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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 1964

TO: John T. O'Halloran, City Manager

FROM: A. M. McKinnon, Director of Public Works

RE: SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

At the last Council meeting it was brought to the attention of the Councilmen that trouble had been experienced at the Sewage Treatment Plant because of trichloroethylene in the sewage. No further troubles have been experienced with trichloroethylene, but we have discovered that some industrial plants are discharging sewage having a lower pH than is permitted. pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity. pH values run from 0 to 14, 7 indicating neutrality, numbers less than 7 increasing acidity, and numbers greater than 7 increasing alkalinity.

Our ordinance stipulates that sewage having a pH lower than 5.5 or higher than 9.0 shall not be discharged to the City's system. We have found that both Sylvania and Fairchild are in violation of this requirement and are now working with these firms to correct the problem.

Our No. 2 digester has started generating gas and is working at about 25% efficiency. We hope to have it functioning normally again within about 3 months. Attached is a copy of a letter received from Fairchild Semiconductor dated February 13, 1964 wherein they advise that action is being taken to prevent discharge of unwanted waste to the public sewer. In fairness to Fairchild it must be pointed out that they have spent many thousands of dollars on facilities to control this problem and have worked closely with the City staff to resolve our problems.

A. M. McKINNON

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w/enc
Dir. Public Works
Asst. Dir. Public Works
Public Works Supt.
Supt. STP
Elliott
File w/orig.
Y
City Attorney

A G E N D A