

Archived: Thursday, September 3, 2026 8:46:46 PM
From: [Sarah Phillips](#)
Sent: Sat, 29 Aug 2026 18:13:21
To: bchen@aqmd.gov
Cc: [Matt Breuer](#)
Subject: Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Case No. 6177-4: Leak Report (Condition 27(e))
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

All,

In accordance with Condition 27(e) of the Stipulated Order for Abatement in Case No. 6177-4, based on its current knowledge of the event, Chiquita Canyon, LLC (Chiquita) provides the following report detailing a leak of characteristically hazardous leachate associated with Group A from an air release valve (ARV) in Grid 245.

(1) the date and time of the leak or spill;

- The leak was discovered on August 27, 2026, at approximately 1:57 p.m.

(2) area designation inspected;

- Characteristically hazardous leachate associated with Group A leaked from an ARV in Grid 245. No liquid from the leak entered either stormwater basin.

(3) the name of the person that discovered the leak or spill;

- Bill Haley.

(4) written acknowledgement that they did, or did not, take corrective action with rationale for these actions;

- Upon discovering the leak, containment trays with absorbent were promptly placed around the ARV's base to contain the leaking liquid.

(5) a root cause analysis on why and how the leak or spill occurred;

- Based on Chiquita's current knowledge, it appears that the leak resulted from a combination of two factors. First, a third-party contractor installed the ARV lid with an insufficient number of bolts, leaving the lid not fully secured. Second, while performing work in the area, a Chiquita operator moved a vacuum line, temporarily disrupting the vacuum system and causing liquid to back up to the ARV. Because the ARV lid was not fully secured, the backed-up liquid was able to leak from the ARV lid. Chiquita attributes this leak to a combination of third-party operator error and Chiquita operator error.

(6) the estimated quantity of the leak or spill;

- Chiquita conservatively estimates that approximately 5 gallons of characteristically hazardous leachate leaked from an ARV in Grid 245.

(7) corrective actions to clean and/or remove the leak or spill;

- In addition to the measures discussed above, an onsite vacuum truck was used to pull on the sump cleanout to relieve the liquid backup and stop the leak. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2 hours.

(8) corrective actions implemented or to be implemented, including an estimated timeline, to prevent future recurrence;

- Chiquita will address both contributing causes identified above. Chiquita will coordinate with the relevant third-party contractor to ensure that ARV and associated sump lids are fully secured, including confirming that the required bolts are properly installed and secured. In addition, future vacuum-line disruptions will prompt Chiquita personnel to inspect the affected line and associated sumps and ARVs for evidence of liquid backup and to take appropriate corrective action as needed.

(9) the type of affiliation of the operator involved in the root cause;

- Chiquita and third-party contractor personnel were involved in the circumstances contributing to the leak. As described above, Chiquita attributes the leak in part to third-party operator error associated with the ARV lid not being fully secured and in part to the vacuum-line disruption by a Chiquita operator.

(10) whether any individuals involved in the root cause had previously received training on applicable operations to avoid leaks or spills; and

- Chiquita does not provide training to third-party contractors; however, Chiquita routinely reviews spill- and leak-prevention practices with drivers, and the Chiquita personnel involved in the leak had previously received training on applicable operational procedures to help prevent leaks and spills.

(11) the number of times individuals involved in the root cause had previously been involved in the root cause of a leachate leak or spill.

- ARV work is typically performed by multiple contractor operators, making it difficult to attribute the error associated with the ARV lid not being fully secured to one individual. The Chiquita operator to which the vacuum-line disruption is attributed has been previously involved in the root cause of two leachate leaks or spills.

Thank you,

Sarah Phillips
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