Sediment Testing at Tidal Locations

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works conducted an assessment on February 2, 2025, to examine sediment at tidal locations impacted by wildfire debris and ash. The goal was to determine whether the sediment contained chemical substances at levels that would classify it as hazardous waste under State and Federal regulations.

Laboratory testing analyzed the sediment for a range of substances, including asbestos, heavy metals, dioxins, pesticides, petroleum hydrocarbons, and other potential contaminants. Results showed that most substances were not detected, with only minor traces found in limited instances. Importantly, none of the detected levels exceeded safety thresholds.

Based on these findings, the debris and ash in the tested tidal areas were determined to be safe for disposal in inert landfills. This assessment helps ensure that wildfire-related debris is managed responsibly while protecting coastal and environmental health.

Testing Locations:

Topanga Creek Outlet

0.04 Miles 0 0.04 Miles

Sediment Analytical Results
Santa Monica Canyon Channel and Topanga Creek

		Location	Santa Monica	Topanga
		Sample Identification	SM-1S	TB-1S
EPA Method	Analyte	Soil	02/02/25	02/02/25
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) (3 Analyte Ranges Tested: Light, Medium, Heavy)				
8015M	TPH-Heavy Hydrocarbons	mg/kg	**8.8J**	**6.1J**
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) (68 Analytes Tested)				
8260B	Acetone	µg/kg	**32J**	**200**
8260B	2-Butanone	µg/kg	**7.6J**	**59J**
8260B	Benzene	µg/kg	**4.1**	**21**
8260B	Ethylbenzene	µg/kg	ND	**1.0J**
8260B	Toluene	µg/kg	**2.0J**	**12**
8260B	Xylenes	µg/kg	ND	**3.4J**
8260B	Napthalene	µg/kg	ND	**0.9J**
PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) (18 Analytes Tested)				
8270C-SIM	1-Methynaphthalene	µg/kg	**3.6J**	ND
8270C-SIM	2-Methynaphthalene	µg/kg	**4.2J**	ND
8270C-SIM	Naphthalene	µg/kg	**7.7J**	ND
8270C-SIM	Phenanthrene	µg/kg	**2.6J**	ND
8270C-SIM	Fluoranthene	µg/kg	**3.4J**	ND
8270C-SIM	Pyrene	µg/kg	**3.3J**	ND
8270C-SIM	Benzo(a)anthracene	µg/kg	**1.4J**	ND
8270C-SIM	Chrysene	µg/kg	**1.7J**	ND
8270C-SIM	Benzo(b)fluoranthene	µg/kg	**1.3J**	ND
Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) (72 Analytes Tested)				
8270C		mg/kg	ND	ND
Organochlorine Pesticides (20 Analytes Tested)				
8081A		µg/kg	ND	ND
Organophosphorus Pesticides (20 Analytes Tested)				
8141A		mg/kg	ND	ND
Chlorinated Herbicides (10 Analytes Tested)				
8151A	2,4,5-T	µg/kg	**6.0J**	ND
Dioxins and Furans (17 Analytes Tested)				
8290	2,3,7,8-TCDD	pg/g	**0.768**	ND
8290	1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDD	pg/g	**1.11J**	**1.03J**
8290	1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDD	pg/g	**1.04J**	**1.09J**
8290	1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDD	pg/g	**14.2**	**12.6**
8290	OCDD	pg/g	**124**	**136**
8290	2,3,7,8-TCDF	pg/g	ND	**0.501**
8290	2,3,4,7,8-PeCDF	pg/g	ND	**1.29J**
8290	1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDF	pg/g	ND	**0.781J**
8290	1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDF	pg/g	ND	**0.790J**

8290	2,3,4,6,7,8-HxCDF	pg/g	ND	**1.17J**
8290	1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDF	pg/g	**2.40J**	**4.69**
8290	OCDF	pg/g	**7.14**	**6.98**
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) (9 Analytes Tested)				
8082		µg/kg	ND	ND
Asbestos				
100.1		%	ND	ND
Hexavalent Chromium				
218.6		mg/kg	ND	ND
Title 22 (17 Analytes Tested)				
6010B	Arsenic	mg/kg	**3.4**	**4.5**
6010B	Barium	mg/kg	**47**	**53**
6010B	Beryllium	mg/kg	**0.25J**	**0.43J**
6010B	Cadmium	mg/kg	ND	**0.11J**
6010B	Chromium	mg/kg	**20**	**17**
6010B	Cobalt	mg/kg	**3.1**	**7.7**
6010B	Copper	mg/kg	**11**	**15**
6010B	Lead	mg/kg	**4.9**	**11**
7471A	Mercury	mg/kg	ND	**0.20**
6010B	Nickel	mg/kg	**14**	**22**
6010B	Vanadium	mg/kg	**25**	**29**
6010B	Zinc	mg/kg	**39**	**44**

Acronyms and Notes:

ND= Not detected above the laboratory method detection limit (MDL).

J = Detected above the laboratory MDL and below the laboratory practical quantitation limit (PQL). mg/kg, µg/kg,

pg/g = Milligrams per kilogram, micrograms per kilogram, picograms per gram, respectively.

% = Percent present.

EPA = Environmental Protection Agency test method.

Unless identified, all other constituents were not detected above the MDL.