# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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**KATHRYN BARGER**
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT


February 8, 2024

Mr. John M. Perkey
Vice President - Deputy General Counsel
Compliance and Government Affairs Waste Connections
3 Waterway Square Place, Suite 110
The Woodlands, TX 77380

Dear Mr. Perkey:

**I am writing to ask that you urgently provide relocation assistance services to residents who live in proximity of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (Landfill) who request it.**

Yesterday, the results of an independent health risk study--conducted at my direction by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health--were shared with the community. While the study concluded that odor exposure does not increase chances of long-term disease, it is undeniable that the community is suffering.

My constituents are consistently voicing how their overall quality of life has been negatively impacted ever since this odor incident started, which is now well over eight months ago. The residents surrounding the Landfill should not be expected to live with the odors that are impacting them every day without significant relief.

We are at an important crossroads. Although we have a significant number of organizations involved from the Federal, State and County government levels, it has become increasingly clear to me that that there is no predictable end in sight. As you continue working to comply with oversight and odor abatement requirements, the very real and significant impacts to those living near the Landfill must be addressed.

Because both the odors and those impacts originate from your facility, it is incumbent upon the Landfill to provide relief and enact a plan to offer relocation assistance immediately.

Earlier this year, my office pledged to allocate up to $2 million towards relief programs for impacted residents. The first program, the Chiquita Canyon Utility Relief Program, has been serving community members since October 2023 and has been extended until March 31, 2024. Based on current participation levels, a second forthcoming program, Home Hardening and Rehabilitation Program, will likely have a total budget of $1.5 million. **I am requesting that you supplement funding for these relief programs.**

**Additionally, I ask that you immediately begin providing larger air filtration devices to residents who request them. Residents that choose to remain in their homes need immediate relief from the ongoing odors emanating from the Landfill.**

**In addition to the aforementioned requests, I am asking that Chiquita Canyon Landfill continue to work with County, State and Federal agencies on the following:**

1. Immediately implement the recommendations outlined in the County's independent health risk study, including the following:
    - Validate and maintain the calibration of the continuous hydrogen sulfide ($H_2S$) monitoring network to ensure the data reported is quantitatively reliable since this data appears to be the most useful measure of tracking emissions of sulfur compounds and odors from the Landfill;
    - Increase benzene sampling frequency and lower benzene reporting limit to better assess potential benzene emissions from Landfill gas emissions;
    - Include a network of wind direction/speed monitors throughout the sampling area to better understand and track local wind patterns; and,
    - Evaluate the benefits of expanding the network of continuous air monitors in the community in order to get a more complete picture of the transport of emissions and extent and magnitude of impacts from the Landfill into the community's ambient air.

2. Continue complying with any and all requests for corrective measures issued by the County of Los Angeles, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the State of California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

There are many challenges that lay ahead, but I remain committed to supporting the residents and communities surrounding the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. I look forward to receiving a timely response to these requests.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District

KB:aso

cc: The Honorable Mike Garcia, Congressman, District 27
The Honorable Pilar Schiavo, Assemblywoman, District 40
The Honorable Henry Stern, Senator, District 27
The Honorable Scott Wilk, Senator, District 21