

Kathryn Roberts

From: KRoberts@aqmd.gov
To: Stephen Dutz
Subject: RE: 8/13/26 - Benzene Exceedance Notification Follow Up

From: Markotic, Stipe <SMarkotic@scsengineers.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 5:03 PM
To: Stephen Dutz <sdutz@aqmd.gov>
Cc: Huff, Ray <RHuff@SCSEngineers.com>; Laris, Quincy <QLaris@scsengineers.com>; Angela Haar <AHaar@aqmd.gov>; Freyja Berg Lopez <flopez@aqmd.gov>; Stephens, Gabrielle <gstephens@scsengineers.com>; Sullivan, Pat <PSullivan@SCSEngineers.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 8/13/26 - Benzene Exceedance Notification Follow Up

To SCAQMD team,

On August 13 at 12:00 AM, 4:00 AM and 7:00 AM at monitoring location MS-08, benzene was recorded at 10.55, 14.53 to 17.73 ppb respectively, which is above the acute REL of 8 ppb. Please note, during this time of the elevated benzene readings the instrument entered the automatic calibration cycle between the hours of 1:00 AM to 3:00 AM. Benzene levels at MS-08 returned to below the acute REL as of 9:00 AM this morning. No other monitoring stations recorded readings above the acute REL.

As required by Condition 34(d) of the Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOFA) with Chiquita Canyon, LLC an initial investigation was conducted to determine the validity of the noted benzene readings and whether the readings originated from the landfill. This email constitutes the initial response required under the SOFA.

The investigation is still currently ongoing. Preliminary analysis shows that other individual volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations (as measured by the micro-GCs) were also elevated at MS-08 during the times of these events. However, methane (CH₄) concentrations (from the separate Aeroqual monitoring unit located at MS-08) did not appear elevated during all the events. Preliminary analysis shows evidence of elevated CH₄ readings at onsite monitoring stations around these events. The wind direction at MS-08 during these events suggest winds were coming from the west indicating the unit was not downwind from the landfill. The wind speed during these events was also low.

The onsite flares and TOX units were operational prior to and during this event.

An investigation of the validity of the benzene readings was also conducted by the micro-GC manufacturer Tricorn Tech (TCT). TCT has concluded that all three readings are invalid and due to an abnormal response in the benzene sensor. As such, a module sensor replacement is needed and will be scheduled to occur immediately.

A subsequent investigation report will be submitted to the District within 4 business days.

Thank you,



Stipe Markotic

Project Professional

smarkotic@scsengineers.com

O: 562-637-0836

M: 562-305-0971

3900 Kilroy Airport Way

Suite 300

Long Beach, California 90806

