

POTTYGATE: ISSUES SUMMARY

A high-level overview of what [Section 11.39](#) depicts

August 31, 2026

This summary is a map, not the territory. Everything that matters in Section 11.39 lives in the documents linked there — the petitions, the letters, the agency records, and the videos. They are dated, they are tied to the public record, and they are meant to speak for themselves. What follows is only here to orient you before you read them.

What this is about. United Rentals (dba Reliable Onsite Services) operates a porta-potty rental and servicing business at 6144 Federal Boulevard, immediately next to my property. Servicing porta-potties means collecting human waste — “septage” — and that material is tightly regulated because of what it becomes as it sits. As septage decomposes it turns septic and off-gasses toxic, explosive gases: hydrogen sulfide, methane, carbon dioxide, and ammonia. When waste gives off those gases, federal law treats sulfide-bearing waste that generates toxic gases as hazardous (EPA’s reactivity characteristic, 40 CFR § 261.23).

The harm to a community. What makes this more than a paperwork dispute is who has had to live with it. A residential neighborhood and a commercial corridor of property owners, their employees, and the customers who walk into those businesses have spent months beside an open, above-ground tank of decomposing human waste — a tank the County itself measured at 40,000 gallons — venting hydrogen sulfide and methane into the air all day. Hydrogen sulfide is genuinely toxic, and it deadens the sense of smell at the very concentrations where it becomes dangerous — which is precisely why an inspector reporting “no odor from the surrounding area” is not the reassurance the agency pretended it was. Add the round-the-clock stench, the roughly ninety people who put their names on that petition, and the \$935,000 sale of my own property — immediately adjacent to the UR septage storage tank — that collapsed because of the conditions, and you have real, documented harm — health, environmental, and economic — to a community of people who never got a vote on any of it. And it is fair to ask the question I first asked on camera: a 40,000-gallon tank of imported waste gassing off into the air would not last a week in La Jolla or Beverly Hills. It sits where it sits because someone assumed this City Council District 4 corridor would not have the resources or the persistence to push back.

What the records show. Rather than discharging that septage at the locations its County permit requires, using the trucks listed on that permit, United Rentals brought the waste to its own yard and pumped it into that FRAC tank, which vented its gases straight into the air. It then used a single bulk-transfer truck to move the accumulated septage to a disposal site that does not appear on its permits. By current estimates drawn from the government’s own billing records, more than 5.4 million gallons moved through that operation over roughly 43 months — with no record of the discharge’s pH, and to a destination the permit never named.

The other half of the story. When I tried to bring this to the agencies whose job is to protect people and the environment from exactly this, I met a wall. What should have been a

straightforward “who regulates this?” became a string of passing the buck, jurisdictional hand-offs, and, in places, simply being ignored — including by our own elected official, Councilmember Henry Foster. Along the way the County’s environmental health department measured the tank, acknowledged in writing that its permit did not cover the tank’s design and operation, told the Regional Water Board it did not believe the operation met the criteria — and then closed the matter with “no further action.” So the community was harmed twice: first by the operator, and then again by the failure of the very system that is supposed to be the remedy. The documents in this section trace that sequence in the agencies’ own words.

Why it had to come to this. None of the steps documented here was a first move. I went to the agencies first — the complaints, the calls, the records requests — the way a person is supposed to. It was only after that produced no action that the tools you see in this section became necessary, and each one answers a specific failure. The California Public Records Act requests were how I forced the agencies’ own files into the light, so the record could not be waved away as one neighbor’s word. The Report to the District Attorney is the backstop for when the ordinary protective apparatus fails a community. And publishing all of it here is the last safeguard — the record, in the open, where it can be seen and tested. These are not aggressive measures. They are proportionate ones, and they are what is left when the systems built to protect people decline to use them.

Why the writs — and what they ask. Two of the documents here are petitions for writs of mandate against the City of San Diego: one concerning code enforcement (Case No. 26CU043242C) and one concerning the Fire-Rescue / hazardous-materials response under NFPA 820 (Case No. 26CU045721C). A writ of mandate is not a claim for money. It is the tool a citizen uses when a public agency has a duty to act and does not: it asks a court to order the agency to perform that duty. I filed them because the administrative channels had run their course without the agencies doing what the law charges them to do. What I expect from filing them is simple: a neutral court, looking at the same public record you can read here, deciding whether these agencies must act.

Let the record decide. I am not asking anyone to take my word for any of this. Every point above is backed by a document in this section, and every document is what it says it is — an agency record, a court filing, a dated letter. Read them, and draw your own conclusions.

This summary is dated August 31, 2026. As events warrant — agency responses, court rulings, further production — it will be updated, with each version built on the one before it, so the record of how this unfolded stays intact. In addition to the hyperlink above, Section 11.39 can also be found at <https://151farmers.org/2018/04/01/canna-greed-stay-awake-stay-aware-my-story/>