

Archived: Friday, August 14, 2026 9:26:12 AM
From: [Sarah Phillips](#)
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2026 8:09:15 PM
To: ndickel@aqmd.gov
Cc: [Matt Breuer](#)
Subject: RE: Chiquita Canyon Landfill - Case No. 6177-4: Leak Report (Condition 27(e))
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Nate,

We are responding to your July 28, 2026 email requesting additional information regarding the event that occurred on July 25, 2026. AQMD's questions and Chiquita's responses are provided below.

AQMD Question #1: This appears to be a pressurized leachate release (PLR) event. Can you please confirm this? The provided report indicates this was a leak.

Chiquita's Response: Upon further evaluation of the event, Chiquita determined that the event is appropriately classified as a PLR. Well number CV-2314 became pressurized within the casing, causing leachate to leak from a component of the wellhead.

AQMD Question #2: Was this release expected by the landfill, prior to conducting work on the wellhead/pump?

Chiquita's Response: Chiquita had no indication before the July 25, 2026 event that well number CV-2314 was experiencing, or was likely to experience, a PLR. Chiquita had performed routine maintenance on the same well during the preceding days, including replacing the well pump and a deteriorating vacuum flex hose. Although elevated temperatures were observed, there were no signs of pressurized leachate or other conditions indicating that a PLR was occurring or likely to occur. Historical and daily monitoring likewise did not indicate that a PLR was likely to occur.

AQMD Question #3: Can you further clarify Item #4 of the report? Was the facility able to temporarily halt the release, to first implement mitigation measures (e.g. cover placement, berm placement) for containment and collection of the liquids?

Chiquita's Response: Because there were no indications that well number CV-2314 was likely to experience a PLR, Chiquita did not pre-stage PLR-specific mitigation measures at the well. Once the release was discovered at approximately 1:15pm, however, personnel promptly turned off the well pump and placed a sandbag berm to contain the released liquid.

Personnel then attempted to isolate the well using the existing valve but were unable to stop the flow. Personnel therefore mechanically isolated the well by installing a block-off plate, stopping the flow at approximately 4:00 pm. Cleanup commenced promptly, including pressure washing the affected area and removing the remaining leachate by vacuum truck for proper disposal.

Following the event, Chiquita implemented additional preventive measures to improve its ability to quickly isolate wells in the event of another PLR. Chiquita upgraded the CV-2314 wellhead configuration by installing a knife gate valve, which will enable personnel to more quickly and safely isolate the wellhead if pressurized leachate is

encountered, thereby further reducing the potential for future releases.

Chiquita also continues to routinely monitor well CV-2314 and all other wells on site for indications of potential PLRs.

AQMD Question #4: What length of time was the well actively releasing leachate?

Chiquita's Response: Chiquita first observed the PLR at approximately 1:15 p.m. on July 25, 2026, and stopped the flow of liquid at approximately 4:00 p.m. that same day. The well therefore released leachate for approximately two hours and 45 minutes from the time the release was first observed. During that period, Chiquita implemented containment measures and worked continuously to isolate and stop the release.

Thank you,
Sarah Phillips
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