

SAN DIEGO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION REPORT

Initial Report

Supplemental Report

Complaint No: APCD2013-CMP-0575

Date Received: 11/20/13

Time Received: 1207

Investigation Start Date: 11/20/13

Time: 1249

Nature of Complaint: Plastic/Wire Burning Odor From Ventilation System

Complainant:

Telephone no:

Address:

City/Zip:

Source: ~~UTD~~ Mediterranean Café & Lounge

Telephone no: ~~UTD~~ 619-225-1900

Address: ~~UTD~~ 1352 5th Ave

City/Zip: ~~UTD~~ San Diego / 92101

ID #/Permit #: ~~UTD~~ N/A

Source Contact and Title: ~~UTD~~ did not contact alleged source BWW

Source Type: Odor

INVESTIGATION

1. Location and distance of complainant from source: UTD
2. Wind Direction: From West Wind Speed: 1-5 mph Sky Conditions: Scattered Clouds
3. Property damage observed: None
4. Physical evidence collected: None
5. Description and classification of odor, dust, smoke, other
At complainant:: UTD
At source: UTD
Other locations (see sketch): None
6. V.E. Evaluation: Yes No If yes attach copy of V.E. Evaluation
7. Description of emission point: UTD
8. NTC Issued: Yes No Document No: Rules:
9. NOV Issued: Yes No Document No: Rules:

AQIII Initials: SR Equipment: EXM Results: ISE Date Closed: 11/26/13

FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION

On 11/20/13 at approximately 1335, I conducted a site survey around the premises (complainant). I walked around the block one time as follows:

1. Southbound on 5th Avenue;
2. Westbound on W. A Street;
3. Northbound on 4th Avenue; and
4. Eastbound on W. Ash Street.

During my site survey, I did not detect any odors relating to the complaint. I did, however, detect cigarette and electronic cigarette smoke odors as I passed by individuals who were smoking.

On 11/20/13 at approximately 1345, I entered and contacted at and explained that I had received an anonymous complaint from somebody who works inside regarding a burning plastic/wire burning odor coming into the ventilation system a.

He referred me to stated that he had smelled the burning plastic/wire odor before, and had also detected this odor on 11/20/13 at approximately 1100 inside a conference room labeled "Harbor Room." states that this odor typically lasts approximately 40 minutes and typically occurs any time between 1600 to 1900 hours—this was the first occurrence before 1600 hours. He also stated that this odor event occurs at a frequency of about once a month. According to the odor is only evident in specific rooms within the building, and varies in its strength. He refers to the odor as strong at times, and "mild" other times.

escorted me to the as well as other rooms on the first floor of He then took me up to the second floor rooms, and finally the rooftop next to the ventilation systems. I was not able to detect an odor at all these locations.

claims that the odor is related to an adjacent business' use of charcoal. He claims he has seen deliveries of 20 to 30 "big bags" of charcoal to a business adjacent to the building at the corner of 5th Avenue and W. Ash Street.

I explained District Rule 51 to and gave him Air Pollution Control District's complaint line phone number. I asked him to call the complaint line the next time he smells the odor. I also let know about the complaint line.

On 11/20/13, at approximately 1410, I left the premises.

Conclusion: I did not detect the odor around the block, inside , or on top of rooftops; therefore this complaint was not validated. No further action is required at this time.

SKETCH (For reference only, not to scale):

Other potential sources:

1. None
2. _____

FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION

3.

Date and time the complainant was contacted with the results of the complaint:

Date: _____ Time: _____

If complainant was not contacted, please provide the reason:

Complainant submitted complaint anonymously.

Complaint referrals made to:

None

Inspector's signature: bwong Date: 11/20/13

**SAN DIEGO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Initial Report

Supplemental Report

Complaint No: 2015-CMP-0505

Date Received: 10/12/15

Time Received: 11:00

Investigation Start Date: 10/12/15

Time: 13:00

Nature of Complaint: Strong burning electrical wire smell from adjacent Hookah bar

Complainant:

Telephone no:

Address:

City/Zip:

Source: The Med Cafe

Telephone no: 619-920-4477

Address: 1352 5th Ave

City/Zip: San Diego, CA 92101

ID #/Permit #:

Source Contact and Title: Emad Atalla, Worker

Source Type: Hookah Lounge

INVESTIGATION

1. Location and distance of complainant from source: 20 ft. West of stack exhaust
2. Wind Direction: NW Wind Speed: 0-3 mph Sky Conditions: Patchy clouds
3. Property damage observed: n/a
4. Physical evidence collected: none
5. Description and classification of odor, dust, smoke, other
At complainant: n/a
At source: n/a
Other locations (see sketch):
6. V.E. Evaluation: Yes No If yes attach copy of V.E. Evaluation
7. Description of emission point: utd
8. NTC Issued: Yes No Document No: Rules:
9. NOV Issued: Yes No Document No: Rules:

AQIII Initials:	Equipment:	Results:	Date Closed:
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FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION

I received complaint 2015-CMP-0505 at approximately 12:30pm on Monday, October 12, 2015. I contacted complainant (C) via phone. C described a strong burning electric wire odor throughout their building. Odor is most concentrated in a room in the second floor. C stated that The Med Café's stack exhaust is a few feet away from [redacted] ventilation duct and the duct is pulling in the emissions from Med Café's exhaust and sent inside [redacted] building. C explained that this was not the first time the odor has occurred and that they tried speaking to the owner of The Med Café.

I parked on 5th avenue between A and Ash Street. Prior to entering [redacted] building, I walked around the block starting south on 5th avenue, west on A street, north on 4th avenue, and east on Ash street. I did not experience smelling any odors.

I entered [redacted] and met [redacted] stated that the odor has come and gone over a two year span. Most recently, the odor could be smelled throughout the whole building. During my visit I did not smell any odors in the first floor work area. The second floor room was where the odor was most concentrated and workers had to exit the room. During my inspection, I smelled a faint burnt plastic odor in the second floor room. [redacted] notified me that the odor was very strong the past few weeks that [redacted] research was contacted by Cal OSHA about a complaint against [redacted] from one of their workers because of the strong odor.

I met [redacted] stated that during one of the odor events, he climbed to the rooftop and was able to smell the emissions exiting from the stack exhaust of The Med Café. [redacted] described the odor as a strong ammonia like smell. I asked [redacted] if he saw any smoke coming from the stack exhaust to which he replied he did not see anything, he just smelled an odor.

I told [redacted] that if the odor occurs again to contact the District ASAP. I explained Rule 51 to [redacted] and proceeded to speak with The Med Cafe.

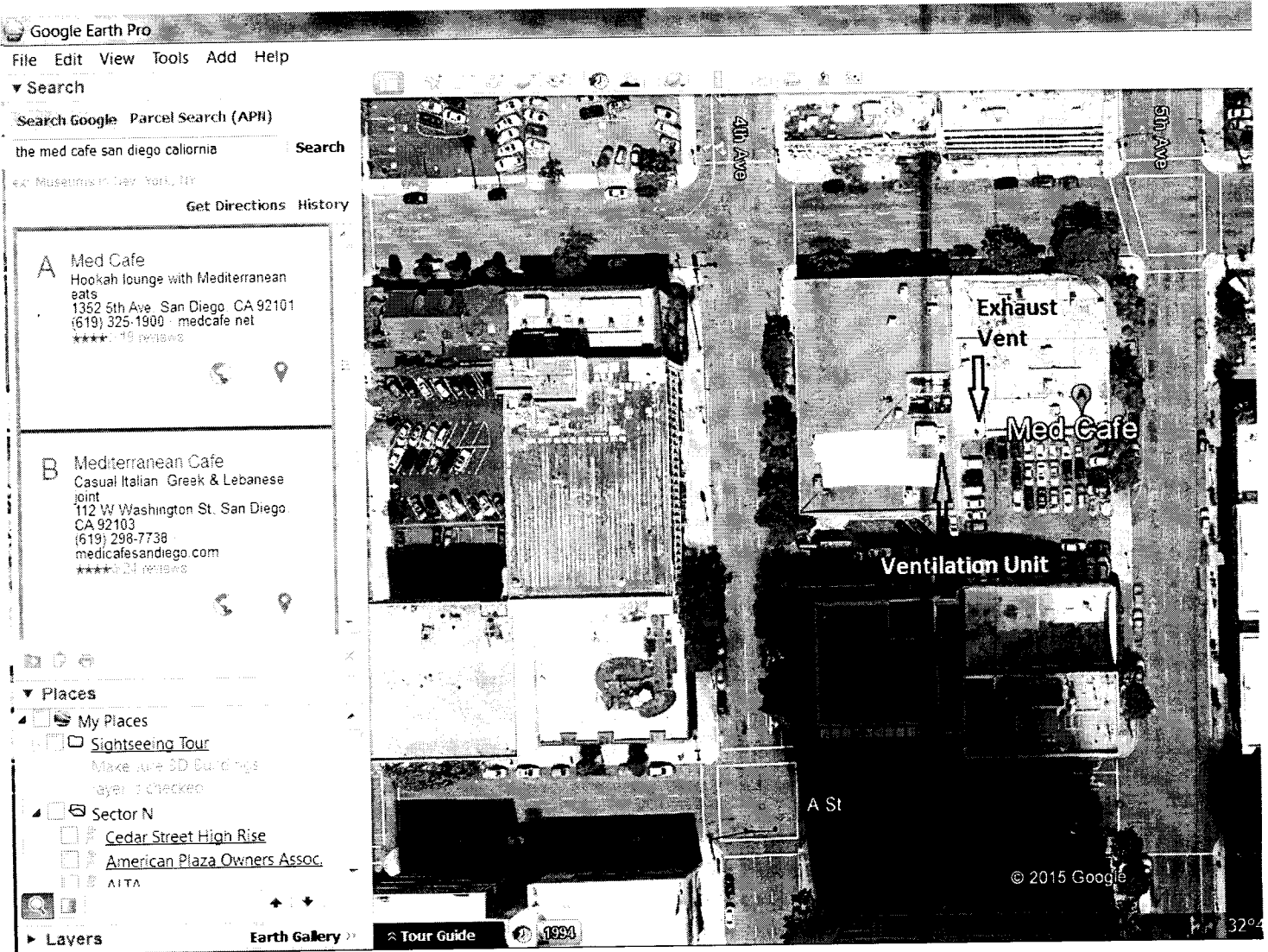
I visited The Med Café and spoke with Emad Atalla, Worker. I explained to Mr. Atalla the nature of the complaint. Mr. Atalla understood and granted me access to The Med Café. I went to the back and saw the kitchen and the brick oven where they heat the charcoals for the hookah. I noticed that the area where they heat up the charcoal is right under the exhaust vent. Mr. Atalla explained the process of preparing the charcoal for the hookah. Mr. Atalla clarified that all they do with the brick oven is heat up charcoal and on occasion cook food. I did not smell any burnt plastic or ammonia odors during my inspection of The Med Café. I did not see anything that could possibly be the source of the complaint. I explained Rule 51 to Mr. Atalla.

I visited Café de L'Opera, a pastry shop right next door to The Med Café. I spoke to Danitza Velarde, Worker. I asked Ms. Velarde if they do any cooking or baking in the shop to which she replied that all they do is warm up pastries. There is no actual baking at Café de L'Opera.

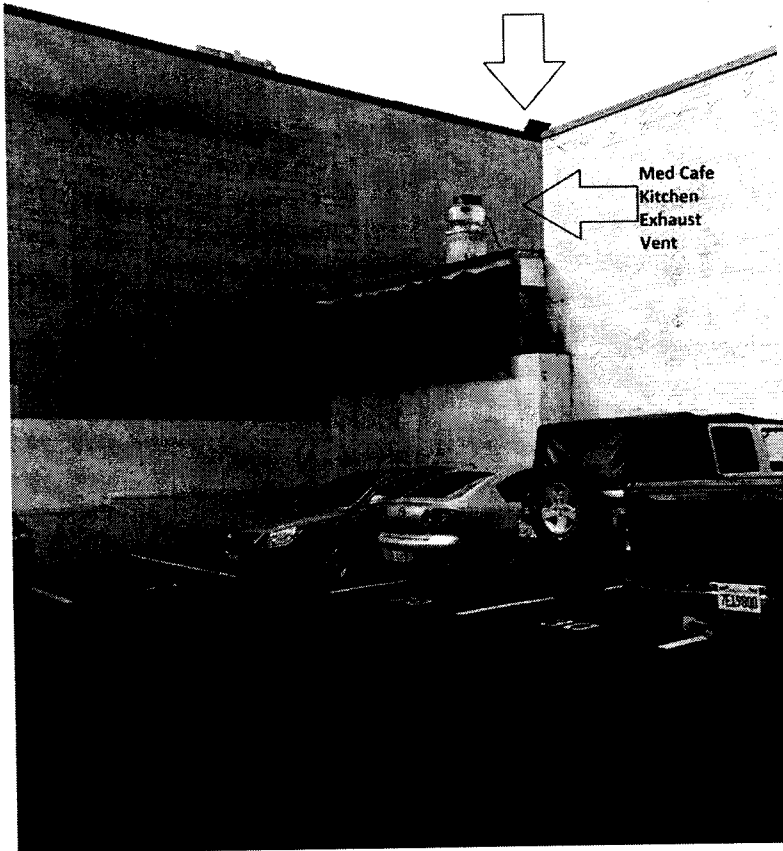
Conclusion

No evidence for odor complaint. No ticket issued. Possible reinspection if odor reoccurs.

FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION



FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSION



Other potential sources:

1. Construction site North _____
2. Construction site South _____
3. Paul Mitchel beauty school _____

Date and time the complainant was contacted with the results of the complaint:

Date: 11/23/15 Time: 11:30am

If complainant was not contacted, please provide the reason:

Complaint referrals made to:

Inspector's signature: Kim Impreso Date: 11/25/15