

Table B
Audit Objectives and the Methods Used to Address Them

AUDIT OBJECTIVE	METHOD
1 Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.	Reviewed and documented state laws, regulations, and Los Angeles County municipal code related to solid waste management and county health officer responsibilities.
2 Identify actions that LADPH has taken to do the following: a. Notify residents about the potential negative health effects of exposure to hazardous chemicals. b. Engage directly with residents experiencing negative health effects resulting from exposure to hazardous chemicals. c. Protect residents from further exposure to hazardous chemicals.	• Interviewed LADPH staff and reviewed various public websites to collect information about the communications that LADPH sent during its response to the chemical reaction and the community engagement efforts that LADPH made. • Reviewed notifications that LADPH sent to residents to identify those that discussed the potential negative health effects of exposure to hazardous chemicals. Assessed the frequency of these notifications, as well as their timeliness. • Identified all health officer directives or orders and orders issued by the enforcement program. • Reviewed and documented best practices for public health communications and compared them to LADPH's communications during its response to the chemical reaction. • Interviewed residents of a neighborhood adjacent to the landfill to collect their perspectives on LADPH's response to the chemical reaction. • Documented LADPH's participation in various community meetings and its outreach to the communities near the landfill. • Reviewed the enforcement program's correspondence with Chiquita, including its orders for compliance. Documented the steps that Chiquita has taken to comply with the enforcement program's directions. • Determined the steps that LADPH had taken to review relevant environmental data in the form of air quality monitoring data and assessed LADPH's communication to the public about these data. • Reviewed the results of LADPH's contractor's health risk evaluation.
3 Evaluate LADPH's policies and procedures for identifying the specific actions that are necessary to protect public health and safety in response to a release of hazardous chemicals into the community.	Interviewed LADPH's leadership and staff and confirmed that LADPH does not have policies or procedures for health hazard response, including the release of hazardous chemicals.
4 Evaluate the steps LADPH has taken to document symptoms and to act to protect public health in instances when the science and research on exposure to hazardous chemicals does not adequately reflect the symptoms, impact, and experiences of the community.	• Interviewed LADPH staff and reviewed relevant records to determine how LADPH documented symptoms. Reviewed logs of symptom reports and online survey data to determine the most-reported symptoms and the frequency with which LADPH received symptom reports. • Researched the most common symptoms of exposure to landfill gases like those to which the residents of communities near the landfill have been exposed.
5 Evaluate the sufficiency of LADPH's actions in response to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill conditions and compare them to the actions it has taken to protect public health and safety when other events have resulted in the release of hazardous chemicals into the surrounding community, including but not limited to the events at Aliso Canyon and Los Angeles County's January 2025 wildfires. If significant differences exist between previous responses to the release of hazardous chemicals in the county and the department's response to the Chiquita Canyon Landfill, evaluate what actions or processes LADPH should develop to standardize its responsiveness to the health and safety threats posed to the community by potential future releases of hazardous chemicals.	• Reviewed the steps that LADPH took in response to the chemical reaction through the methods described above and compared those steps against best practices and the steps LADPH had taken in four other health hazard events, including Aliso Canyon and the January 2025 wildfires. • To determine the steps LADPH had taken to respond to these other events, interviewed LADPH staff and reviewed available records for actions LADPH took in the activity areas identified by the county health officer and those indicated by best practice literature. • Observed cases in which there were discrepancies between LADPH's event response actions and discussed those discrepancies with LADPH's leadership.
6 Review and assess any other issues that are significant to the audit.	No other issues identified.

Source: Audit workpapers.