BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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KATHRYN BARGER
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

October 28, 2026

The Honorable John Harabedian
California State Assembly
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 4350
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: October 29 Oversight Hearing on Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Actions in Response to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill

Dear Assemblymember Harabedian:

Thank you for your continued attention to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill incident. I appreciate your commitment to addressing an issue that has profoundly affected the quality of life of residents in Val Verde and Castaic. These families continue to suffer from health impacts as a result of this environmental crisis and I am determined to hold those responsible accountable.

The Chiquita Canyon Landfill incident is extraordinarily complex and accountability must remain at the forefront of our efforts. Los Angeles County has thoroughly explored available avenues to bring residents relief while the landfill's owner and operator work toward a permanent solution to eliminate the odors. The County has also committed significant resources to addressing this incident and is actively engaged in litigation against Waste Connections, the landfill's owner and operator.

Given this ongoing litigation, I am constrained in my ability to comment on the State Auditor's findings or engage in a meaningful public discussion of the County's actions outside of privileged attorney-client communications. Doing so could compromise the County's legal position and, ultimately, its efforts to secure accountability on behalf of affected residents.

I understand that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health had responded to their invitation to attend the October 29th oversight hearing and requested a continuance, or, alternatively, written questions which they would respond to provided they did not compromise the county's pending litigation. I support postponing this discussion until the pending litigation has been resolved, when a more complete and substantive examination of the County's response can take place without jeopardizing those proceedings.

I know that you, I, and our fellow elected officials share a common goal: ensuring that the parties responsible for this incident are held accountable. That remains my focus, and I appreciate your continued partnership in pursuing that outcome for the residents we serve.

Sincerely,

KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District

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