

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
5/4/2026	12:10 p.m.	Spill	35 gallons	Vibration and increased pressure in the line affected the valve and/or fitting, causing leachate to spill.	Chiquita personnel immediately turned off the pump, closed the valve on the truck, and reconnected the hose to stop the flow of leachate.	Absorbent was 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 2 hours and 30 minutes.	Chiquita replaced the fitting and installed clamps and straps on the fitting to help prevent recurrence. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
5/5/2026	11:30 a.m.	PLR	1,260 gallons	There is no attributable error for this event. The potential for a PLR was anticipated and was being actively managed.	Because the potential for a PLR was foreseeable during the well work, Chiquita personnel proactively implemented preventative measures before commencing the work to minimize the likelihood and potential extent of a PLR. Chiquita also placed containment measures at the well site, including constructing a berm, to contain any released liquid. After the PLR occurred, Chiquita personnel promptly sealed the wellhead to stop the PLR and placed sandbags to further contain the liquid.	A contractor used a vacuum truck to collect free standing liquid. The berm and skirt that had been placed prior to the work were removed and placed in a container for proper disposal. Some liquid escaped the berm and skirt and reached the geomembrane cover. The contractor pressure washed the geomembrane cover while simultaneously applying vacuum to ensure the collection of all wash water. Cleanup commenced immediately, and the initial cleanup to remove the liquids from the PLR was completed within 6 hours. Chiquita completed the clean up of the cover by May 6, 2026.	Chiquita personnel replaced the wellhead, which will prevent future releases. Moving forward, in addition to the proactive measures described above, Chiquita will construct larger berms before commencing work on wells where there is a potential for a PLR, to provide additional containment capacity in the event a PLR involves a greater volume of liquid than anticipated.
5/6/2026	1:45 a.m.	Leak	50 gallons	Based on Chiquita's current knowledge, the leak appears to have been caused by a corroded plug associated with the treatment vessel.	The treatment vessel was shut off and a vacuum truck was used to remove the leachate from the vessel on both the inlet and discharge sides. In addition, absorbent was applied to the affected area.	The standing leachate within the west side treatment and containment area was vacuumed. The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2 hours.	Chiquita conducted an initial inspection of all inlet pipe plugs and confirmed that they were in good condition. Chiquita will continue to inspect the inlet pipe plugs on an ongoing basis and will replace any plugs that show signs of corrosion.
5/6/2026	10:00 a.m.	Spill	10 gallons	Third-party operators did not adequately monitor tank levels during a period of increased operational activity and workload, which delayed identification of rising tank levels, causing leachate to spill.	Personnel closed the feed valve, isolated the affected tank, and redirected flow to other tanks.	Absorbent material was applied to the affected area. The soiled absorbent and affected material were then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 20 minutes.	Chiquita discussed the event with the third-party operator. In response, the operator recalculated incoming flow and adjusted the upper-tier valve configuration to redistribute flow and equalize tank levels. The operator is also increasing the frequency of tank-level monitoring by requiring its operators to check and document tank levels every 30 minutes.
5/7/2026	8:35 a.m.	Leak	2 cups	The leak appears to have resulted from a loose 3-inch fitting.	Personnel placed a drip pan under the fitting to contain the leachate.	Personnel cleaned the liner. Cleanup began promptly and was completed within one hour.	Chiquita will continue to verify fittings during inspections and use sandbags to lift risers, where appropriate, to reduce stress on fittings. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
5/7/2026	8:47 a.m.	Spill	5 gallons	The spill appears to have occurred as a result of the sampling and maintenance port on the wellhead being left slightly ajar.	Chiquita personnel promptly closed the valve to stop the flow of liquid.	The foam and liquids were vacuumed. The impacted area of the liner was also pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the proper collection of all wash water. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 hour.	Chiquita installed a blind flange on the sampling port to prevent similar spills or leaks.
5/7/2026	8:40 a.m.	Leak	1 cup	The leak appears to have been caused due to a loose fitting on the force main.	Chiquita personnel immediately tightened the loose fitting to stop the flow of liquid.	The saturated soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to perform inspections to verify the condition of force main fittings.
5/11/2026	11:15 a.m.	Leak	<1 gallon	The leak appears to have been caused by a compromised manway gasket.	The blower line valve associated with the tank was immediately closed to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area and then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Absorbent wipes were also used to clean the front side of the tank and also placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within less than 5 minutes.	Chiquita replaced the compromised manway gasket to prevent future leaks. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
5/11/2026	12:08 p.m.	Spill	8 gallons	The spill appears to have occurred because a third-party contractor closed the outfall valve on the ARV. As a result of the outfall valve being closed, liquids that had accumulated in the ARV were unable to drain through the ARV's outfall valve to the leachate/condensate system as designed. The accumulated liquid then backed up within the ARV and spilled out of the ARV and onto the liner.	Chiquita personnel promptly opened the outfall valve to allow the accumulated liquid to drain from the ARV's outfall valve to the leachate/condensate collection system, as designed, thus restoring the ARV to proper operation.	Absorbent soil was promptly applied to the area affected by the spill. The saturated soil was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. The affected area of the liner was then pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the proper collection of all wash water. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5.5 hours	Chiquita reminded the third-party contractors of the importance of ensuring that the outfall valve on the ARV remains open for proper operation.
5/15/2026	10:00 a.m.	Leak	0.5 cups	The leak appears to have been caused by a compromised threaded camlock fitting on a 3-inch ball valve.	A spill tray was placed under the ball valve and filled with absorbent to contain the liquid.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita replaced the ball valve to prevent future leaks. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
5/17/2026	7:30 p.m.	Spill	1 cup	The spill appears to have occurred because a third-party driver inadvertently did not fully secure the tanker truck's top dome lid before moving the truck, causing leachate to spill from the seal of the top dome lid.	Chiquita personnel directed the third-party driver to stop the tanker truck. The driver then tightened the truck's top dome lid, which stopped the flow of liquid.	The affected soil was promptly removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita will remind third-party drivers to inspect equipment prior to moving their trucks.
5/19/2026	10:16 a.m.	Spill	0.25 gallons	The spill likely occurred while a third-party contractor was performing work on the force main associated with well CV-24155. Chiquita personnel discovered the spill while performing a routine inspection of the geomembrane cover. Because Chiquita did not observe the contractor's activities at the time of the spill, it is unable to provide additional details regarding the precise root cause of this spill.	Leachate was not actively spilling at the time of discovery. Chiquita personnel used absorbent wipes to perform an initial cleanup of the geomembrane cover and requested that a cleanup crew be dispatched to the area for additional cleanup.	The affected area of the geomembrane cover was pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the proper collection of all wash water. The initial clean-up of the liner was completed within three hours on May 19, 2026, and the pressure washing was completed by 10:00 a.m. on May 20, 2026.	Chiquita will remind its third-party contractors of the expectations around reporting spills and leaks. Chiquita will also continue to perform inspections and implement appropriate corrective actions, as needed.
5/20/2026	3:00 p.m.	Spill	0.5 gallons	It appears that the hose was disconnected without being fully emptied, causing residual liquid in the hose to spill.	The hose was immediately capped 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 was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita retrained tank farm personnel on proper hose-handling procedures to minimize the potential for spills or leaks. This training included procedures for using vacuum while disconnecting hoses to reduce the likelihood of future spills of residual liquid.
5/21/2026	2:00 p.m.	Leak	2-3 drops	The leak occurred during routine maintenance of a sump while personnel were proactively using a drip pan to capture the liquid in accordance with best management practices. Windy conditions caused a small amount of the liquid to bypass the drip pan and reach the liner. The leak was limited to a few drops and was not caused by any failure to implement appropriate containment measures.	Personnel immediately wiped the liner with an absorbent rag to remove the liquid.	The soiled rag was promptly placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within 1 minute.	Chiquita will continue to implement best management practices when performing routine maintenance activities.
5/21/2026	10:20 p.m.	Leak	10-15 gallons	The leak appears to have occurred due to a failure of the mini-TOx blower, which caused the aeration blower to push leachate out through the vented caps or covers on the aeration system.	The flow of liquid was stopped by restarting the mini TOx blower and decreasing the aeration blower output.	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 16 hours.	Chiquita installed a cable between the mini-TOx blower and the aeration blower. The signal cable is intended to trigger the aeration blower to shut down or alarm if the mini-TOx blower is not functioning properly, thereby reducing the likelihood of a similar event in the future.
5/22/2026	10:23 a.m.	Leak	2 gallons	It appears there was a pinhole in the pipe from the ARV, causing the leachate to leak.	A tray containing absorbent was placed beneath the leaking pipe.	The affected soil and soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. The affected area of the liner was then pressure washed while applying vacuum to ensure the proper collection of all wash water. Cleanup was completed within approximately 30-45 minutes.	Chiquita replaced the section of pipe with the pinhole. Additionally, Chiquita will continue to perform inspections, conduct pressure testing, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.

5/22/2026	11:45 a.m.	Spill	4 gallons	It appears that the line was disconnected before it was fully drained, causing residual liquid in the line to spill.	The valve was immediately closed to stop the flow of liquid.	The line was vacuumed out and a spill tray with absorbent was placed under the line as a precaution. Cleanup was completed within approximately one hour.	Chiquita reminded contractors responsible for draining lines to verify that the lines have been fully drained before beginning work. This reminder included confirming that residual liquids have been removed or otherwise controlled and that appropriate precautions are in place to minimize the potential for leaks or spills during project activities.
5/26/2026	11:00 p.m.	Spill	5 gallons	The tare weight of the tanker scrubber was miscalculated before the filling process began. As a result, the tanker's available capacity was also miscalculated, and the tanker truck was overfilled, causing leachate to spill.	A spill tray was placed under the tanker scrubber to contain the liquid.	Absorbent material was applied to the affected area to capture any remaining liquid. The soiled absorbent was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita re-trained tank farm personnel on the proper procedures for calculating tanker scrubber tare weight before beginning the filling process. The training emphasized the importance of accurately confirming the tanker scrubber's tare weight and available capacity before filling to prevent overfilling.
5/27/2026	5:30 a.m.	Spill	<0.25 cups	The hose was disconnected before it was fully drained, causing residual liquid in the hose to spill.	Chiquita personnel promptly placed the hose in a tray with absorbent material to contain any residual liquid.	The affected dirt was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2 minutes.	Chiquita re-trained tank farm personnel on proper hose disconnection procedures, including the need to confirm that hoses are fully drained of residual liquid before they are disconnected.
5/27/2026	9:24 a.m.	Leak	1 gallon	A combination of mechanical factors, including loose threads at the pump connection and an issue with pump activation.	The leak was not ongoing at the time it was discovered. Upon discovering the leak, absorbent was placed on the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 hour.	The loose threads at the pump connection were tightened. In addition, Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
5/27/2026	1:15 p.m.	PLR	2 gallons	There is no attributable error for this event. The potential for a PLR was anticipated and was being actively managed.	Because the potential for a PLR was foreseeable during the well work, Chiquita personnel proactively implemented preventative measures before commencing the work to minimize the likelihood and potential extent of a PLR. Chiquita personnel also placed containment measures at the well site before commencing the work. After the PLR occurred, Chiquita personnel promptly inserted a vacuum hose into the well casing to contain and remove the accumulated liquid.	The wellhead was removed, replaced, bolted, and fully sealed by Chiquita personnel. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 hour.	Chiquita personnel replaced the wellhead and secured it by bolting and fully sealing the wellhead, which will prevent future releases.
5/28/2026	3:40 a.m.	Spill	0.25 gallons	While a third-party driver was filling his tanker truck, the driver inadvertently dropped the hose before securing the cap, which allowed residual leachate in the hose to spill.	Personnel immediately applied absorbent to contain the leachate.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita discussed the event with the third-party driver and reminded the driver to take extra care when handling hoses and to secure hoses promptly to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
5/28/2026	12:00 p.m.	PLR	10 gallons	There is no attributable error for this event. The potential for a PLR was anticipated and was being actively managed.	Because the potential for a PLR was foreseeable during the well work, Chiquita personnel proactively implemented preventative measures before commencing the work to minimize the likelihood and potential extent of a PLR. Chiquita personnel also placed containment measures at the well site before commencing work. After the PLR occurred, personnel promptly inserted a vacuum hose into the well casing to remove the accumulated liquid and contain the flow of leachate.	The wellhead was removed and replaced. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita personnel replaced the wellhead and secured it by bolting and fully sealing the wellhead, which will prevent future releases.
5/28/2026	12:01 p.m.	Spill	10-15 gallons	The spill occurred during third-party contractor work on a 24-inch pipe. Although the contractor personnel isolated available valves and drained the line before cutting, residual leachate remained in the 24-inch pipe and was unexpectedly released approximately 15 minutes after a test cut was made, spilling onto the west perimeter road.	Third-party contractor personnel promptly placed absorbent onto the affected area and constructed a temporary dirt berm around the affected area to contain the liquid.	The affected material was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately two hours.	Chiquita reminded the third-party contractor personnel of appropriate best practices for pipe-cutting activities, including verifying, before cutting, that pipes have been isolated and fully drained and that all reasonably accessible residual liquid has been removed. Contractor personnel were also reminded to maintain vacuum support during the cutting activities, as appropriate.