

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	Stormwater Channel/Basin	Root Cause	Initial Corrective Actions	Cleanup Actions	Actions to Prevent Reoccurrence
8/1/2026	1:45 p.m.	Leak	50 gallons	No	The leak resulted from a mechanical failure of the defoaming system. An injection line became disconnected, preventing the defoaming system from actively injecting defoamer into the force main, allowing foam to accumulate within the tank. Although personnel identified and repaired the disconnected injection line during an inspection earlier that week, residual foam remained undetected in the tank. A subsequent surge of liquid displaced the residual foam, causing it to leak from the tank.	Chiquita personnel promptly collected the foam and liquid and transferred it into a tank for containment.	The affected area was pressure washed to clean residual leachate foam remaining in the lined area while a vacuum truck collected the wash water. The collected liquid was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 3 hours.	Chiquita will continue to monitor foam accumulation in the clarifying tanks and continue to inspect tanks and implement corrective actions as needed. Chiquita will also implement additional operational measures, including installing and bringing two additional tanks online to provide additional capacity and minimize the potential for foam-related leaks; these two tanks are expected to be online as of September 7, 2026.
8/3/2026	5:30 p.m.	Leak	1 gallon	No	A malfunction of the tank exhaust valve on the third-party tanker truck allowed characteristically non-hazardous leachate to leak from the tanker.	A vacuum was immediately used to remove liquid from the third-party tanker truck, and absorbent was placed over 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 the event with the third-party hauler. In response, the hauler is repairing the affected equipment to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
8/4/2026	2:00 p.m.	Leak	1 gallon	No	A malfunction of the tank exhaust valve on the third-party tanker truck allowed characteristically non-hazardous leachate to leak from the tanker.	A vacuum was immediately used to remove liquid from the third-party tanker truck, and absorbent was placed over 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 the event with the third-party hauler. In response, the hauler is repairing the affected equipment to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
8/4/2026	9:10 a.m.	Spill	50 gallons	No	A third-party contractor operating a bulldozer struck a buried and unmarked force main pipe, causing leachate to spill from the pipe.	A soil berm was constructed to contain the liquid from the spill and pinchers were placed on the broken force main pipe to stop the flow of liquid.	The impacted soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 3 hours.	Chiquita discussed the incident with the third-party contractor, including the importance of maintaining situational awareness, and reinforcing the need to identify, locate, and clearly mark buried pipes and other relevant site infrastructure before beginning excavation work in an area. Although the contractor is responsible for locating and marking buried pipes, Chiquita has marked the location of the buried pipe to aid in the prevention of similar spills.
8/5/2026	10:50 a.m.	Leak	1 quart	No	The approximately one-quart leak appears to have resulted from compromised threading on the well's 3-inch ball valve, which may have prevented the valve connection from maintaining a complete seal, allowing liquid to escape. Chiquita therefore attributes this leak to mechanical equipment failure.	The liquid was removed from the liner using absorbent wipes and a containment tray with absorbent material was then placed to capture any residual liquid.	The soiled absorbent materials were removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
8/6/2026	2:00 p.m.	Spill	1 gallon	No	A third-party driver opened his tanker truck cap too quickly during loading operations, causing liquid to spill from his tanker truck.	The third-party tanker truck cap was promptly secured to stop the flow of liquid, and absorbent was 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 10 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to use best efforts to maintain communication with third-party drivers throughout loading operations and emphasize the importance of the drivers proceeding deliberately throughout the process.
8/6/2026	3:03 p.m.	Leak	0.5 gallons	No	The leak appears to have resulted from a pinhole in the third-party tanker trailer's belly vent. The pinhole compromised the integrity of the vent assembly and allowed liquid to escape.	Vacuum was promptly applied to the tanker trailer to stop the flow of liquid. Absorbent was then placed over the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita notified the third-party hauler of the event and requested confirmation that the hauler had evaluated and addressed the pinhole before returning the trailer to service. The hauler advised that it would determine and implement the appropriate corrective measures, including repairing the equipment as warranted, conducting water testing, and providing documentation of completed repairs.
8/7/2026	6:30 a.m.	Leak	100 gallons	No	The leak appears to have occurred due to a failed flange gasket.	The line was promptly pinched to stop the flow of liquid.	Cleanup of the affected soil and liner was immediately initiated and was completed by August 11, 2026.	The failed flange gasket was replaced. Chiquita is also actively evaluating its preventive maintenance program and working with contractors and personnel to improve implementation of best management practices to reduce the likelihood of future leaks and spills.
8/7/2026	10:15 a.m.	Leak	80 gallons	No	The leak was caused by solids accumulation from the reserve LCM tanks, which clogged the influent line. As a result, liquids leaked from the top manway of Tank LCM-1 at the LCM manifold onto the secondary containment.	A vacuum truck began removing liquid from the tank.	A clean-up crew used a vacuum truck to remove liquid from the secondary containment and a pressure washer to clean the LCM manifold. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2 hours.	Chiquita will inspect Tank LCM-1 and its accompanying reserve influent tanks every 90 days to minimize the potential for similar leaks. The first round of cleaning and removal of solids is scheduled to begin the week of September 7.
8/7/2026	10:40 p.m.	Leak	40 gallons	No	The leak appears to have resulted from a compromised 8-inch valve associated with tank number U13-07 that was installed by a third-party contractor.	Chiquita personnel instructed the third-party contractor to open the clean-out valve attached to the 8-inch HDPE pipe to relieve pressure on the affected valve and 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 20 minutes.	The 8-inch valve was replaced, and the flange bolts were tightened. Hydrotesting confirmed the effectiveness of the replacement valve and tightened bolts.
8/8/2026	8:25 a.m.	Spill	2 gallons	No	Chiquita personnel unintentionally left the bleeder valve open while it was connected to the pump.	Chiquita personnel promptly turned off the pump and closed the bleeder valve to stop the flow of liquid through the bleeder hose.	Absorbent was immediately placed over the affected area and then placed into a container for proper disposal.	Cleanup commenced immediately. Chiquita is evaluating its preventive maintenance program and working with personnel to improve implementation of best management practices to reduce the likelihood of future leaks and spills.
8/10/2026	3:25 p.m.	PLR	10 gallons	No	The PLR resulted from a failure of the threads on the wellhead cap, which caused the cap to come off and leachate to leak from the wellhead.	A new stainless steel cap was installed on the wellhead to prevent future leaks.	The leachate was vacuumed and a pressure washer was used to clean the liner. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.	Chiquita replaced the CV-2314 wellhead and pump on August 12, 2026, to prevent future leaks. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
8/11/2026	10:00 a.m.	Leak	0.5 cups	No	The leak resulted from a mechanical failure involving the fittings on well CV24048.	The fittings on well CV-24048 were immediately tightened to stop the flow of liquid.	The affected area was promptly wiped with absorbent wipes to remove the liquid and the soiled wipes were then placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced and was completed immediately.	Chiquita tightened the fittings on well CV-24048 to reduce the likelihood of recurrence. In addition, Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
8/13/2026	8:48 a.m.	Spill	2 gallons	No	The spill occurred during third-party contractor work on a capped 6-inch pipe. Residual liquid remained inside the pipe and unexpectedly spilled when contractor personnel cut the pipe. As the origin of the liquid is unknown, Chiquita is classifying it as characteristically hazardous leachate out of an abundance of caution.	The pipe was suspended to stop the flow of liquid and absorbent material was promptly applied to contain the liquid .	A vacuum truck was called to the area to assist with cleanup of liquid from the pipe. The soiled absorbent and affected soil were removed as part of cleanup and properly disposed of. Initial cleanup of the spill was commenced and completed immediately, and removal of any remaining liquid from the pipe was completed within approximately two hours. No additional liquid was spilled during cleanup of liquid from within the pipe.	Chiquita has reminded its third-party contractor to confirm that pipes are empty before cutting any pipes .
8/14/2026	3:35 a.m.	Leak	100 gallons	No	The knife gate valve associated with LCM tank number 1 was closed, preventing liquid from flowing to the equalizing tanks and causing a leak from the LCM tank system.	The liquid remaining in the LCM tank was promptly pumped into a trailer to stop the flow of liquid and facilitate corrective action.	The affected area was pressure washed and vacuumed to ensure the proper collection of all wash water, and material was placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 4 hours.	Chiquita will secure the valve in the open position so that only authorized personnel are able to close it. Chiquita will also reinforce proper equipment inspection procedures with tank farm personnel to minimize the potential for future spills or leaks.
8/14/2026	9:00 a.m.	Leak	5 gallons	No	A compromised pressure relief valve on the third-party tanker truck allowed liquid to leak from the tanker while the truck was in transit.	The third-party tanker truck was promptly stopped to prevent additional liquid from leaking, and absorbent material was 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 1 hour.	Chiquita discussed the event with the third-party hauler and the need for the hauler to inspect the pressure relief valves on its tanker trailers and ensure that the valves are functioning properly to minimize the potential for similar leaks during hauling activities.
8/14/2026	1:55 p.m.	Leak	0.5 gallons	No	A pinhole in the weld connecting the ARV to the force main line allowed liquid to leak from the system.	The valve on the force main line associated with the ARV was promptly closed to stop the flow of liquid. The ARV and associated piping were then cleared.	The affected soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita and its consultants will continue perform a visual inspection of each ARV that arrives onsite. Chiquita also updated the ARV testing process to include a small vacuum test port on the vacuum line to determine the effectiveness of the vacuum, with the goal of minimizing the potential for similar leaks. This ARV was returned to service by August 15, 2026.
8/17/2026	9:50 a.m.	Spill	5 gallons	No	The third-party tanker truck driver did not closely monitor the liquid level inside the trailer and did not alert site personnel when the liquid level approached the top of the trailer. As a result, treated non-hazardous leachate spilled from the open hatch on top of the third-party tanker truck.	The pump was immediately turned off to stop the flow of liquid into the third-party tanker truck, and absorbent material was applied to contain the spill.	A vacuum truck removed the remaining liquid, and the soiled absorbent material was collected 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 driver and reminded the driver to closely monitor the liquid level during loading. Chiquita also instructed site personnel to stop the loading process if a high liquid level is observed. Chiquita has also ensured that the third-party hauler has documented this event.
8/18/2026	10:01 a.m.	Spill	2-3 gallons	No	After a third-party contractor drained the initial liquid from the 18-inch pipe into a containment tray, the contractor then placed the pipe into the containment tray. When the contractor repositioned the pipe, residual liquid spilled from the pipe and out of the containment tray.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area.	A vacuum truck was called to the area to assist with cleanup of liquid from the pipe. The soiled absorbent and affected soil were then removed and properly disposed of. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 hour.	Chiquita will reinforce with third-party contractors the importance of proceeding deliberately and with situational awareness when repositioning pipes.

8/21/2026	9:41 a.m.	Leak	1 cup	No	The boot fitting associated with well CV-24028 failed or otherwise lost integrity. This failure created an opening through which leachate present within the well casing leaked.	A repair clamp was promptly installed on the well casing to stop the flow of liquid.	The standing liquid was removed using absorbent wipes, which were then properly disposed of. Cleanup was completed within approximately one hour and 5 minutes.	Chiquita reviewed the event with the third-party contractor that performs the work involving the well boot fittings. The review evaluated the condition of the failed fitting and the contractor agreed to place additional emphasis on inspecting boot fittings and connections during installation and maintenance activities and to replace compromised fittings upon identification to reduce the likelihood of recurrence. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
8/24/2026	4:20 p.m.	Spill	3 gallons	No	The third-party driver filled the tanker trailer and did not close the valve connected to the bleeder hose after loading, allowing treated non-hazardous leachate to spill from the hose. In addition, Chiquita personnel did not conduct a post-fill walk-around inspection of the trailer truck that might have identified the open valve before the trailer proceeded to the scale house.	The valve connected to the bleeder hose was promptly closed to stop the flow of liquid, and absorbent material was applied to contain the spilled liquid.	The soiled absorbent was collected and properly disposed of. Cleanup commenced promptly and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita reviewed the event with the third-party hauler responsible for operating the tanker trailer and reinforced the requirement that tanker trailer valves be closed and secured following loading. Chiquita also reviewed the event and applicable spill- and leak-prevention practices with Chiquita personnel involved, including the importance of conducting a post-fill inspection to verify that trailer valves, hoses, and other relevant equipment are properly secured before a trailer leaves the loading area.
8/25/2026	2:25 p.m.	Leak	4 cups	No	Fluctuating temperatures caused repeated contraction and expansion of components associated with the vacuum-valve connection for well CV-24127. This movement caused the bolts to loosen, which compromised the seal provided by the gasket and allowed characteristically hazardous leachate to leak.	Chiquita personnel promptly tightened the loose bolts associated with the vacuum-valve connection for well CV-24127 to stop the flow of liquid and secured the pneumatic well pump.	Absorbent wipes were used to clean the affected area, and the used wipes were properly disposed of. Cleanup commenced promptly and was completed within approximately 15 to 20 minutes.	Chiquita tightened the loose bolts, restored the vacuum, and secured the pneumatic well pump and associated vacuum-valve connection to reduce the likelihood of recurrence. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed, and will ensure that bolt-tightness checks are included as a part of daily inspections of pumps and wells.
8/25/2026	7:40 p.m.	Spill	3-4 gallons	No	A third-party driver was maneuvering their tanker trailer. As the trailer turned, its air lines contacted and became caught on its scrubber drain valve, inadvertently opening the valve and allowing liquid to spill.	The spilled leachate largely dried after contacting the ground; absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area to contain and recover any remaining liquid.	The soiled absorbent material was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. The affected area was then pressure washed while using vacuum to ensure the collection of all wash water. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 hour.	Chiquita discussed the event with the third-party driver and reinforced the need for the third party to reorient the trailer's scrubber drain valves so they are less susceptible to inadvertent contact while tanker trailers are being maneuvered. Chiquita will also use best efforts to verify that scrubber drain valves on third-party tanker trailers are properly orientated to minimize the potential for similar spills.
8/26/2026	7:22 a.m.	Leak	2 cups	No	A combination of heat, moisture, and loose clamps at the connection between the pipe and the vacuum line caused liquid to leak onto the liner.	The pipe was shortened and the clamps at the rubber boot connection were immediately tightened to stop the flow of liquid.	The liquid was removed from the liner and the HDPE vacuum line using absorbent wipes. The soiled absorbent wipes were then placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita will use best efforts to verify that all clamps are properly tightened before beginning work to minimize the potential for similar leaks.
8/27/2026	1:57 p.m.	Leak	5 gallons	No	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.	Containment trays with absorbent were promptly placed around the ARV's base to contain the leaking liquid.	A 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.	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.
8/27/2026	2:10 p.m.	Spill	2 gallons	No	The spill resulted from a combination of third-party driver error and Chiquita operator error. Before filling began, the third-party driver did not know or provide the information necessary to accurately determine the truck's available capacity, and the tank farm personnel incorrectly estimated the availability capacity and the amount of time needed to fill the truck. As a result, the tanker truck was overfilled, causing leachate to spill.	Personnel immediately turned off the pump to stop the transfer of leachate into the third-party tanker truck and the valve was closed.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area to contain and recover the spilled leachate, and leachate was removed from the tanker truck to reduce its contents and prevent any further spill. The soiled absorbent material was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita discussed the event with the third-party driver and reiterated that accurate information regarding the tanker truck's available capacity must be known before filling begins. Chiquita also re-trained the tank farm personnel involved in the spill on procedures for confirming available tanker capacity before commencing a transfer and reinforced that personnel should not proceed with filling based on an estimate or assumption regarding available capacity.
8/29/2026	6:11 a.m.	Leak	60 gallons	No	The leak occurred due to excessive foaming when characteristically non-hazardous leachate associated with the Group C-Line entered Tank D1 through the top flange and agitated the tank contents. The defoaming system was operational at the time of the event, and no other contributing factors were identified.	The top valve on Tank D1 was shut off to stop the incoming flow of liquid from the Group C-Line.	Absorbent material was applied immediately to the foaming leachate, which was then collected and properly disposed of, and a vacuum truck was used to remove all remaining standing liquid. Cleanup was completed within approximately 5 hours.	Chiquita plans to complete installation and activate two additional clarifying tanks by September 7, 2026, to provide backup capacity for Tanks D1 and D2 while those tanks are being cleaned. In addition, Chiquita will inspect the defoaming system and implement any appropriate corrective actions identified through that inspection. These actions are intended to provide additional operating capacity and reduce the likelihood of recurrence.