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***For immediate release...***

## **Mystery Odor Evaporates**

**SPRINGFIELD, Ore.** — The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) concluded its investigation into widespread odor complaints across central Lane County without identifying a definitive source.

LRAPA received 45 complaints between Aug. 1-16 describing a strong smell similar to dog waste. Reports came from as far north as Coburg to as far south as Cottage Grove and from East Thurston to West Eugene, primarily noting the smell late at night and in the early morning hours.

The agency launched a comprehensive investigation that included:

- Analyzing wind patterns across the two-week period
- Contacting eight businesses that handle organic materials or hold air permits
- Checking with the Oregon Department of Agriculture about field applications
- Interviewing local farmers about seasonal operations
- Conducting four odor-tracking operations

All businesses reported normal operations with no unusual events or releases, and all onsite investigations confirmed a lack of odors.

"While we couldn't pinpoint a single source, the sharp decrease in complaints suggests the issue has resolved," said Matt Sorensen, LRAPA Public Affairs Manager. "The widespread nature and timing of the reports indicate this may have been multiple localized issues made worse by daily weather conditions."

Ground level odors can intensify due to daily diurnal atmospheric patterns. This pattern is when air cools after sunset and becomes still, trapping odors near the ground overnight into the morning. Then, when the sun warms the air, wind circulation improves and disperses trapped odors.

Though LRAPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality don't regulate odors, LRAPA chose to respond due to the high volume of complaints.

"Our Agency is pleased residents reported the issue and trust us to investigate," Sorensen noted. "It's also good to keep in mind that unpleasant odors don't necessarily indicate health risks."

For air quality questions or concerns, contact LRAPA at 541-736-1056 or visit [www.lrapa-or.gov](http://www.lrapa-or.gov).