



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 7, 2026

Sarah Phillips
Waste Connections, Inc.
Chiquita Canyon Landfill
29201 Henry Mayo Drive
Castaic, Ca 91384

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested
Claim No. 9589 0710 5270 2307 8867 66

Dan Schooler
Legally Responsible Person
Chiquita Canyon Landfill
29201 Henry Mayo Drive
Castaic, Ca 91384

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested
Claim No. 9589 0710 5270 2307 8867 73

Koy Saechao
Agent for Service of Process
1505 Corporation, CSC –
Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested
Claim No. 9589 0710 5270 2307 8867 80

Chiquita Canyon, LLC
3 Waterway Square Place #110
The Woodlands, TX 77380

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested
Claim No. 9589 0710 5270 3226 2543 84

NOTICE OF VIOLATION: STORMWATER COMMINGLED WITH UNAUTHORIZED NON-STORMWATER DISCHARGE – CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL, 29201 HENRY MAYO DRIVE, CASTAIC, CA 91384, WDID NO. 4 191022488

Dear Sarah Phillips, and Dan Schooler:

Chiquita Canyon, LLC (hereinafter “Discharger”) operates Chiquita Canyon Landfill, located at 29201 Henry Mayo Drive in Castaic (hereinafter “CCL”) that is subject to the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ, as amended by Order No. 2018-0028-DWQ) (Industrial General Permit).

General Permit Section III.B. states:

“Except for non-storm water discharges (NSWDs) authorized in Section IV, discharges of liquids or materials other than stormwater, either directly or indirectly to waters of the United States, are prohibited unless authorized by another NPDES permit.”

DAVID NAHAI, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

General Permit Section III.C. states:

“Industrial storm water discharges and authorized NSWs that contain pollutants that cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance as defined in section 13050 of the Water Code, are prohibited.”

On November 14, 2025, the Discharger notified Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) staff of a force main leak of approximately 8,000 gallons of characteristically hazardous leachate on the top deck of the landfill. The leachate comingled stormwater was pumped into the stormwater channel that flows into the East Basin where it remained.

On December 22, 2025, Los Angeles Water Board Staff inspected CCL prior to a forecasted storm event.¹ The Discharger had installed a berm in the East Basin to separate the basin outlet from the East Basin (Photo 1). The Discharger also installed a barrier over the East Basin outlet with steel plates, and a plastic covering with wood braces and sandbags (Photo 2). According to Ms. Amanda Froman of Waste Connections, the barrier also consisted of a sealing foam. The intention of these Best Management Practices (BMPs) was to prevent the discharge of leachate comingled stormwater.

During the storm event that occurred from December 23-26, 2025, the leachate comingled stormwater overtopped the installed berm and filled up the area behind the installed barrier (Photos 3-4). On December 29, 2025, CCL staff heard water from the East Basin flowing through the barrier into the stormwater channel that flows into Castaic Creek. Castaic Creek flows into Reach 5 of the Santa Clara River. Both Castaic Creek and Santa Clara River are designated waters of the United States. The leachate comingled stormwater continued to discharge during and after the December 23-26, 2025, storm event until the water level dropped below the level of the leak.

On December 29, 2025, Los Angeles Water Board received notification from Ms. Amanda Froman that Chiquita believes that some stormwater from the East Basin escaped past the steel plates likely beginning on December 25 or 26.

On December 30, 2025, during an interagency meeting, Ms. Sarah Phillips stated that CCL staff heard water in the East Basin leaking through the steel plates used to block the East Basin outlet.

You are hereby notified that based on the Discharger's notifications to the Los Angeles Water Board, Chiquita Canyon, LLC is in violation of the requirements established in the Industrial General Permit by discharging leachate comingled stormwater from the East Basin to Castaic Creek.

Pursuant to California Water Code section 13385, subdivision (c)(1), the Discharger is subject to discretionary administrative civil liability of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)

¹ All photos contained herein were taken by Scott Landon, staff at the Los Angeles Water Board. A complete inspection report will be transmitted after the date of this letter.

for each day in which the violation(s) occurs. The discretionary administrative civil liability may be assessed by the Los Angeles Water Board beginning with the date that the violation(s) first occurred. The Los Angeles Water Board may also refer this matter to the Attorney General's Office for further enforcement. Please note that this Notice shall not be deemed to relieve you of liability for any penalties that may have already been accrued. The Los Angeles Water Board reserves its right to take any further enforcement action authorized by law.

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact Scott Landon of my staff at (213) 620-2122 or via email at Scott.Landon@waterboards.ca.gov, or Pavlova Vitale at (213) 576-6751 or via email at Pavlova.Vitale@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Jenny Newman
Assistant Executive Officer

cc: (via email)

Russ Colby, Russ.Colby@waterboards.ca.gov

Pavlova Vitale, Pavlova.Vitale@waterboards.ca.gov

Kate Logan, Kate.Logan@wasteconnections.com

Amanda Froman, Amanda.Froman@wasteconnections.com

Chris Fear, Chris.Fear@wasteconnections.com

John Perkey, John.Perkey@wasteconnections.com

Dylan Smith, Dylan.Smith@wasteconnections.com

Erin Neal, Erin.Neal@dtsc.ca.gov

Zanalee Zmily, Zanalee.Zmily@dtsc.ca.gov

Dylan Clark, Dylan.Clark@dtsc.ca.gov

Amy Miller, miller.amy@epa.gov

Laura Friedli, friedli.laura@epa.gov

Todd Sax, Todd.Sax@calepa.ca.gov

Photo Log



Photo 1

A view of the dirt berm placed in the East Basin during the December 22, 2025, inspection.



Photo 2

A view of the barrier placed over the East Basin outlet during the December 22, 2025, inspection.



Photo 3

A photo showing the comingled leachate with stormwater flowed into the area behind the dirt berm.



Photo 4

A photo showing the outlet of the East Basin.