



Date: November 19, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Councilmember Roberto Uranga, 7th District

Subject: Request for Investigation and Action Regarding Elevated Methyl Bromide Levels in West Long Beach

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to request the City Manager and Long Beach Health and Human Services work with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and other relevant agencies to investigate the public health, safety, and environmental impacts related to elevated levels of methyl bromide detected near Hudson Elementary School and nearby residential areas. Determine what is being done to decrease levels of methyl bromide.

Report back findings and recommendations to City Council promptly.

DISCUSSION

In 2023, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) initiated air monitoring for methyl bromide (MeBr) near Hudson Elementary School in response to community concerns. This colorless, odorless pesticide is widely used for fumigating agricultural products and is highly regulated due to its classification as a toxic air contaminant.

CARB's air monitoring station, located near Hudson Elementary School, recorded an average MeBr concentration of 2.1 parts per billion (ppb) between January 2023 and April 2024, which is double the 1 ppb threshold set by regulators.

Community members have expressed concerns regarding the health implications of ongoing exposure to methyl bromide, especially given the proximity to an elementary school and residential neighborhoods. Addressing these concerns is essential for maintaining community trust and ensuring that residents are safe and secure in their environment. By actively engaging with this issue, the city can support public health, demonstrate responsiveness to environmental hazards, and take preventive steps to reduce future risks.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact review was conducted due to the urgency of this item.

STATEMENT OF URGENCY

This item is being submitted through supplemental due to the urgency and time sensitivity of this issue.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roberto Uranga", is written over the typed name.

Roberto Uranga, Councilmember, Seventh District