

June 3, 2026

SENT VIA CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

Ronald J Mittelstaedt
Chiquita Canyon, LLC
3 Waterway Square Place, Suite 110
The Woodlands, Texas 77380

Dear Ronald Mittelstaedt:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is issuing this Notice of Violation (NOV) to Chiquita Canyon, LLC for alleged violations of the *Methane Emissions from Municipal Solid Waste Landfills* regulation (Landfill Methane Regulation or LMR) pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 17, section 95460 et seq. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, § 95460 et seq.). The issuance of this NOV is based on CARB's inspection on April 28, 2026, which revealed Chiquita Canyon, LLC failed to meet both the gas collection and control system requirements and the surface methane emission standards of the LMR when 52 locations at the Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill facility were found to have methane exceedances greater than 500 parts per million by volume.

It is CARB's policy to offer the company alleged to be in violation of CARB's regulation an opportunity to meet and discuss the circumstances of the alleged violation and attempt to resolve the matter.

Please contact my staff, Mark Rasmussen, at Mark.Rasmussen@arb.ca.gov or myself at Tiffany.Be@arb.ca.gov within 15 working days to schedule a date and time to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Be, Manager, Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Enforcement Section, Enforcement Division

Enclosure

cc: Heather L. Quiros, Chief, Enforcement Division
Rachel Connors, Chief, Field Operations Branch
Mark Rasmussen, Investigator, Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Enforcement Section



Notice of Violation

Failure to meet the requirements of the methane emission standards set by the Methane Emissions from Municipal Solid Waste Landfills regulation.

Chiquita Canyon, LLC.

Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill
29201 Henry Mayo Drive
Castaic, California, 91384

Service of Process Company

CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service
2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N
Sacramento, California 95833

CARB Case Identification Number: LMR-2026-004

Issue Date: June 3, 2026

Issued by
Mark Rasmussen, Air Pollution Specialist, Enforcement Division



The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is charged with protecting the public from the harmful effects of air pollution and developing programs and actions to fight climate change in California. CARB designed its enforcement program to ensure that regulated industries that have not met CARB's regulatory requirements are: (1) brought into compliance; (2) disgorged of any economic benefit from non-compliance; and (3) deterred from engaging in future violations. This Notice of Violation (NOV) represents an allegation of non-compliance against a regulated entity based on evidence CARB has collected to date. The violation(s) alleged in this NOV does not represent a final disposition of the matter. The regulated entity still has the opportunity to disprove the allegations or otherwise challenge the imposition of a penalty, and CARB still has the opportunity to investigate and allege additional violations. CARB offers a regulated entity that is issued a NOV an opportunity to discuss the violation(s) with CARB staff, identify mitigating circumstances, and to work with CARB to resolve the matter by settlement through mutual agreement.

Background

The *Methane Emissions from Municipal Solid Waste Landfills* regulation (Landfill Methane Regulation or LMR), California Code of Regulations, title 17, section 95460 et seq., was adopted by CARB in 2010. The LMR applies to owners and operators of municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills that have received solid waste after January 1, 1977, have greater than or equal to 450,000 tons of waste-in-place, and have a calculated landfill gas heat input capacity greater than or equal to 3.0 million British thermal units per hour (MMBtu/hr). Landfills subject to the LMR must comply with the gas collection and control system requirements, which require that there is no landfill gas leak that exceeds 500 parts per million by volume (ppmv), measured as methane, at any component under positive pressure, as well as the surface methane emissions limits, which require that no location on the landfill surface shall exceed instantaneous methane emissions of more than 500 ppmv (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, § 95460 et seq.).

According to Chiquita Canyon, LLC's (CCL) 2025 Annual Landfill Methane Regulation Report, submitted to the South Coast Air Quality Management District on March 13, 2026, CCL is the owner and operator of the Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill facility (Chiquita Canyon Landfill), which is a closed MSW landfill with over 450,000 tons of waste-in-place and a heat input capacity of greater than 3.0 MMBtu/hr.

On April 28, 2026, CARB's Enforcement Division (ED) staff conducted an inspection of Chiquita Canyon Landfill. CARB's ED staff discovered a total of 52 locations that exceeded the 500 ppmv methane concentration limit established by the LMR's gas collection and control system requirements and surface emissions standards (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17 § 95464(b)(1)(B) and 95465(a)(1)).

Violations

1. CCL failed to meet the requirements for the gas collection and control system set by the LMR (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17 §95464(b)(1)(B)) on April 28, 2026.
 - a. The LMR's gas collection and control system requirements stipulate that there is no landfill gas leak that exceeds 500 ppmv, measured as methane, at any component under positive pressure (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, §95464(b)(1)(B)).
 - i. On April 28, 2026, CARB's ED staff inspected Chiquita Canyon Landfill and identified 6 components of the gas collection and control system that exceeded the 500 ppmv methane concentration limit.
 1. Each exceedance was witnessed by Chiquita Canyon Landfill staff present during the inspection.
 2. Component inspection results were shared with Chiquita Canyon Landfill staff after the inspection concluded.
 - ii. As of May 4, 2026, Chiquita Canyon Landfill staff provided documentation via email that corrective actions have been taken at all components and that the components are no longer in exceedance.
2. CCL failed to meet the requirements of the surface methane emissions standards set by the LMR (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17 §95465(a)(1)) on April 28, 2026.
 - a. The LMR's surface methane emission standards require that no location on the landfill surface may exceed 500 ppmv in methane concentration (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 17, §95465(a)(1)).
 - i. On April 28, 2026, CARB's ED staff inspected Chiquita Canyon Landfill and identified 46 locations on the MSW landfill surface that exceeded the 500 ppmv methane concentration limit.
 1. Each exceedance was witnessed by Chiquita Canyon Landfill staff present during the inspection.
 2. Surface emission inspection results were shared with Chiquita Canyon Landfill staff after the inspection concluded.
 - ii. As of May 26, 2026, Chiquita Canyon Landfill staff provided documentation via email that corrective actions have been taken at all locations and that the locations are no longer in exceedance.

Penalties

Any person who violates the requirements of the LMR is subject to the penalties, injunctive relief, and other remedies specified by State law, including but not limited to, strict liability penalties of up to \$12,940.00 per day of violation, pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 38580, and 42402(b)(1). Each day during any portion of

NOTICE OF VIOLATION
Chiquita Canyon, LLC
June 3, 2026
LMR-2026-004
Page 4

which a violation occurs is a separate offense (Health & Saf. Code § 42402(d)). For violations that occurred after January 1, 2018, the penalty amounts increase each year based on the consumer price index (See Health & Saf. Code, § 42411).

The LMR further specifically provides that each day or portion thereof that any report, plan, or document required by the regulation remains unsubmitted, is submitted late, or contains incomplete or inaccurate information, shall constitute a single, separate violation of the regulation (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 17, § 95472).

Next Steps

Within 15 working days, please contact CARB Investigator, Mark Rasmussen, at Mark.Rasmussen@arb.ca.gov to schedule a date and time for a virtual meeting to further discuss this matter.

For Additional Information

CARB has established an Enforcement Policy that describes how the enforcement process works and may be found at:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/enforcement-policy>

CARB posts all case settlements to its website; they may be found at:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/enforcement-policy-reports/enforcement-case-settlements>