

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
9/1/2026	4:15 p.m.	Spill	15 gallons	No	The third-party driver did not closely monitor the liquid level inside the trailer. As a result, treated non-hazardous leachate spilled from the pressure relief valve on top of the third-party tanker truck.	The pump was immediately shut off to stop the flow of liquid into the third-party tanker truck and absorbent material was applied to contain the spill.	The absorbent 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 trucking company regarding the need for its drivers to follow applicable load-out procedures to prevent spills. Chiquita also instructed site personnel to stop the loading process if a high liquid level is observed.
9/3/2026	8:30 a.m.	Spill	50 gallons	No	A third-party loader operator inadvertently struck a buried, unmarked 4-inch HDPE pipe, damaging the pipe and causing leachate to 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.	The affected soil was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1-2 hours.	Chiquita reviewed the incident with the third-party contractor and loader operator and reinforced 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 were checked and refreshed as needed. Chiquita management reviewed implementation of these measures on September 9, 2026.
9/3/2026	1:40 p.m.	Spill	0.5 cups	No	The hose was disconnected from the 6-inch vacuum line before the residual liquid had fully drained, causing leachate to spill onto the exterior of the hose and a portion of the well.	Chiquita personnel contained the residual liquid within the hose, and no additional flow of liquid occurred.	No liquid pooled on the ground/liner, and no visible staining, discoloration, or residue was left behind. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 1 minute.	The Chiquita operator involved in the incident acknowledged the need to allow sufficient time for the hose to drain before disconnecting it from the vacuum line and will follow this practice going forward to prevent recurrence.
9/4/2026	3:20 p.m.	Leak	1 gallon	No	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.	Personnel promptly closed the ball valve on the HDPE pipe connected to the ARV, stopping the flow of liquid into the ARV.	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.	Chiquita inspected the ARV vaults to determine the cause of liquid accumulation and regraded the vacuum line to achieve improved drainage to minimize the potential for future spills or leaks.
9/8/2026	10:30 a.m.	Spill	3 gallons	No	Liquid was directed to tank number D/SW-01 due to operational circumstances arising from a laboratory error to prevent overflow. Because the tank did not have sufficient vacuum to maintain the necessary negative pressure as liquid accumulated, the tank became pressurized. When the vent cap was opened, the resulting pressure differential caused leachate to spill.	The vent cap was immediately closed to stop the flow of leachate.	Absorbent was applied to the affected area, which was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	Chiquita added vacuum lines on September 10, 2026, to ensure tank number D/SW-01 maintains the necessary vacuum and operates under negative pressure. The added vacuum lines will prevent pressure from building within the tank and reduce the likelihood of similar spills in the future.
9/10/2026	12:45 p.m.	Leak	1 cup	No	Liquid accumulated in the vacuum line, causing an increase in pressure and leachate to leak through the flange.	A utility tray containing absorbent material was placed beneath the leaking flange to contain the liquid and was then properly disposed of in an appropriate container.	The leaking flange was cleaned with an absorbent wipe, which was then properly disposed of in an appropriate container. Cleanup commenced and was completed immediately.	The flange was replaced, and temporary fittings were installed while a new connection point for the vacuum well was completed. The new connection allows pressure to be properly dispersed. Chiquita is continuing to install new vacuum-line connections and equipment upgrades.
9/11/2026	9:00 a.m.	Leak	0.5 gallons	No	The fitting associated with the pump failed or otherwise lost integrity.	The related valve was promptly closed to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was immediately applied to the affected area. The soiled absorbent was then placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita replaced the affected fitting.
9/13/2026	3:30 p.m.	Leak	15 gallons	No	LCM Tank 1 and the accompanying reserve influent tanks became clogged, causing liquid to leak from the top dome lid of LCM Tank 1.	Absorbent was promptly placed near the bottom of LCM Tank 1 to contain the liquid.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into an appropriate container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced promptly and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita cleaned the influent tanks during the week of September 25, 2026, to prevent recurrence.
9/14/2026	2:00 p.m.	Leak	16 ounces	No	The threads on the electric pump fitting were stripped, allowing liquid to leak from the fitting.	Personnel promptly stopped using the pump.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area, and the soiled absorbent was placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced promptly and was completed within approximately one and a half hours.	Chiquita replaced the faulty electric pump fitting and reworked the connection to prevent further leakage.
9/15/2026	8:18 a.m.	Spill	50-80 gallons	No	A weld on a third-party tanker truck failed. A replacement third-party tanker truck was promptly called to the location to transfer liquid from the initial tanker to the replacement truck. No liquid from the failed weld on the initial tanker truck reached the ground or into the containment tray. However, the third-party driver transferred liquid to the replacement tanker truck without first calculating the replacement tanker's empty weight, resulting in liquid spilling from the top dome of the replacement tanker truck.	The pump connected to the tanker truck was immediately shut off and the valve was closed to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area. The soiled absorbent material was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 16 minutes.	Chiquita discussed the event with the third-party driver and reinforced the importance of verifying a tanker's empty weight before transferring liquid to minimize the potential for similar spills.
9/16/2026	7:40 a.m.	Leak	2 cups	No	A compromised well casing caused the leak.	A containment tray was immediately placed by the well casing to capture the liquid. Absorbent was then applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform preventative maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed, and is evaluating the use of stainless steel components where appropriate to minimize the potential for similar leaks.
9/18/2026	11:37 a.m.	Leak	0.5 gallons	No	The leak resulted from insufficient slack in the hose connecting well CV-24040 to the force main. The limited slack placed stress on the connection at the well fitting, which appears to have contributed to the loss of integrity at that connection and the resulting leak.	The pump and force main were promptly shut off to stop the flow of liquid, and any remaining pressure in the system was relieved.	Wipes and a cleaning solution were used to remove the remaining liquid and the soiled wipes were placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to regularly assess hose conditions and clearances to help prevent similar leaks. Chiquita will also continue to inspect equipment, perform maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
9/21/2026	12:45 p.m.	Spill	10 ounces	No	The trailer's exhaust valve was positioned too high and the third-party driver did not have the necessary extension to achieve clearance into the utility tray placed underneath possible leak points, allowing leachate to run down a tire and trail onto the loadout rack.	The exhaust valve on the third-party tanker-truck trailer was closed.	Absorbent was applied to the affected area. The affected material was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 25 minutes.	Chiquita discussed the event with the third-party driver and reinforced the importance of having the necessary extension to direct liquid and prevent spills.
9/21/2026	3:00 p.m.	Leak	5 gallons	No	The leak appears to have resulted from a loose cleanout ball valve fitting, likely caused by vibration or thermal cycling.	The valve was tightened to stop the leak.	The liquid leaked onto the liner and the affected area was pressure washed. The resulting wash water was vacuumed for proper cleanup and disposal. Cleanup commenced promptly and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita will continue quality assurance and quality control checks of fittings on wells throughout the site.
9/22/2026	7:00 a.m.	Leak	1 cup	No	The leak resulted from a faulty bleeder valve on a third-party tanker-truck trailer.	A containment tray was placed beneath the truck's bleeder valve to contain any remaining liquid.	Absorbent material was applied to the affected area. The soiled material was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced promptly and was completed within approximately 15 minutes.	The third-party driver replaced the bleeder valve to prevent recurrence.
9/22/2026	9:00 a.m.	Leak	2 ounces	No	The leak appears to have resulted from the manner in which the swing check valve was installed, which interfered with the adjacent fitting and prevented it from sealing properly.	The valve was closed and the pump was turned off to stop the flow of liquid.	The affected area was cleaned with absorbent wipes, which were then placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and completed within approximately 2 minutes.	The swing check valve was replaced to address the installation issue and reduce the potential for recurrence. Chiquita also provided additional training to personnel on installation practices to help prevent similar leaks in the future.
9/22/2026	9:30 a.m.	Leak	0.5 gallons	No	The leak appears to have resulted from an inadequate seal at the transition fitting, potentially due to insufficient tightening and/or incomplete fusion during installation, which allowed leachate to leak when the vacuum was interrupted.	The line was pinched and the force main fitting was tightened to stop the flow of liquid.	The affected area was pressure washed and the resulting wash water was vacuumed for proper cleanup and disposal. Cleanup commenced promptly and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	The transition fitting was replaced to prevent recurrence. Chiquita has provided additional training to personnel on transition-fitting installation and tightening to reduce the likelihood of similar leaks in the future.
9/23/2026	3:45 a.m.	Spill	0.25 cups	No	The third-party driver left the trailer brakes engaged during loading, causing the suspension gauge to provide an inaccurate indication of the trailer's load level. As a result, loading continued beyond the intended stopping point, resulting in a spill.	The pump connected to the tanker truck was immediately shut off to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area. The soiled absorbent material was then removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita discussed the event with the third-party driver and reinforced the importance of disengaging the trailer brakes before loading begins so that the suspension gauge accurately reflects the trailer's load level.
9/23/2026	10:00 a.m.	Leak	0.25 gallons	No	A compromised ball valve associated with well number CV-24129 caused the leak.	The related pump was immediately shut off to stop the flow of liquid. Absorbent was then applied to the affected area.	The soiled absorbent was placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform preventative maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.

9/23/2026	10:50 a.m.	Spill	10 gallons	No	The third-party driver did not fully close the air release valve on the rear inlet of the tanker truck after filling the truck.	The driver immediately closed the truck's air release valve to stop the flow of liquid.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area. The soiled absorbent material was then 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 driver and reinforced the importance of confirming that valves are closed and equipment is functioning properly after filling. Chiquita also completed retraining of the tank farm personnel involved in the event on the applicable post-fill walkaround inspection procedures to help reduce the potential for similar spills.
9/28/2026	7:00 a.m.	Leak	0.5 gallons	No	The flange on the well casing was loose, causing a slow drip along the casing.	Absorbent was promptly placed around the base of the well to contain the liquid.	The soiled absorbent was removed and placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup was completed within approximately 30 minutes.	Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform preventative maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
9/28/2026	11:20 a.m.	Leak	20 ounces	No	The leak resulted from a faulty vent on the top of the third-party tanker trailer. The vent's ball/check valve, which is designed to prevent liquid from exiting through the vent, failed to function as intended.	A tray was placed below the source to contain the liquid.	Absorbent was added to the affected area which was then placed into an appropriate container for proper disposal. A third-party vacuum truck was used to remove the remaining liquid from the top of the tanker truck. Cleanup was completed within approximately 20 minutes.	Chiquita notified the third-party driver of the incident to prevent recurrence.
9/29/2026	7:30 a.m.	PLR	100 gallons	No	The PLR appears to have resulted from a failed pump flange at the air supply connection. Although well CV-2558 had previously been identified as a PLR well, there were no indications of an imminent release, and no work was being performed at the well at the time of the event.	Chiquita personnel promptly isolated the wellhead by closing the upstream valve and shutting down the pump. Chiquita personnel then drilled a one-inch hole to repair the damaged fitting connection and installed a plug to seal the well.	Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area. The soiled absorbent was subsequently placed into a container for proper disposal. A vacuum truck was used to remove all standing liquid, and the affected rock was subsequently removed on October 9, 2026. Cleanup commenced immediately and was completed by October 9, 2026.	Chiquita personnel corrected the pump flange issue and lowered the wellhead to adjust its configuration and help address the conditions associated with the PLR. Chiquita also plans to install a knife gate valve to allow the wellhead to be isolated in a controlled manner, as necessary, to further reduce the potential for similar releases.
9/29/2026	8:00 a.m.	Leak	1 cup	No	The leak appears to have resulted from a failed flange gasket. Thermal cycling may have contributed to the gasket failure.	The affected area was cleaned with absorbent wipes.	The soiled absorbent wipes were placed into a container for proper disposal. Cleanup was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita replaced the failed flange gasket and the related hose. Chiquita will continue to inspect equipment, perform preventative maintenance, and implement appropriate corrective actions as needed.
9/29/2026	4:00 p.m.	Spill	5 gallons	No	The spill resulted from third-party driver error during loading of the tanker truck.	The pump was shut off and the driver immediately closed the truck's valve to stop the flow of liquid. Absorbent was promptly applied to the affected area and the soiled absorbent was placed into a container for proper disposal.	The pump was shut off immediately. Cleanup was completed within approximately 10 minutes.	Chiquita has ordered additional equipment to provide real-time flow monitoring during loading to aid third-party drivers in properly loading tanker trailers.
9/30/2026	10:00 a.m.	Leak	1 gallon	No	A third-party contractor shut off the vacuum source while the pneumatic pump continued to operate, resulting in an accumulation of liquid that escaped through the wellhead assembly.	The pneumatic pump was shut off and soil was promptly applied to the affected area to contain the leachate leak.	The affected soil was removed and placed into a container for appropriate disposal. Cleanup was completed within approximately 5 minutes.	Chiquita sealed the affected area of the wellhead assembly to prevent further leakage. Chiquita will review and enhance communication and coordination between Chiquita personnel and its third-party contractors.