms may include,

- Headaches, sometimes accompanied by dizziness.
- Irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, which may be accompanied by “tearing up” and coughing.
- Nausea and abdominal discomfort, which in some people, may also lead to vomiting.

It's important to note that the symptoms are due to the smell of the odors and are not expected to be due to hydrogen sulfide accumulating in your body. In other words, symptoms tend to go away when you leave the area or when these odors decrease or no longer present.

For answers to the most frequently asked health questions about hydrogen sulfide, please read the [Hydrogen Sulfide – ToxFAQs fact sheet](#) from the Center for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

What actions are Los Angeles County Officials taking to address the odor surrounding the Dominguez Channel?

Restoring the channel to a healthy estuary is a multi-step process.

To eliminate the odor, County Public Works will apply the biodegradable odor neutralizer **Epoleon** via spray or drip into the channel. Epoleon is a water-based product comprised of all-natural, non-toxic and biodegradable compounds.

Additionally, to increase the dissolved oxygen levels in the channel, a system of aeration devices will be used over a three-month period to inject nanobubbles, that's a multitude of tiny bubbles. The goal is to increase oxygen in the channel to stop the processes creating the gas.

How should residents protect their health related to breathing the pungent air surrounding the Channel?

The County's top priority is the safety and wellbeing of the public, and we are bringing all available resources to alleviate this issue. It's important for you to know that your health and sense of wellbeing are very important to us.

While the effort to get rid of the odor continues, Public Health recommends you take the following actions to lessen your exposure and any symptoms experienced and to protect the health of you, your family, and your pets:

1. If symptoms feel life threatening, seek immediate medical care.
2. If symptoms are persistent, worrisome, or worsening, seek medical attention. Relocate to another area until odors go away. For assistance, call 2-1-1.
3. Avoid prolonged outdoor activities between the hours of 9:00 pm through 8:00 am and whenever odors are strong to reduce your exposure.
4. Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible to prevent outdoor odors from entering your residence or business. Air out your home/business when odors are not present.
5. If you have a central heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, contact an air conditioning specialist, if needed, to determine if the air filters in your system may be replaced with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) or MERV-rated filters with activated charcoal (carbon) to improve the air quality inside. If you notice odors are stronger or symptoms are worse in the late evening or early morning hours (9:00 pm to 7am, try running your central HVAC system throughout the night, if you have not already. Temporarily relocating may be best if this does not help.
6. Use a certified portable HEPA indoor air filter with activated charcoal to improve air quality in your home. See some examples of portable HEPA

indoor air filters with activated carbon below or on the reverse side for consideration. If you notice odors are stronger or symptoms are worse in the late evening or early morning hours (9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.), try running your portable indoor air filter throughout the night, if you have not already. Temporarily relocating may be best if this does not help.

7. Keep pets indoors. If you notice any of the following in your pets, please contact your local veterinarian: difficulty breathing, vomiting, lethargy, or nausea.

Is the local refinery the cause of this event?

LA County Fire has investigated and found no signs of petroleum in the water or in the samples of material taken from the channel. South Coast AQMD has conducted monitoring and sampling for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other air toxics. So far, data has shown no elevated levels of VOCs or other air toxic pollutants (e.g. benzene) that would be typically associated with direct petroleum emissions sources such as oil pipelines or refineries.

How big is the area affected by the smell?

South Coast AQMD has responded to more than three thousand odor complaints. The areas affected by odor include, but are limited to, the cities of Carson, Gardena, Long Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Wilmington and other parts of L.A. County.

What should I do with my pets if they breathe the air?

You should keep your pets indoors as much as possible. If you notice any of the following in your pets, please contact your local veterinarian: difficulty breathing, vomiting, lethargy, or nausea.

What can I do to prevent the odor from getting into my home/business?

To prevent the odor from getting into your home or business, keep doors and windows closed as much as possible. If you have central heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, contact an air conditioning specialist, if needed, to determine if the air filters in your system may be replaced with High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) or MERV-rated filters with activated charcoal (carbon) to improve the air quality inside. Then, proceed to air out your home/business when odors are no longer present in your area.

What can I do if the odor has gotten into my home/business?

Increase the air flow inside by turning on your HVAC system or portable air filter. If the odor has infiltrated your home/business, either replace the current air filters in your system with High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) or MERV-rated filters with activated charcoal (carbon) or use a certified portable HEPA indoor air filter

with activated charcoal to improve air quality in the space. Proceed to air out your home/business when odors are no longer present in your area.

Will the County reimburse air filter replacements for my home/business?

For homes with heating and air conditioning systems, the County will reimburse for the types of filter inserts that are HEPA rated with activated carbon or other [filters recommended](#) by the County Department of Public Health.

The limit of reimbursement will be \$60 per unit per household. Receipts are required for reimbursement within 21 days of purchase.

Visit lacounty.gov/emergency/dominguez-channel/ to submit your online application. Contact the 211 Helpline if you require assistance with submitting a request for reimbursement.

Will the County provide air filtration systems for my home/business?

Residents and businesses without access to a portable indoor air filter or an HVAC system that can be equipped with HEPA or MERV-related filters with activated charcoal (carbon) may seek relief through the County's reimbursement program.

The County will reimburse households for the types of HEPA filtration system air purifier units that use activated carbon or other [filtration system recommended](#) by the County Department of Public Health if they don't already have them.

The reimbursement limit is \$400 per household for homes 1,000 square feet or smaller and \$800 per household for homes above 1,000 square feet. Receipts are required for reimbursement within 21 days of purchase.

Visit lacounty.gov/emergency/dominguez-channel/ to submit your online application. Contact the 211 Helpline if you require assistance with submitting a request for reimbursement.

Note: The filters listed as examples by Public Health are just examples; other brands and models of portable HEPA filters with activated carbon/charcoal (with or without potassium permanganate) exist. The ones listed were found to be available online and at local stores.

What are my options if I cannot stay in my home because I am experiencing symptoms?

The County will reimburse the household for one hotel room in Los Angeles County, up to \$182 per day, and hotel self-parking for one vehicle per day.

Meals, groceries, and miscellaneous expenses are reimbursed at the rate of \$66 per day to each person currently residing full-time in the household who has been relocated to the hotel.

Receipts will be required for the hotel and parking, but not for the meals, groceries, or incidentals. This offer is valid from October 4, 2021, through November 4, 2021 (for hotel checkout on the morning of November 5, 2021).

Visit lacounty.gov/emergency/dominguez-channel/ to submit your online application. Contact the 211 Helpline if you require assistance with submitting a request for reimbursement.

Where can I find up-to-date information on the efforts to eliminate the odor?

Visit us online at: [lacounty.gov/emergency/dominguez-channel.](http://lacounty.gov/emergency/dominguez-channel/)

Follow us on Social Media:

LA County Public Works @LACoPublicWorks

Public Health @LAPublicHealth

Call the 211 Helpline for assistance with submitting a request for reimbursement.

The Public Works Community Outreach Vehicle is onsite seven days a week near the **Carson Community Center, 801 E. Carson St., Carson (East Parking Lot) from 7:00 am – 7:30 pm**, to answer health questions and assist residents and businesses with the reimbursement process.

How long will it be until the odor is resolved?

Restoring the channel to a healthy estuary is a multi-step process. The strength of the odor should steadily decrease as the treatment methods take effect.

Are you providing any advanced payment options?

Vouchers or advance payment (\$66/person/pay) for meals/groceries/miscellaneous expenses are not being provided.

What if someone doesn't have a physical address?

At this time the program is for those with a physical address. Those experiencing homelessness should contact the Public Health Department or visit their booth at the Carson Community Center for services.

What if someone needs additional resources?

The current program only allows for you to pick one option. However, if additional resources are needed, please submit an additional request, and indicate your special circumstance; someone will call you to discuss.

What is the reimbursement program/Direct Assistance Program deadline?

Assistance is available from October 4-November 4, 2021, unless extended in writing by Los Angeles County Public Works.