



## REGION 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

February 17, 2026

Mr. Andrew Whelton  
Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering  
Purdue University  
550 Stadium Mall Dr.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Dear Mr. Whelton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the elevated thallium concentrations found in the CAP.LA (Community Action Project Los Angeles) study of post-wildfire Eaton and Palisades soils. Regional Administrator Martucci has asked the Superfund and Emergency Management Division to respond. I appreciate your concerns and continued advocacy in support of the people impacted by this disaster.

EPA has been in coordination with our fellow State and local counterparts regarding the data and information being collected in response to the fires. We will continue to keep an eye on new studies, including updated information from your research.

Thank you for your continued work to help the people impacted by the LA Fires recover from this disaster. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [montgomery.michael@epa.gov](mailto:montgomery.michael@epa.gov), or (415) 972-3038.

Sincerely,

Pete Guria  
Acting Director  
Superfund and Emergency Management Division  
Region 9, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

cc: Z. Heller, CalRecycle  
K. Butler, DTSC  
B. Ferrer, LA CDPH  
M. Davis, LA CHO  
D. Lee, CDIR