



February 16, 2025

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street Room 383  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Item 29 – February 18, 2025 Agenda – Opposition to the Disposal of Fire Debris at the Calabasas Landfill

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the City of Hidden Hills, we strongly oppose the disposal of any and all fire debris from the Palisades and Eaton Fires at the Calabasas Landfill. We stand in full support of the City of Calabasas and share their serious concerns regarding public health, environmental safety, and the lack of transparency surrounding this issue.

While we recognize the urgency of the recovery efforts, the rush to remediate one disaster should not create new and lasting risks for our communities. The decision to transport and dispose of debris at the Calabasas Landfill—located near residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, wildlife corridors, and other sensitive areas—fails to account for the potential long-term consequences to public health and the environment.

Despite the significance of this issue, local government leaders and residents were not consulted before critical decisions were made. The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts submitted an emergency waiver request on February 7, 2025, seeking to:

- Expand landfill operating hours from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM to 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM.
- Increase the daily debris tonnage limit from 3,500 tons per day to 5,000 tons per day.
- Temporary accept outside the wasteshed.
- Asking to be exempt from the activities of the Environmental Protection Act.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Local Enforcement Agency granted approval for these waivers on February 13, 2025, without engaging the City of Calabasas (and neighboring cities such as Hidden Hills) or providing advance notice of the process. These waivers and extended hours and increased tonnage allowance will **negatively impact the**

**community**, as large volumes of debris are transported through city streets and disposed of at a landfill already near capacity.

During the February 12, 2025, Calabasas City Council Meeting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, led by Colonel Brian Sawser, provided information on Phase 2 of the debris removal process. However, his statements failed to reassure the community that hazardous materials would not be included in the waste stream. There is no sufficient analysis or oversight to ensure hazardous waste is properly identified and separated, and the reality is that the sheer volume of disaster-related material makes it impossible to completely isolate “hazardous” and “non-hazardous” waste. The long-term impacts of this rushed decision cannot be understated or ignored.

The City of Hidden Hills shares the concerns outlined by the Calabasas City Council and firmly opposes:

- The disposal of any fire debris at the Calabasas Landfill.
- The increase in daily debris tonnage and expanded landfill operating hours.
- The waiver of watershed restrictions to allow out-of-area debris disposal.
- Any expansion of landfill capacity to accommodate this increase.
- The exemption of this process from any CEQA review.

We also fully support Calabasas’ consideration of efforts to stop this planned disposal, should they need to seek injunctive or other relief through the courts. We are prepared to consider and support any legal efforts by our neighboring local agencies that share these concerns. This issue is of the utmost importance to our residents. We hear their concerns and must protect our residents from potential impacts from this rushed decision.

Given the severe health and environmental risks, we call on County, State, and Federal officials to **explore alternative disposal** options outside of Calabasas, **including lower-population areas and out-of-state facilities better suited to handle disaster-related waste.**

The City of Hidden Hills urges immediate reconsideration of this plan and stands ready to work with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and all involved parties to find a safer and more responsible solution that prioritizes public health, environmental protection, and community well-being.

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We appreciate your prompt attention to this urgent matter and **urge you to not approve the staff recommendations in Item 29**. We urge you to work with the impacted cities and experts to explore alternative disposal areas and sites that are better suited to handle disaster related waste.

Respectfully,  
CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS

/s/ Mayor Larry Weber

/s/ Mayor Pro Tem Joe Loggia

/s/ Council Member Eniko Gold

/s/ Council Member Laura McCorkindale

/s/ Council Member Adam Wasserman

C/ Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
Los Angeles County Public Works  
Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, 42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District  
Senator Ben Allen, District 24  
CalRecycle  
CalEPA