

Archived: Friday, September 11, 2026 5:59:25 AM
From: [Sarah Phillips](#)
Sent: Sat, 5 Sep 2026 05:17:46
To: bchen@aqmd.gov
Cc: [Matt Breuer](#)
Subject: Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Case No. 6177-4: Spill 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 spill of characteristically non-hazardous leachate associated with Group C from a force main pipe near well number CV-24174 on the Top Deck, west of the Zeeco TOx, in Grid 163.

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

- The spill occurred on September 3, 2026, at approximately 8:30 a.m.

(2) area designation inspected;

- Characteristically non-hazardous leachate associated with Group C spilled from a force main pipe near well number CV-24174 on the Top Deck, west of the Zeeco TOx, in Grid 163. Liquid from the spill did not reach either stormwater basin.

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

- Chris Almena.

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

- Upon discovering the spill, a dirt berm was built around the affected pipe to contain the leachate, and pinchers were placed on the pipe to stop the flow of leachate.

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

- Based on Chiquita's current knowledge, the spill occurred when a third-party loader operator inadvertently struck a buried, unmarked 4-inch HDPE pipe, damaging the pipe and causing leachate to spill. Chiquita attributes this spill to third-party operator error.

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

- Chiquita conservatively estimates that approximately 50 gallons of characteristically non-hazardous leachate spilled.

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

- In addition to the measures discussed above, the affected soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1-2 hours.

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

- Chiquita will review the incident with the third-party contractor and loader operator and reinforce work practices for operating near buried or exposed infrastructure, including confirming known line locations and markings before work, maintaining appropriate equipment clearance, and using a spotter when warranted. Line markings will be checked and refreshed as needed. Chiquita management will review implementation of these measures on September 9, 2026.

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

- A third-party loader operator was involved in the root cause of this spill.

(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 operators; however, Chiquita routinely reviews spill- and leak-prevention practices with its contractors, and Chiquita personnel have been trained 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.

- It is Chiquita's understanding that this individual has not previously been involved in the root cause of a leachate leak or spill.

Thank you,

Sarah Phillips
Waste Connections
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