



# CHIQUITA CANYON

*A Waste Connections Company*

April 23, 2026

***Via E-Mail***

Bob Lewis

Chair of Chiquita Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee

President of Castaic Area Town Council

[cclcac9@yahoo.com](mailto:cclcac9@yahoo.com); [castaictowncouncil@gmail.com](mailto:castaictowncouncil@gmail.com)

**Re: Chiquita Canyon, LLC Responses to Questions Asked During April Community Advisory Committee, Castaic Area Town Council, and Chiquita Canyon Landfill Community Meetings**

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Below please find Chiquita Canyon, LLC's ("Chiquita") responses to questions asked during the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee ("CAC") meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, the Castaic Area Town Council ("CATC") meeting on Wednesday, April 15, and Chiquita's community meeting on Thursday, April 16. Chiquita provides these written responses to ensure complete and accurate information is provided to the public with all appropriate context. There were many overlapping questions on the topics presented. To avoid repetition, Chiquita has grouped questions by topic. Chiquita will also post these responses on Chiquita's Odor Mitigation website (<https://chiquitacanyon.com/odor-mitigation/>).

**West Slope**

- Development of the West Slope Buttress Plan. On April 1, 2026, Chiquita submitted a proposed West Toe Buttress Work Plan EPA in response to EPA's March 17, 2026 Additional Work Letter for improvements at the west toe. The Work Plan outlines infrastructure modifications and construction of a buttress with associated containment, drainage, and control systems to support the slope and manage liquids and landfill gas. Chiquita received comments on the proposed work plan from EPA on April 20, 2026, and is currently responding to those comments and updating the Work Plan as appropriate.
- West Slope Stability. Chiquita's slope stability expert visited the Landfill on March 31, 2026 and confirmed that the bulging near the west slope toe is not indicative of slope instability. The bulge does not create or otherwise indicate an imminent danger.
- West Slope Contingency Plans. In addition to the Work Plan, Chiquita submitted a West Slope Preemptive Secondary Containment Plan and a West Slope Contingency Secondary Containment Plan to EPA on April 16, 2026, consistent with EPA's Additional Work Letter. Together, both Plans detail contingency measures intended to be implemented prior to and in the unlikely event of catastrophic slope failure. Chiquita will continue to coordinate with EPA regarding any community exposure mitigation measures EPA determines are appropriate in connection with the work. Any such measures will

build upon the numerous contingency and response measures already in place.

### **Stormwater and Groundwater Reporting**

- Maintenance of East and South Basins. Chiquita continues to work with the EPA and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to move forward with discharge of stormwater from the South Basin in time for planned work on the West Toe at the site beginning on April 27, 2026. Based on recent sampling results from samples taken and analyzed by Water Board, Water Board has concluded that the stormwater may be discharged offsite. Chiquita expects the South Basin to be empty this week. With respect to the East Basin, Chiquita continues to truck the stormwater offsite for disposal. Conservatively, and without any additional rain events, Chiquita anticipates having stormwater removed from the East Basin by mid-May. Additionally, based on regular groundwater sampling, there is no indication that site contaminants are impacting groundwater.

### **Flares and Thermal Oxidizers**

- Flares and Thermal Oxidizers (“TOx”) Maintenance: The flares and TOx require shutdowns for routine maintenance, like any machine, to remain operable. Chiquita’s consultants perform this maintenance as required. Chiquita adheres to all the SOFA conditions regarding minimizing downtime and bringing the units back up and in operation as quickly as possible during planned and unplanned downtime events.
- TOx Unit Operation. The TOx units destruct a wide variety of gaseous compounds including methane and volatile organic compounds (“VOCs”). VOCs include compounds such as acetone, benzene, formaldehyde and toluene. TOx units are better able to control the reaction gas because they can process gas with lower methane concentrations. During operation, airflow and temperature are carefully monitored. By keeping the system temperatures in the required range and allowing enough time for the air to remain in the unit, the vast majority of VOCs are safely destroyed.

### **Operational Updates**

- Leachate Management: Chiquita will continue to extract leachate, treat it onsite, and send it offsite for disposal. Chiquita continues to reach out to potential disposal outlets. Extraction has slowed because of limitations on disposal facilities and will continue at a slower rate until additional disposal outlets are found. Chiquita has developed multiple contingency plans for leachate disposal in cooperation with EPA. Currently, Chiquita is working with EPA to evaluate additional treatment options to increase the number of facilities that can accept leachate. Chiquita is utilizing all available options for disposal of leachate, including facilities in Texas, Arizona, and Michigan. Chiquita is also seeking EPA approval to ship to two additional facilities, and it is continuing to explore any new potential outlets we find or are made aware of.
- Disposal Facilities Contacted. Over the past 2.5 years, Chiquita has worked to contact every disposal facility it is aware of, over 650, in consultation with its regulators. Chiquita has provided this information to our regulators. However, some disposal outlets contacted

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required Chiquita to sign non-disclosure agreements, preventing Chiquita's disclosure of the names of these outlets. The disposal outlets that Chiquita utilizes are also regularly reported in the monthly Condition 8 report, which is available on the website.

- Process for Onboarding New Disposal Facilities. Once a potential new facility is identified, to send treated leachate to a disposal outlet, a significant amount of due diligence must happen first. Once it is determined that a facility is authorized to accept treated leachate, Chiquita must determine how much leachate the facility can accept. Each disposal facility is subject to its own unique set of conditions, such as the type of waste it accepts, methods of disposal, methods of treatment, capacity limitations, permit restrictions, and other operational constraints which dictate whether the facility can accept or reject Chiquita's leachate. Chiquita also needs to evaluate transportation and logistics options, and other acceptance limitations.
- Leachate Extraction, Generally. As is reported in Chiquita's weekly reports under SOFA Condition 65, as of April 17, 2026, there were a total of eighty-five (85) pumps operating in vertical landfill gas (LFG) extraction wells. The amount of leachate extracted varies day-to-day. For the month of April, an average of 189,261 gallons of leachate was extracted per day. This estimate is subject to the known variability of Chiquita's flow meters.
- Leachate Extraction Under Geosynthetic Cover. The seeps under the cover are occurring along the west side of the Landfill. Chiquita continues to monitor the area and remove liquids seeping out from underneath the cover, as needed, using a vacuum truck. As discussed above, Chiquita plans to construct a soil buttress on the west side of the Landfill, adjacent to the previously completed west slope toe drain project to aide in this effort. Chiquita and its consultants are currently planning and designing that work.
- Leachate Tank Storage Capacity. Across all three tank farms, there are approximately 213 leachate frac tanks onsite as of March 31.
- Current Landfill Temperatures. Chiquita's current temperature graphs of all temperature monitoring probes ("TMPs") are posted on the Odor Mitigation webpage on a weekly basis under the Stipulated Order for Abatement ("SOFA") tab > Local Enforcement Agency section > Weekly submittals of all temperature monitoring probe data in accordance with Milestone 1B header. The most recent data from the Week of April 9, 2026 – April 15, 2026 is available [here](#). The lowest current TMP temperature on site is 137 degrees Fahrenheit at the 100 and 120 foot depths and in the reaction area is 139 degrees Fahrenheit at the 45 foot depth. The lowest current gas wellhead temperature on site is 57.2 degrees Fahrenheit and in the reaction area is 69.9 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Highest Temperatures Recorded from TMPs April vs. March: The highest TMP temperature readings reported at the March and April community meetings were similar but not identical figures. The highest temperature reading from TMPs reported at the March community meeting was 261.86 degrees Fahrenheit at the 75-foot depth of TMP-23. The highest temperature reading from TMPs reported at the April community meeting was 261.68 degrees Fahrenheit at the 75-foot depth of TMP-23.

### Spill/Leak Data

- Single Largest Leak in March. The leak with the largest volume was 30-40 gallons on March 11. The spill with the largest volume in March was a 200-gallon spill on March 13. As

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requested, Chiquita prepares each month a summary of all leachate spills and leaks. The summary is available on Chiquita's [website](#) under the "Odor and Maintenance Logs" heading's "Stipulated Order Condition 27(e) (leachate leak/spill reports)" dropdown.

### Implementation of the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Determination and Order

- **Tank Farm Relocation.** The tank farm was moved to the only viable location at the site. The regulators were aware at all times of where Chiquita was moving the tank farm, but they never told Chiquita to stop or provided an agreed upon alternative location. The tank farm's current location, in Cell 8B, is the most environmentally protective location for the tank farm. At other proposed locations, such as Wolcott Way leachate would have to be pumped under pressure against gravity, which would greatly increase the likelihood of releases to virgin soil.
- **Geosynthetic Cover.** Chiquita began deploying the additional geomembrane cover as ordered by the Local Enforcement Agency ("LEA") in the May 1, 2025 Compliance Order, Department of Toxic Substances Control ("DTSC") in the April 2, 2025 Imminent and/or Substantial Endangerment Determination and Order in July 2025, and EPA's January 13, 2026 Additional Work Order. Chiquita will install 100 additional acres of cover by accordance with EPA's Order by December 31, 2026.

### Other Questions

- **Chiquita Community Meetings.** Generally, Zoom links for Chiquita's community meetings are posted well in advance and on Chiquita's website. Additionally, an email blast is typically sent on the Tuesday before a Thursday meeting. For the April meeting, the date and time had been posted on the website a month in advance. The Zoom link was posted on the website and shared via email the afternoon before the meeting due to a set up error. This timing was an exception. To ensure you receive all meeting notifications and access information in a timely manner, we encourage you to sign up for our email distribution list on our [website](#).
- **Community Outreach and Support.** Chiquita previously released \$3.5 million in funding to Los Angeles County to be used to fund environmental, educational, and quality of life programs, or to fund regional public facilities that serve the Val Verde, Castaic, and other unincorporated areas of the County surrounding the Landfill. The County used \$2.5 million of those funds to establish the County's Utility Relief Grant Program. Chiquita's Community Relief Program had a wider scope than the County's program, offering payments for more neighborhoods and for additional expenses totaling to over \$25 million distributed. Chiquita has also distributed over one thousand air filtration devices to the community. Chiquita does not plan to provide further relocation assistance or buy homes at this time.
- **Community Notifications.** To ensure you receive all meeting notifications and access information in a timely manner, we encourage you to [sign up](#) for our email distribution list on and check for weekly updates to our website. In the unlikely event of a need for an urgent warning and limited cell or internet service, Chiquita would utilize government emergency services to communicate and coordinate with the community.

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- Odor vs. Health Impacts. Complaints of any odors believed to be caused by the Chiquita Canyon Landfill can be made to the Landfill (24-Hour Hotline) at (661) 253-5155. Chiquita will not be providing a hotline for medical advice – please contact your physician regarding any questions regarding your health. The current data and evaluation by experts, including an independent health risk evaluation conducted at the direction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, show that there are no anticipated long-term health impacts from these odors. These reports are available on the “[Air](#)” tab of Chiquita’s Odor Mitigation Webpage under the “Health Impact Assessments” heading.
- Remediation timeline. As Chiquita has discussed at several of the community meetings it hosts and attends, the Elevated Temperature Landfill (“ETLF”) conditions may continue for years, but once Chiquita is able to fully implement some of the mitigation measures that are currently in progress, it believes that it will be able to mitigate or eliminate odor impacts in the shorter term. This has been the experience at several other of the 10 to 15 landfills across the country that have experienced ETLF events.
- Documentation for Homeowners. Chiquita cannot provide assistance with the real estate process and recommends discussing options with a real estate professional.
- Visibility Under the Landfill’s Surface. Visibility is limited deep under the landfill’s surface.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Kevin Green  
District Manager

Chiquita Canyon Landfill

cc: Tim Honadel, CAC  
Sandra Cattell, CAC  
David Thompson, CAC  
Sandia Ennis, CAC  
Mike Wolf, CAC  
Jessica Chambers, CAC  
James Stephens, CATC  
Cher Arabalo, CATC  
Abigail Desesa, CATC  
Roberta Newton, CATC  
Daniel Polo, CATC  
Michael Minor, CATC  
Darcy Stinson, CATC  
Mohammed Sabbah, CATC

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Chris Dittes, CATC

John Perkey, Chiquita Canyon

Sarah Phillips, Chiquita Canyon

Dylan Smith, Chiquita Canyon