

Archived: Friday, September 11, 2026 5:59:28 AM
From: [Sarah Phillips](#)
Sent: Sun, 6 Sep 2026 22:52:38
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 approximately 1 gallon of characteristically hazardous leachate associated with Group A from an air release valve (ARV) in Grid 241 installed by a third-party contractor.

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

- The leak was discovered on September 4, 2026, at approximately 3:20 p.m.

(2) area designation inspected;

- Characteristically hazardous leachate associated with Group A leaked from an ARV in Grid 241. No liquid from the leak entered either stormwater basin.

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

- Gage Hayes.

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

- Upon discovering the leak, personnel promptly closed the ball valve on the HDPE pipe connected to the ARV, stopping the flow of liquid into the ARV.

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

- Based on Chiquita's current knowledge, the leak appears to have occurred because liquid entered the vacuum line, resulting in a buildup of pressure within the ARV. The accumulated liquid then leaked from the top of the ARV. Chiquita attributes this leak to mechanical equipment failure associated with third-party contractor installation.

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

- Chiquita conservatively estimates that approximately 1 gallon of characteristically hazardous leachate leaked from an ARV in Grid 241.

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

- In addition to the measures discussed above, absorbent was promptly applied to the area affected. The affected soil was then removed and properly disposed of. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 3 hours.

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

- Chiquita will inspect the ARV vaults to determine the cause of liquid accumulation and evaluate grading the vacuum line to achieve proper drainage to minimize the potential for future spills or leaks.

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

- To the best of Chiquita's current knowledge, a third-party contractor was involved in the installation and the circumstances contributing to the leak.

(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 its third-party contractors; however, Chiquita routinely re-views 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.

- The third-party contractor responsible for the leak has previously been involved in the root cause of one leachate leak or spill.

Thank you,

Sarah Phillips
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