

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (Facility ID 119219), Castaic, California, Modified Stipulated Order for Abatement (Case No. 6177-4) - Condition 27(e) Leachate Leaks and Spills

Date Discovered	Time Discovered	Spill / Leak	Estimated Volume	Root Cause	Initial Corrective Actions	Cleanup Actions	Actions to Prevent Reoccurrence
3/2/2026	12:30 p.m.	Spill	1 gallon	The spill appears to have occurred when the third-party contractor removed the sample port for routine operations. Excessive pressure built up in well CV-2001 after the gas valve was previously closed. Pressure accumulated as the pneumatic pump exhaust discharged into the well casing. When the sample port was removed, the built-up pressure caused leachate to spill onto the liner. The contractor did not adjust the valve to ensure low pressure prior to removing the sample port.	The liner was promptly pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the collection of all wash water and any standing liquid.	The collected liquid was placed into raw tanks for treatment through the granular activated carbon treatment system. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1.5 hours.	Chiquita does not provide training to contractors; however, Chiquita personnel reminded the third-party contractor to proactively implement best management practices before beginning work, including adjusting valves to ensure low pressure prior to removing sample ports.
3/2/2026	1:00 p.m.	Leak	15 gallons	Positive pressure in the system pushed air toward the wellhead and caused liquid to leak onto the liner.	The pump was promptly shut off and vacuum was applied to the well to stop the flow of liquid.	A vacuum truck was promptly deployed to remove all standing liquid from the liner. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2 hours.	Chiquita will continue to inspect wells, perform maintenance of its equipment, and implement appropriate corrective action as needed.
3/3/2026	8:00 a.m.	Spill	15 gallons	The spill appears to have occurred during a third-party contractor's investigation of a degraded hose. The line was inadvertently left unsecured, causing liquid to spill during the diagnostic process.	The pump was promptly shut off to stop the flow of liquid.	The affected soil was promptly removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. The road adjacent to the East Basin was also pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the collection of all wash water and standing liquid. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 hour.	Chiquita does not provide training to contractors; however, Chiquita personnel reminded the third-party contractor to properly secure the hose before beginning work.
3/3/2026	10:30 a.m.	Spill	1 gallon	While a third-party contractor was moving a pipe, the slip cap came loose, causing residual liquid in the pipe to spill. The contractor had not installed a hard cap prior to moving the pipe.	The third-party contractor immediately stopped moving the pipe to stop the flow of liquid.	A vacuum truck was promptly deployed to collect any standing liquid. The affected soil was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 3 hours.	Chiquita discussed with the relevant third-party contractor situational awareness and proper handling and transport procedure for pipes with the potential to contain residual liquids, including using hard caps.
3/3/2026	2:00 p.m.	Leak	<1 cup	Chiquita has been unable to definitively determine the root cause of this leak; however, it may have resulted from deteriorated tape on the threaded transition fitting.	The liquid from the leak was absorbed using an absorbent rag.	The thread sealant on the fitting was removed and replaced with Loctite 577 thread sealant. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to inspect fittings, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
3/5/2026	1:30 p.m.	Leak	1 cup	The hose was missing a clamp and became disconnected as a result of strong winds, causing some liquid to leak onto dirt placed on the geomembrane cover.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the affected area.	The affected soil and soiled absorbent were promptly removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to perform inspections of its landfill gas collection and control system and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
3/5/2026	9:30 p.m.	Spill	0.5 gallons	A third-party driver disconnected a 3-inch hose from a tanker before the valve was fully closed.	The valve was immediately closed and absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was removed from the affected area and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	Chiquita discussed with the third-party the need to follow proper procedures to avoid spills and to wait for the appropriate signal before disconnecting hoses from tankers. In addition, the driver involved in the spill was instructed not to return to the site.
3/6/2026	1:15 p.m.	Spill	55 gallons	While a third-party contractor was removing surface material from the north slope in preparation for further work, the contractor's loader struck and damaged the pipe, causing liquid to spill from the pipe.	The pipe was immediately pinched to stop the flow of liquid. The soil around the affected area was then bermed to contain the liquid.	The affected soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1.5 hours.	Chiquita discussed with the relevant third-party contractor situational awareness and proper slope-stripping procedures to prevent damage to equipment.
3/6/2026	3:05 p.m.	Leak	0.5 gallons	The leak appears to have been caused by a pinhole in an abandoned pipe containing residual liquid.	The pinhole in the pipe was promptly patched and the affected soil was removed.	The affected soil was placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita does not provide training to contractors; however, Chiquita discussed with the third-party contractor the importance of ensuring that all liquid is removed from a line before it is moved.
3/7/2026	4:30 p.m.	Leak	0.25-1 gallons	The leak appears to have occurred due to a compromised flange connection on a treatment vessel.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was removed from the affected area and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita discussed with the third party the need to continue to conduct regular inspections of flange connection points on treatment vessels to identify potential sources of leaks and implement corrective actions as needed.
3/9/2026	10:46 p.m.	Leak	0.25 gallons	A compromised scrubber on a third-party tanker truck caused the leak, possibly due to lodged debris.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	Chiquita discussed with the third party regular inspection of scrubbers for debris or other issues. Third-party tanker trucks will continue to be inspected prior to leaving the site.
3/9/2026	11:20 p.m.	Spill	15 gallons	The bleeder valve on the load out rack was inadvertently left open while loading the tanker truck.	The bleeder valve was promptly closed to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the area affected by the spill and then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. The related drum was then removed. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita retrained relevant personnel on load out procedures, including properly closing the bleeder valve before beginning load out.
3/10/2026	2:30 a.m.	Leak	5 gallons	A compromised pressure relief valve on a third-party tanker truck caused the leak.	Absorbent was applied to the affected area and the pressure relief valve associated with the third-party tanker truck was promptly repaired to stop the flow of liquid.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	Chiquita discussed with the third party that the truck cannot return to the site until the compromised pressure relief valve is repaired or replaced. Third-party tanker trucks will continue to be inspected prior to leaving the site.
3/10/2026	9:00 a.m.	Spill	0.5 gallons	While a third-party contractor was moving a spare pipe in the laydown yard, the end cap came loose, causing residual liquid in the pipe to spill.	The third-party contractor immediately stopped moving the pipe to stop the flow of liquid. A cap was then fused onto the end of the pipe.	The affected soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 20 minutes.	Chiquita discussed with the relevant third-party contractor situational awareness and proper handling and transport procedures for pipes with the potential to contain residual liquids, including verifying that pipes are emptied prior to transport.
3/10/2026	9:30 a.m.	Spill	5 gallons	A third-party driver inadvertently left open a bleeder valve connected to the HDPE hardline while loading their tanker truck.	Personnel promptly closed the bleeder valve to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the area affected by the spill and then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. The liner was then pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the collection of all wash water and standing liquid. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 hour.	Chiquita does not provide training to contractors; however, Chiquita personnel reminded the third-party to properly close valves, and confirm they are fully closed, prior to loading liquid into trucks.
3/11/2026	11:05 a.m.	Leak	30-40 gallons	While a third-party contractor was conducting work, a Fernco fitting on a 2- to 4-inch pipe connection appears to have become disconnected, causing liquid to leak from the pipe.	The pipe was immediately pinched to stop the flow of liquid. The soil around the affected area was then bermed to contain the liquid.	The affected soil was promptly removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 hour.	Chiquita discussed with the relevant third-party contractor situational awareness and proper pipe inspection procedures prior to performing work.
3/13/2026	7:30 a.m.	Leak	5-10 gallons	A 2-inch flexible line became loose and disconnected from a 4-inch hard line overnight.	The related line was immediately reconnected to stop the flow of liquid.	The affected soil was promptly removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2.5 hours.	Chiquita will continue to perform regular inspections of the gas collection and control system at the landfill to minimize the potential for leaks.
3/13/2026	1:20 p.m.	Spill	200 gallons	While leachate was being loaded into LCM-10, the tank reached capacity sooner than expected, causing leachate to spill onto the liner.	The feed valve to the related tank was immediately shut off, and the liquid was redirected to the next available empty tank.	The liner was promptly pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the collection of all wash water and standing liquid. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2 hours.	Chiquita has enhanced its existing oversight practices at the tank farm to more clearly document and assign employee responsibilities, support consistent operational awareness, and help prevent recurrence.
3/16/2026	4:35 a.m.	Spill	0.25 gallons	A third-party driver opened their tanker truck's rear valve and removed the cap before fully draining the residual liquid from their prior load.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was promptly removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	Chiquita discussed with the relevant third-party driver situational awareness and proper procedures for verifying tanks are empty prior to beginning work.
3/17/2026	8:25 p.m.	Spill	0.25 gallons	A third-party contractor was bleeding a line connected to a treatment vessel in order to remove trapped air. While bleeding the line, the hose slipped, causing a small volume of liquid to spill onto the tank farm liner.	The valve was immediately closed, and absorbent was applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was promptly removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita discussed with the relevant third-party contractor situational awareness and proper procedures for isolating and securing ARV valves to control bleeding to prevent similar spills.
3/18/2026	2:50 p.m.	Leak	10 gallons	A fuse on the vacuum bin line failed.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the affected area and the vacuum bin line was taken out of service.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1.5 hours.	Chiquita will continue to perform inspections of connections and lines, including vacuum bin lines, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.

3/20/2026	7:30 a.m.	Leak	<5 gallons	A compromised fuse on the end cap of an out-of-service force main caused the leak.	The line was immediately pinched to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent and soil were applied to the affected area. The soiled absorbent and impacted soil were removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 35 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to perform inspections of piping and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
3/20/2026	11:45 a.m.	Spill	0.25 cups	During the removal of the pump from sump RAM P02, leachate dripped from the pump as it was being transferred to a bucket for containment.	The impacted soil was immediately removed and placed into a container for proper disposal.	The impacted soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita re-trained relevant personnel on best practices for pump removal and the use of secondary containment to help prevent similar spills.
3/23/2026	9:45 a.m.	Leak	1 cup	The leak appears to have resulted from a loose fitting on the pump.	No liquid was actively flowing upon discovering the leak; however, the fitting on the pump was tightened to prevent further leaks.	The affected area was cleaned using absorbent wipes. Cleanup was completed within approximately 2 hours.	Chiquita will continue to inspect fittings, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
3/23/2026	10:20 a.m.	Spill	0.25 gallons	A third-party contractor moved a pipe without first confirming the valve was fully closed.	Personnel immediately closed the valve to stop the flow of liquid.	The affected soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	Chiquita does not provide training to contractors; however, Chiquita personnel reminded the third-party to properly inspect valves, and confirm they are fully closed, prior to moving pipes.
3/24/2026	2:11 p.m.	Leak	8 gallons	The leak appears to have been caused by a missing gasket on the cleanout pipe.	A berm was created with sandbags to prevent further spreading of the liquid. In addition, a drip pan with absorbent was placed under the source of the leak.	The fittings were tightened and a gasket was installed on the cleanout pipe. The affected area of the geosynthetic cover was pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure collection of all wash water and standing liquid. Cleanup was completed within approximately 1.5 hours.	Personnel will continue to inspect pipe fittings and gaskets before performing related work, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
3/25/2026	5:00 a.m.	Spill	0.25 cups	Leachate spilled from a hose on tank number U13-49 while disconnecting the hose in order to replace the gasket.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was removed from the affected area and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 3 minutes.	The gasket was replaced on the hose. Chiquita also discussed with the personnel situational awareness and best practices for collecting liquids during similar work.
3/25/2026	10:45 a.m.	Spill	1 gallon	Chiquita has been unable to definitively determine the cause of this spill; however, Chiquita believes a third-party driver inadvertently left a scrubber valve on their tanker truck open, causing liquid to spill. Only trucks carrying characteristically non-hazardous leachate were known to be in the area during the applicable time frame.	No liquid was actively flowing when the spill was discovered. Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita reminded the foreman of the third-party driver's company of the need for situational awareness and to use best efforts to ensure that valves are closed prior to tanker trucks departing tank farms. Chiquita has confirmed that the driving company has retrained its drivers.
3/25/2026	11:24 a.m.	Spill	0.5 gallons	A third-party contractor inadvertently failed to install an end cap before transporting a pipe, causing liquid to spill.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the area affected by the spill.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita personnel reminded the third-party to properly install end caps prior to moving pipes.
3/26/2026	9:34 a.m.	Leak	0.5 gallons	The leak appears to have resulted from a compromised gasket on the well.	No liquid was actively flowing upon discovering the leak; however, the standing liquid on the liner was promptly cleaned up.	The liner was immediately pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the collection of all wash water and standing liquid. Cleanup was completed within approximately 1.5 hours.	Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
3/26/2026	1:11 p.m.	Spill	0.5 gallons	The valve on the tank was opened before the camlock fitting connection was fully secured, resulting in a spill of leachate from the associated piping.	Chiquita personnel immediately closed the valve to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the area affected by the spill. The soiled absorbent was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 3 minutes.	Chiquita will use best efforts to reinforce clear communication among personnel and ensure connections are secured and checked prior to opening valves.
3/30/2026	8:45 a.m.	Spill	0.5 gallons	A third-party contractor cut a pipe without properly suspending it, causing residual liquid in the pipe to spill.	The pipe was immediately pinched to stop the flow of liquid.	The affected dirt was promptly removed and absorbent was applied to the area affected by the spill. The dirt and soiled absorbent were then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	Chiquita will remind third-party contractors to properly suspend and support piping prior to beginning work to prevent spills outside containment trays.
3/31/2026	4:50 a.m.	Spill	1.5 gallons	A third-party driver misread his gauge, resulting in his tanker truck being overfilled, causing the pressure relief valve to open and leachate to spill.	Chiquita personnel immediately closed the valve and shut off the pump to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area. The soiled absorbent was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	The third-party driver involved in the spill was instructed not to return to the site.