



July 23, 2026

Via E-Mail

Bob Lewis

Chair of Chiquita Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee

President of Castaic Area Town Council

cclcac9@yahoo.com; castaictowncouncil@gmail.com

**Re: Chiquita Canyon, LLC Responses to Questions Asked During July
Community Advisory Committee and Chiquita Canyon Landfill
Community Meetings**

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Chiquita Canyon, LLC (“Chiquita”) provides the following responses to questions asked during the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (“CAC”) meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and Chiquita’s community meeting on Thursday, July 16. Note that no questions were asked during the Castaic Area Town Council (“CATC”) meeting on Wednesday, July 15, although residents raised several items for Chiquita’s consideration. Chiquita provides these written responses to ensure complete and accurate information is provided to the public, together with the appropriate context. Because many of the questions addressed overlapping topics, Chiquita has grouped them by subject to avoid repetition. Chiquita will also post these responses on its Odor Mitigation website (<https://chiquitacanyon.com/odor-mitigation/>).

West Toe Buttress Project

- Cool Zone. Chiquita is not providing relocation assistance at this time. However, we have provided a Cool Zone that is available to residents from 7am-9pm seven days a week until at least August 14. More information on the Cool Zone is available on our website and Facebook page.
 - *Sign-In Table & Security Guard*: Chiquita maintains a sign-in table and an individual stationed at the sign-in table to ensure community member safety and compliance with the hotel’s guidelines when community members are present at the Cool Zone.
 - *Animals*: Chiquita and the host hotel comply with all applicable federal and state accessibility requirements, including those governing service animals.

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- *Outside Food & Beverages:* The hotel has strict policies against outside food and beverages. Many of the restrictions referenced by community members in relation to the Cool Zone are dictated by the hotel, not Chiquita.
- *Entertainment:* The Cool Zone television is a shared amenity being provided by the hotel for the benefit of all visitors to the Cool Zone. In response to requests of the community, the default programming has been adjusted to family-friendly content appropriate for the range of ages using the space. Additionally, the television is the property of the hotel. Visitors are also welcome to bring their own board games, video games, coloring books, puzzles, etc.
- *Shuttle Service:* Starting July 21, Chiquita began providing transportation to the Cool Zone from Val Verde Community Regional Park. The shuttle runs each day starting at 7am and transports residents between the Cool Zone and the park throughout the day. More information is available on our website.
- *School District Coordination:* Chiquita understands that the local schools are not currently holding academic classes. The portion of the West Toe Buttriss Project most likely to involve excavation into waste material is anticipated to be completed before classes resume for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Community Mitigation Measures. Chiquita is committed to providing additional community mitigation measures in response to the County's July 14, 2026 letter:
 - *Air Purifiers:* Since 2023, Chiquita has distributed nearly 3,000 air purifiers to community members and local schools. Most of these units are designed to operate without replacement filters. Given current delivery timelines, newly ordered purifiers or filters would not arrive in time to provide meaningful assistance during the remaining West Toe work. Chiquita will therefore instead post maintenance and cleaning guidance on its website to help residents maintain and maximize the effectiveness of the units already distributed.
 - *Cool Zone:* Chiquita had previously arranged for a Cool Zone at the Embassy Suites to be made available during potential excavation into waste. Chiquita moved quickly in response to community feedback and accelerated the opening of the Cool Zone, making it available beginning July 14, six days earlier than originally planned. Chiquita also extended its operating hours until 9pm and arranged for a shuttle service. Information regarding availability, scheduling, and access is posted on Chiquita's website.
 - *Overnight Accommodations:* Chiquita is evaluating the logistical feasibility of providing temporary overnight accommodations. Based on current conditions, the planned daily work sequence, and available monitoring information, the information currently available does not indicate that overnight relocation is necessary. Excavation activities will continue to conclude by approximately

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4:00pm each working day, and the work area will be fully recovered and secured by approximately 6:00 pm, which is expected to substantially reduce the potential for work-related odor impacts during evening and overnight hours.

Water Updates

- Groundwater Monitoring. The June 12, 2026 Investigative Order issued by the Regional Water Board requires Chiquita to submit a workplan for the installation of three (3) new onsite groundwater monitoring wells to be placed in the existing evaluation monitoring program (EMP). The wells are to be “co-located” with onsite landfill gas probes GP-14, 15, and 16. The Order does not require a particular location in relation to the Santa Clara River.

Flares and Thermal Oxidizers

- Flare 3 Downtimes. Chiquita’s downtime log, submitted on its Odor Mitigation website under Stipulated Order Condition 82, identifies one planned downtime event and fourteen unplanned downtime events involving Flare 3 between June 19 and July 13. The difference referenced in the community questions likely reflects the duration of the individual downtime events and South Coast AQMD’s applicable reporting requirements.
- Diagram of Flares & Thermal Oxidizers. Chiquita will provide a more detailed explanation of the operation and location of the flares and thermal oxidizers at the next CAC meeting.
- Well Drilling. Well drilling and planning for the drilling of additional landfill gas extraction wells is still ongoing. All updates regarding weekly well drilling Chiquita publishes updates on weekly well drilling on its Odor Mitigation website under Stipulated Order Condition 15(c). Chiquita will provide a more comprehensive update on these activities at the next CAC Meeting.

Operational Updates

- Pressurized Leachate Releases. The mitigation and response measures used for a pressurized leachate release are generally the same as those used for a spill or leak. However, because these releases may be associated with wells that have a known history of pressure or liquid conditions, Chiquita may be better able to anticipate the potential for a release and plan the work and appropriate mitigation measures in advance.
- Geomembrane Cover. Chiquita currently expects to complete the deployment of the additional 100 acres of geomembrane cover required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by December 1, 2026. The installation rate is subject to variability depending on weather and site conditions (e.g., landfill gas infrastructure) that must be accommodated during installation. For these reasons, there is no single or consistent installation rate. There has generally been more geomembrane cover installed on a

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weekly basis as of late due to the warmer months which provide more favorable deployment conditions. Chiquita publishes updates on the amount of cover deployed each week on its Odor Mitigation website.

Future Community Meetings

- Language Accessibility. Chiquita will translate the meeting recordings from English to Spanish once they become available.
- Meeting Materials. Chiquita will endeavor to provide meeting materials one day prior to meetings where feasible.
- Chiquita Representative Attendance. At this time, Kevin Green and/or Bill Haley will continue attending the community meetings on behalf of Chiquita.

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

Sincerely,



Kevin Green
District Manager
Chiquita Canyon Landfill



William (Bill) Haley
Senior Project Engineer
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

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Daniel Polo, CATC

Michael Minor, CATC

Darcy Stinson, CATC

Mohammed Sabbah, CATC

Chris Dittes, CATC

John Perkey, Chiquita Canyon

Sarah Phillips, Chiquita Canyon

Dylan Smith, Chiquita Canyon