AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER November 24, 2026

READ IN: CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL — PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND STRENGTHEN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The November 16, 2026, incident at Chiquita Canyon Landfill resulted in the release of pressurized landfill gas, debris, and potentially other substances during drilling operations. The release lasted over seven hours as a result of drilling operations conducted by the landfill.

For years, residents living near Chiquita Canyon Landfill have endured the impacts of the ongoing underground reaction, including odors and health impacts. These conditions have disrupted residents' daily lives, diminished their quality of life, and raised serious concerns about their health and well-being.

The November 16, 2026, incident has heightened these concerns and demonstrated the serious risks posed by the ongoing conditions at the landfill. The potential for another hazardous release - including an eruption that could propel harmful materials beyond the landfill's boundaries and onto neighboring properties - presents a continuing threat to public health and safety. Residents should not have to wait for another incident before additional protections and emergency resources are put in place.

Environmental monitoring and laboratory testing remain ongoing by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the full extent of potential exposure and environmental impacts has not yet been determined. However, the absence of final testing results does not diminish the need for immediate action. Los Angeles County (County) must be prepared to respond swiftly to additional hazardous releases, coordinate protective measures across agencies, and ensure that residents have access to safe sheltering options when conditions warrant.

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	MOTION
MITCHELL	_____
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HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
SOLIS	_____

A local emergency proclamation may strengthen the County's ability to coordinate emergency preparedness and response and seek additional State and federal assistance where eligible. It would also underscore the urgency of addressing the continuing risks associated with Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

The County's actions must not relieve Chiquita Canyon Landfill of its responsibility to address the impacts of its operations. Emergency sheltering and other protective measures must supplement, not replace, the landfill operator's existing obligations to provide assistance to affected residents. Protecting public health and holding responsible parties accountable must remain central to the County's response.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, AND PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2(b)(2), I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board determine that:

1. There is a need to take immediate action; and

2. That the need to take this action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda for today's meeting.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim a local emergency arising from the ongoing conditions at Chiquita Canyon Landfill that present a continuing threat to public health and safety.

2. Direct the Office of Emergency Management, Los Angeles County Fire Department, County Counsel, Department of Public Social Services, and other relevant departments, to immediately activate and coordinate appropriate emergency preparedness and response measures should an emergency incident, such as a hazardous release or slope failure occur. This shall include identifying necessary personnel, equipment, technical expertise, environmental monitoring, public health protections, resident outreach, sheltering, emergency communications, and other resources to protect surrounding communities.

3. Direct the Chief Executive Order through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to send a five-signature letter to Governor Newsom, with a copy to the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation requesting a state of emergency.

4. Direct the Office of Emergency Management to identify any additional technical, operational or financial assistance available under applicable emergency assistance programs.

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PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY FOR CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND REQUEST FOR A STATE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Chapter 2.68 of the Los Angeles County Code provides that the Board of Supervisors (Board) may proclaim the existence of a local emergency, pursuant to Government Code section 8558(c); and

WHEREAS, a "local emergency," is defined in Government Code section 8558(c)(1), in pertinent part, as follows: "'[l]ocal emergency' means the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county . . . caused by conditions such as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, cyberterrorism, sudden and severe energy shortage, deenergization event . . . plant or animal infestation or disease . . . or an earthquake, or other conditions . . . which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat . . . ."; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2026, an incident at Chiquita Canyon Landfill resulted in the release of pressurized landfill gas, debris, and potentially other substances during drilling operations. The release lasted over seven hours as a result of drilling operations conducted by the landfill. This incident spread potential contaminants into the community, and odor and other affects continue to impact nearby residents and the community overall. This incident has heightened these concerns and demonstrated the serious risks posed by the ongoing conditions at the landfill. The potential for another hazardous release - including an eruption that could propel harmful materials beyond the landfill's boundaries and onto neighboring properties - presents a continuing threat to public health and safety. Residents should not have to wait for another incident before additional protections and emergency resources are put in place.

Environmental monitoring and laboratory testing remain ongoing by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the full extent of potential exposure and environmental impacts has not yet been determined. However, the absence of final testing results does not diminish the need for immediate action. The County must be prepared to respond swiftly to additional hazardous releases, coordinate protective measures across agencies, and ensure that residents have access to safe sheltering options when conditions warrant; and

WHEREAS, as of November 16, 2026, conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist as a result of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Pressurized Gas Release Incident and associated threat of continuing hazardous releases in the County, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County, and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, the mobilization of local resources, and the ability to coordinate interagency response, accelerate procurement of vital supplies, and use mutual aid, will be critical to successfully responding to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Pressurized Gas Release Incident and associated threat of continuing hazardous releases; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence of a local emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board finds that as a result of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Pressurized Gas Release Incident and associated threat of continuing hazardous releases**,** conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist in the County, within the meaning of Government Code section 8558(c)(1), and such conditions are or will likely be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County, and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED by the Board that a local emergency exists for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Pressurized Gas Release Incident and associated threat of continuing hazardous releases in the County; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED that, during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the emergency organization of the County shall be those prescribed by State law, by ordinances, and resolutions of the County; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND PROCLAIMED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Director) requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with State law; that the Governor of the State of California (Governor), pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, issue a proclamation declaring an emergency in Los Angeles County; that the Governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and that the State expedite access to State and federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

The foregoing proclamation was on the 24th day of November, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

By: Hilda L. Solis
Chair

ATTEST:
Edward Yen
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By: MARGARET AMBROSE
Principal Deputy County Counsel