



October 13, 2026
File No. 01204123.21, Task 22

Mr. Stephen Dutz
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive,
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

**Subject: SUMMARY REPORT - POST ELEVATED AIR CONCENTRATION EVENT INVESTIGATION: MS-03,
OCTOBER 08, 2026**

Summary of Event

On Thursday, October 8, 2026, benzene was recorded above the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment acute Reference Exposure Level (REL) of 8 parts per billion (ppb). There were two (2) exceedances with readings of 12.97 and 16.03 ppb at 1:00 AM and 2:00 AM, respectively. These readings were accompanied by 2 public notifications distributed through Chiquita's alert subscription list. An initial notification response from SCS Engineers (SCS) was sent to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on October 8, 2026.

Investigation

SCS was immediately notified of the readings recorded at MS-03. SCS began the formal investigation of the event with additional data review and discussions with on-site personnel to inquire as to site activities, flare operations, and local conditions to determine if any on-site occurrences could be the source of the reading.

LANDFILL CONDITIONS

During the event, the landfill gas collection and control system destruction devices (flares and thermal oxidation units) were all online and operating normally. However, Flare 1 was offline for a portion of the previous day.

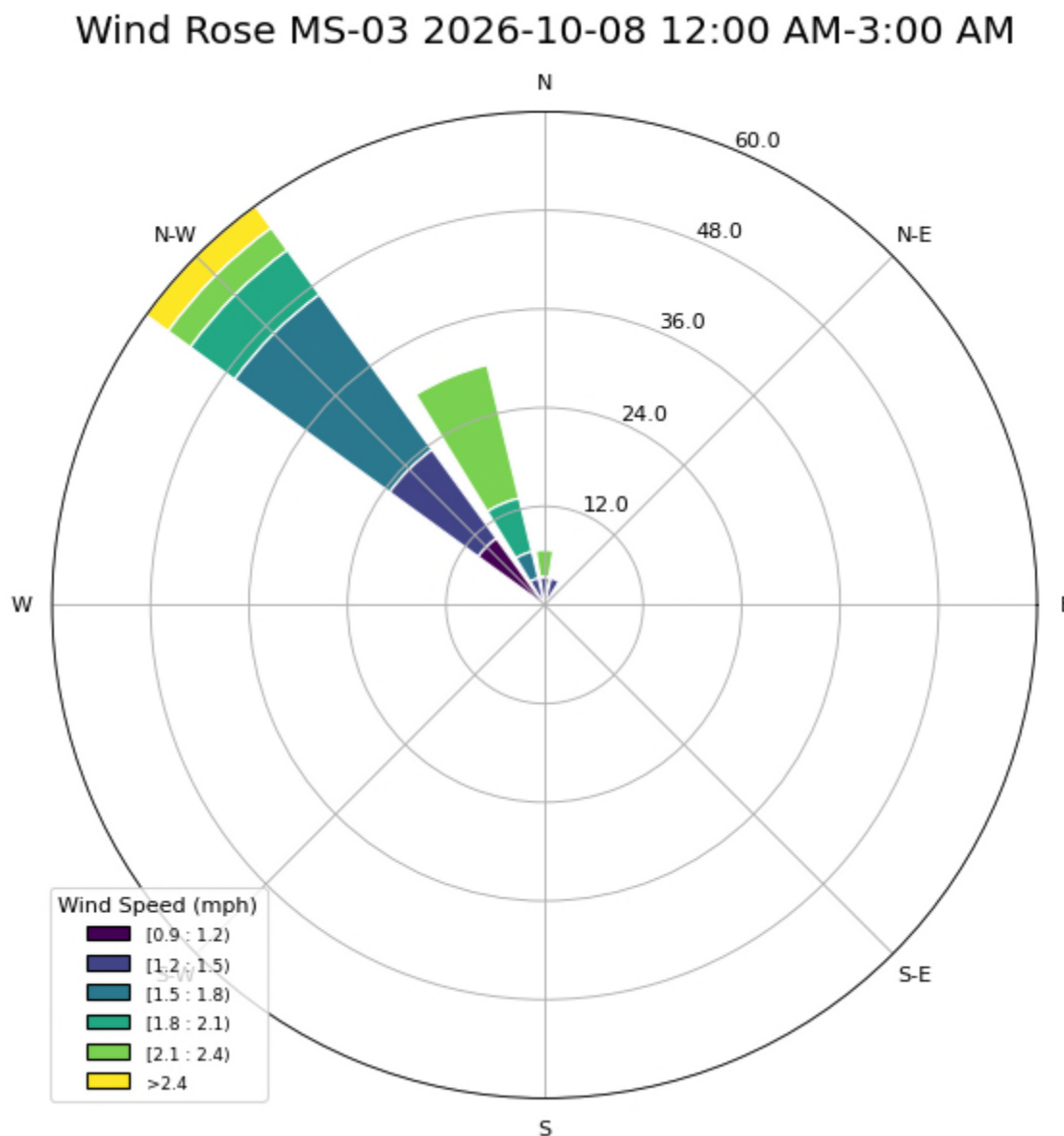
The investigation also included discussions with onsite technicians to determine if any other activity at the landfill could be related to this event. A review of the landfill gas collection and control system vacuum and the various pressure transmitters indicated no abnormal activity. Onsite technicians were not aware of any other activity or issues that could have been related to this event.

LOCAL STATION CONDITIONS

The investigation normally includes a review of the camera footage at the station. The cameras are constantly recording live feed. The recordings are stored as events when the motion sensors detect a noteworthy event. There was no footage recorded by the event monitor leading up to and during the affected time period.

Figure 1 below presents a wind rose using 10 minute data up to and during the event from the MET station at MS-03. As shown, the wind is primarily from the Northwest, which means the station was downwind of the Landfill during the event.

Figure 1. MS-03 Wind Rose



OTHER CONCENTRATIONS

Figure 2 below presents MS-03’s October 7 and 8, 2026 air monitoring data, as displayed on the Chiquita Community Air Monitoring program website. As shown, no other compounds appear significantly elevated during the event. This includes methane, hydrogen sulfide, and sulfur dioxide which are the compounds measured by the Aeroqual AQM monitor. Figure 2 includes other compounds measured by the GC, which reads and records for benzene. This is very unusual, because landfill gas is composed of many different compounds. If the landfill were the source of the exceedance, we would expect multiple compounds to be elevated alongside benzene.

Figure 2. Graph of Selected Compounds at MS-03 on October 7 and 8, 2026

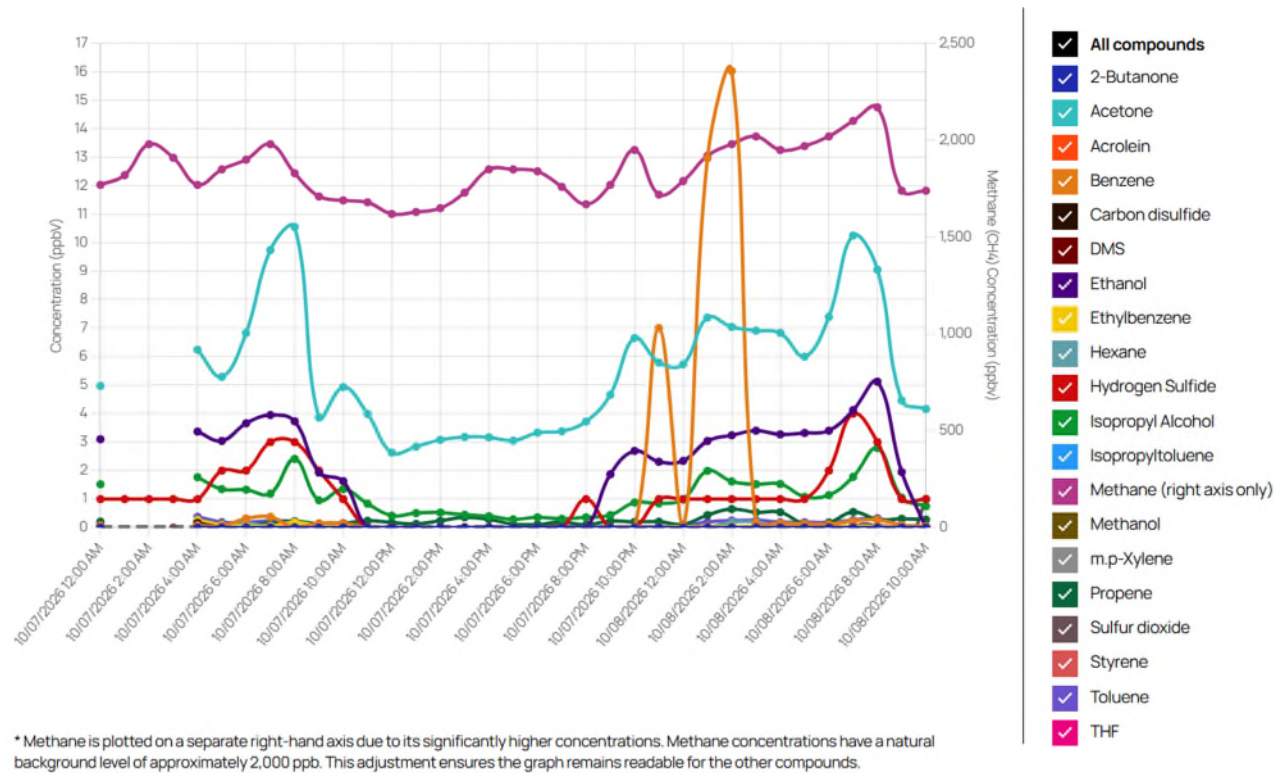
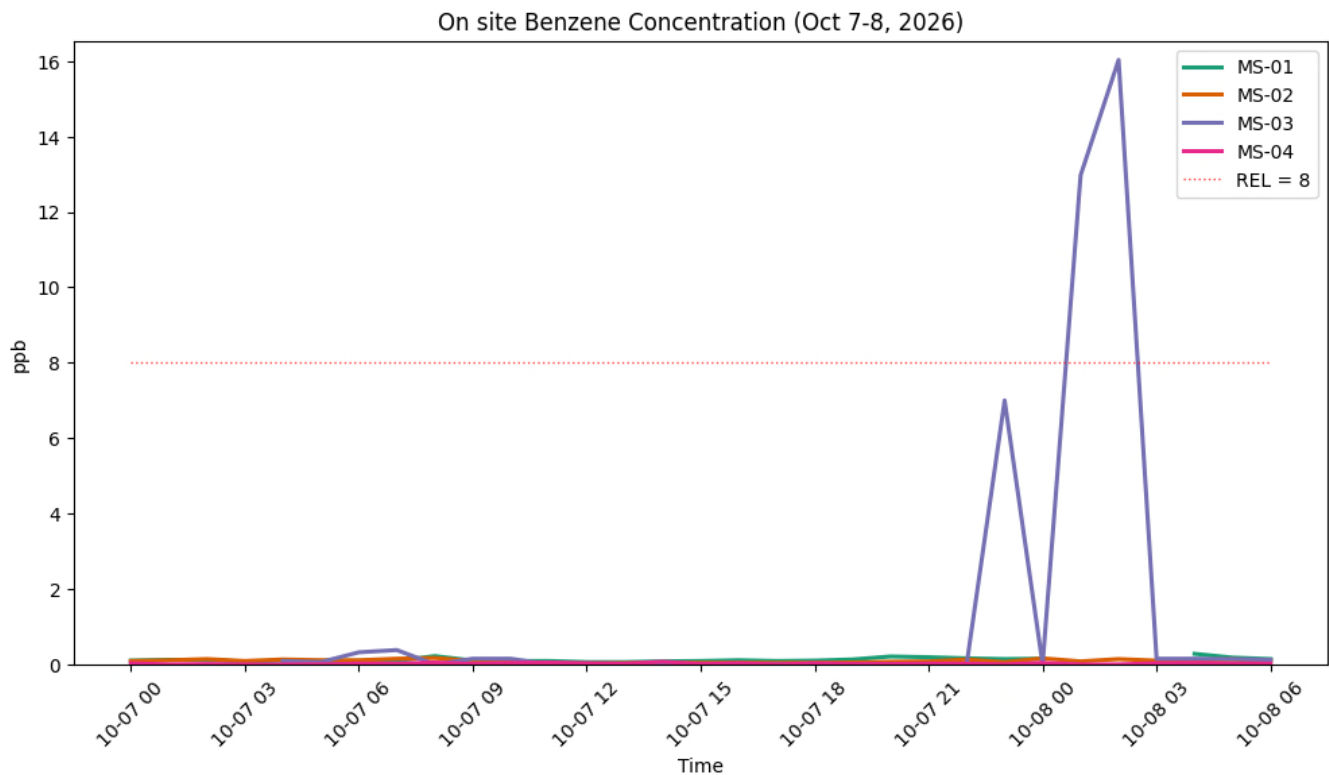


Figure 3 below presents Benzene readings at all on site stations on October 7 and 8, 2026 leading up to and including the event. As shown, there are no elevated readings at any station other than MS-03. The next highest reading during the entire period shown is 0.28 ppb at MS-01. It is not unusual to see an exceedance at only one location, but we would usually expect at least some minor response from another station for a benzene reading of 16.03 ppb.

Figure 3. Benzene readings at On Site Stations on October 7 and 8, 2026



TCT REVIEW

As part of the ongoing QA/QC procedures, Tricorn Tech (TCT) began an investigation of the event immediately. TCT's investigation included reviewing the gas chromatograms for MS-03 from the periods with exceedances. The chromatograms from October 8, 2026 at 1 AM and 2 AM are shown below in Figure 4 and 5. The blue curve represents the calibration peak which is 10 ppb and occurred on October 7, 2026. The red curve represents the ambient sample reading.

Figure 4. MS-03 Chromatogram – October 8, 2026 1:00 AM

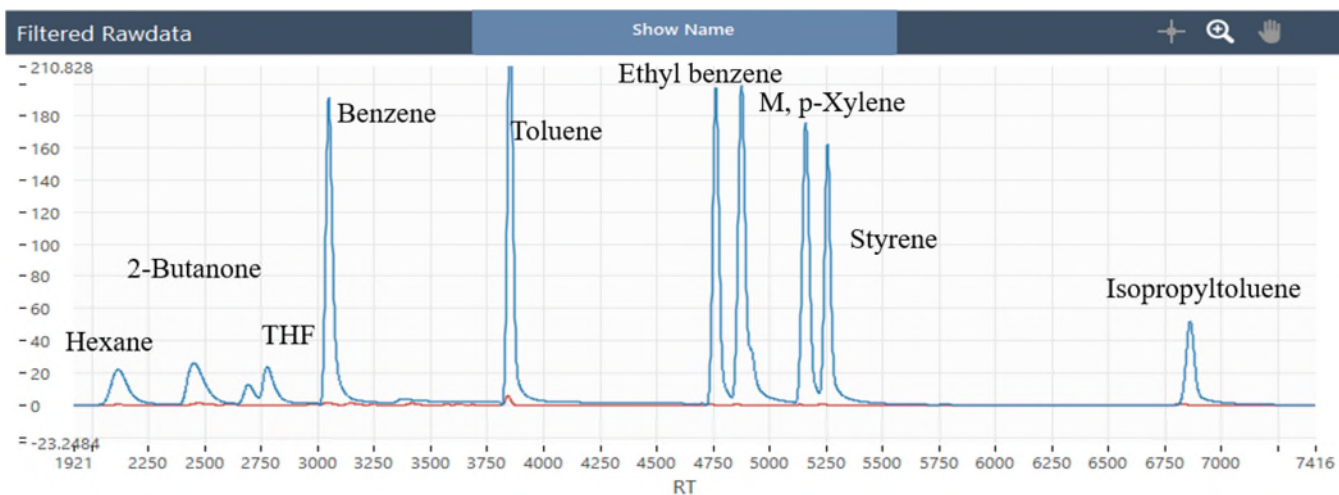
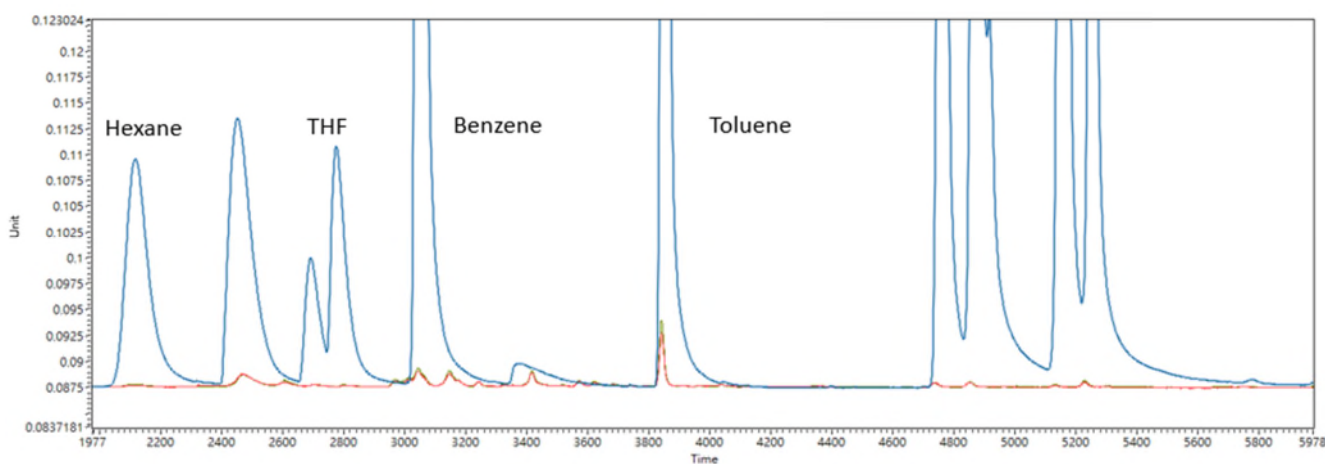


Figure 5. MS-03 Chromatogram – October 8, 2026 2:00 AM



As shown, the ambient curve is significantly below the calibration curve. QA/QC review determined that the recorded numerical reading was caused by a software calculation error. The numerical result was therefore determined to be erroneous and was recalculated. The recalculated results was significantly lower and similar to the range of the other on site benzene readings at the same time. Table 1 shows the corrected QA/QC readings for October 7, 2026 at 11 PM through October 8, 2026 2 AM.

Table 1. Corrected QA/QC Readings

Date & Time	Benzene Concentration
10/07 23:00	0.06 ppb
10/08 00:00	0.05 ppb
10/08 01:00	0.12 ppb
10/08 02:00	0.15 ppb

Conclusions

Based on a review of on-site activities, wind direction, air monitoring data, and QA/QC analysis, SCS and TCT have concluded that the elevated benzene levels at MS-03 on October 8, 2026, were erroneous readings due to software calculation error. Additionally, the erroneous data was manually recalculated, and the corrected concentrations were found to be significantly lower than originally reported and well below the REL threshold.

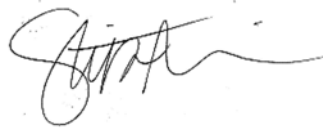
After further review of the internal data, TCT found that during the weekly calibration and subsequent parameter verification on October 7, 2026, an incorrect parameter setting was mistakenly applied to the benzene peak by an internal TCT team member. Following this event, the incorrect parameter was identified. The Automatic calibration system (ACS) settings were reviewed and corrected on October 9, 2026, to ensure the appropriate calculation of both peak area and peak height. SCS has requested additional training, as needed, to help prevent a similar error from occurring in the future.

If you have any questions in regard to this submittal, please contact any of the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Quincy Laris
Staff Professional
SCS Engineers



Stipe Markotic
Staff Professional
SCS Engineers



Raymond H. Huff, REPA
Project Director
SCS Engineers