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October 27, 2026

The Honorable Assembly Member John Harabedian, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Statement of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Before the California Joint Legislative Audit Committee on the California State Auditor's recent report "Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: Its Actions in Response to Conditions Near the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) Have Been Incomplete (Report 2025-128)"

Dear Chair Harabedian and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (hereafter, Public Health), and in lieu of public testimony at the October 29, 2026 Joint Legislative Audit Committee hearing in response to the State Auditor's recent report on Public Health's actions near the Chiquita Canyon Landfill, I respectfully submit this written statement. Additionally, Los Angeles County has provided a more detailed and robust written response to the audit. I respectfully refer you and members of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and the public to that response.

We are unable to attend the hearing due to the ongoing litigation the County is pursuing to achieve meaningful relief for communities affected by the ongoing environmental incident, pervasive odor-related impacts, and the resulting public health nuisance associated with the landfill. This litigation is active. Issues, conversations, questions, and claims that are likely to arise during this public meeting are inherently elements of that litigation. As such, Public Health is not able to provide responses beyond the County's published response and this statement.

Public Health's actions occurred within an established multi-agency, multi-government response structure involving federal, state, regional, and County entities with distinct regulatory, technical, enforcement, and communication roles. Public Health's activities have been part of this coordinated structure, including monitoring review, site visits, community engagement, communications, regulatory activities, and participation in shared assessments and response planning.

The audit evaluates Public Health's actions in isolation and not as part of this coordinated context either within or outside of the County, and does not appear to recognize or acknowledge the distinct roles of the entities involved. Public Health remains committed to its role in the coordinated response as the County continues working to secure meaningful relief for the impacted community through its ongoing litigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara Ferrer".

Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director