

From: Sarah Phillips <Sarah.Phillips@WasteConnections.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 7:34 PM
To: Nathaniel Dickel
Cc: Neal, Erin@DTSC; Zmily, Zanalee@DTSC; Ryan.Rietzel@WasteConnections.com; Lizabeth Gomez; Baitong Chen; Christina Ojeda
Subject: Re: Re: CORRECTED Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Case No. 6177-4: Leak Report (Condition 27(e))

Nate,

Pursuant to your request, please see the answers to your questions regarding the leachate observed in grid 185 on January 19 and January 20, 2026. All of these answers are provided to the best of Chiquita's current knowledge and belief.

- **Please provide more details on the source/cause of the liquid leaking through the geocover, and confirm if the understanding mentioned above is accurate (seep leaking through geocover).**

Upon further investigation, and as described in Chiquita's Condition 27(c) inspection report submitted on January 27, 2026, the source of the liquid seeping through the geomembrane cover on January 19 and January 20 was a seep, not a leak or spill.

- **Please confirm if details for these events will also be included in the weekly seep reports submitted to South Coast AQMD.**

Chiquita initially believed the source of this liquid to be leaks caused by failed welds and submitted leak reports pursuant to Condition 27(e). After additional investigation, Chiquita determined that the source of this liquid was a seep. Since this determination occurred after the inspection period, the seep was not documented in the inspection logs submitted with the weekly Condition 27(c) report. Instead, the presence of this liquid was documented in the leak reports submitted pursuant to Condition 27(e).

To address this change in determination, Chiquita provided a narrative description of the seep, including a description of the repairs, in the cover letter attached to the Condition 27(c) report submitted on January 27, 2026. Additional information regarding the cover repairs can be found in the cover inspection logs for that period, which were submitted to the LEA on January 27, 2026, and will be submitted to South Coast AQMD in the monthly Condition 8 report due on February 20, 2026.

- **Please confirm if the two events occurred in the same location, due to the same welding failure. If so, please provide the timeline of the welding repair(s) conducted, and if/why the initial welding repair failed.**

The liquid reported in the two Condition 27(e) reports occurred in the same location due to the same seep. However, there were two separate weld failures. To the best of Chiquita's knowledge, it appears that the initial weld did not hold because of an increase of pressure caused by all three flares being offline for an extended period. The initial weld failure was repaired by extrusion welding a patch over the small hole in the geomembrane cover and was completed within approximately 45 minutes on January 19, 2026. The second weld failure likely occurred due to liquid in the weld fusion bead during the initial repair, which can prevent a weld from properly bonding. The same repairs were made on January 20, 2026, and were also completed within approximately 45

minutes. Chiquita has been routinely inspecting the area, and the weld has continued to hold since the second repair. No liquid has been observed in this area since January 20, 2026.

- **Please provide a timeline for the further corrective actions, as required per Condition 27(e)(8).**

Condition 27(e)(8) does not apply because the source of this liquid was determined to be a seep, not a leak or spill. Notwithstanding, Chiquita provides the following response: To the best of Chiquita's knowledge, the seep occurred as a result of increased liquids near the surface of the landfill caused by the outage of all three flares for an extended period. The extended downtime of all three flares led to a temporary decrease in the landfill's overall gas collection control capacity. This decrease in gas collection resulted in an increase of pressure and liquids near the surface of the landfill. We believe this contributed to the excess liquids in this area, which caused the seep. Flares 1 and 2 were back online by January 23, 2026; Flare 3 was initially brought back online on January 23, 2026, but is currently offline for additional repair work. However, no liquid has been observed in the area in question since January 20, 2026. No further corrective action is planned at this time.

- **Does Chiquita Canyon have any information on the possible size (total area, estimated gallons) of the leachate seep under the cover?**

We are unable to provide an estimate of the possible size of the leachate seep under the cover at the time of the seep. However, Chiquita believes the impacted area to have been small and has not observed liquid in the area since January 20, 2026.

Sarah Phillips
248.930.2779



From: Sarah Phillips <Sarah.Phillips@WasteConnections.com>

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 12:10 PM

To: Nathaniel Dickel <ndickel@aqmd.gov>

Cc: Neal, Erin@DTSC <erin.neal@dtsc.ca.gov>; Zmily, Zanalee@DTSC <zanalee.zmily@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ryan Rietzel <Ryan.Rietzel@WasteConnections.com>; Lizabeth Gomez <LGomez@aqmd.gov>; Baitong Chen <BChen@aqmd.gov>; Christina Ojeda <cojeda@aqmd.gov>

Subject: Re: CORRECTED Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Case No. 6177-4: Leak Report (Condition 27(e))

Hi Nate,

Received.

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah Phillips



From: Nathaniel Dickel <ndickel@aqmd.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Sarah Phillips <Sarah.Phillips@WasteConnections.com>
Cc: Neal, Erin@DTSC <erin.neal@dtsc.ca.gov>; Zmily, Zanalee@DTSC <zanalee.zmily@dtsc.ca.gov>; Ryan Rietzel <Ryan.Rietzel@WasteConnections.com>; Lizabeth Gomez <LGomez@aqmd.gov>; Baitong Chen <BChen@aqmd.gov>; Christina Ojeda <cojeda@aqmd.gov>
Subject: RE: CORRECTED Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Case No. 6177-4: Leak Report (Condition 27(e))

Hi Sarah,

Thank you for providing this leak report, and the follow-up correction to the date.

I wanted to follow-up on this notification (leak on January 20, 2026 at 11:33am), and the other near identical notification received for the leak discovered January 19, 2026 at 1:30pm (see attached). Based on the information provided, it appears that both leaks occurred in grid 185, and both leaks had the same root cause relating to geocover weld failure. Based on the root cause, it appears that these events may be more accurately categorized as a seep of leachate from the landfill surface, that then leaked through the geocover. The seep of liquid from the landfill may then be the ultimate root cause of this subsequent leak through the geocover. These events do not appear to be typical leaks, where liquid is exposed to atmosphere due to failure of leachate conveyance/tank infrastructure.

I have some follow-up requests and questions, as listed below:

- Please provide more details on the source/cause of the liquid leaking through the geocover, and confirm if the understanding mentioned above is accurate (seep leaking through geocover).
- Please confirm if details for these events will also be included in the weekly seep reports submitted to South Coast AQMD.
- Please confirm if the two events occurred in the same location, due to the same welding failure. If so, please provide the timeline of the welding repair(s) conducted, and if/why the initial welding repair failed.
- Please provide a timeline for the further corrective actions, as required per Condition 27(e)(8).
- Does Chiquita Canyon have any information on the possible size (total area, estimated gallons) of the leachate seep under the cover?

Please provide this information by **January 29, 2026**.

Thank you,



Nate Dickel | Senior Air Quality Engineer
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