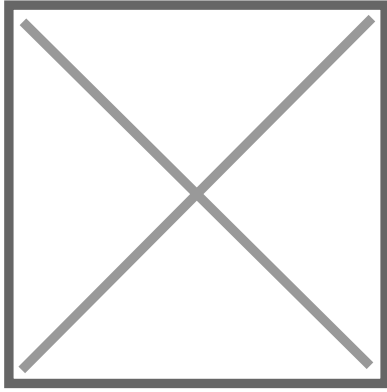




Multi-agency Response: Chiquita Canyon Landfill ?? Castaic, Santa Clarita Valley, California

Description

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Ongoing Response at Chiquita Canyon Landfill | Roles and actions of CalEPA entities | Further background and info

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Ongoing Response at Chiquita Canyon Landfill

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An aerial view of Chiquita Canyon Landfill.
An aerial view of Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

Ongoing Response at Chiquita Canyon Landfill

Chiquita Canyon Landfill is a 639-acre municipal solid waste landfill in Los Angeles County that is operated by Chiquita Canyon, LLC (CCL) and has served the county since 1972.

Since approximately May 2022, the site has been experiencing an exothermic chemical reaction deep within an inactive portion of the landfill, which has since grown in size and impact. This reaction is causing several issues for nearby residents, including noxious odors emanating offsite that have generated thousands of complaints. The reaction is also producing additional quantities of liquids in the waste â?? called leachate â?? that must be pumped out of the reaction area. This leachate has been found to contain high levels of benzene, a dangerous chemical that can harm the public health and environment. To avoid such harm, the leachate must be managed as a hazardous waste.

Local, state, and federal agencies have been collaborating to address concerns about the operations and overall state of the landfill and have issued over 100 notices of violation to CCL.

In November 2023, local, state, and federal agencies formed a Multi-Agency Critical Action Team (MCAT), led by U.S. EPA, to coordinate investigations and enforcement efforts and to ensure compliance with laws protecting public health and the environment. In addition to U.S. EPA, the task force includes the following agencies: California Environmental Protection Agency and five of its entities, CalRecycle, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Air Resources Board, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment; the South Coast Air Quality Management District; and the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Works, Public Health and Planning. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Solid Waste Management Program, is certified to act as the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) by CalRecycle. This expansive coordination has resulted in several important action orders, including:

- an order for abatement issued by the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board to address odor issues;
- a Unilateral Administrative Order issued by U.S. EPA requiring CCL to comply with the law and properly manage, treat, and dispose of hazardous waste and to take steps to mitigate the odors emanating from the landfill; and
- an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order [issued](#) by CalEPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control that requires the landfill to relocate the tank farm, expand the geosynthetic cover, install a vertical reaction barrier, and conduct additional monitoring, maintenance, and reporting activities to manage the reaction.

Please find more information in the sections below.

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Roles and actions of CalEPA entities

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CalEPA is the umbrella agency to six boards, departments, and offices (BDOs) that are charged with restoring, protecting and enhancing the environment to ensure public health, environmental quality, and economic vitality. Five of those BDOs play a role in regulating the Chiquita Canyon Landfill: the California Air Resources Board, CalRecycle, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (which is part of the State Water Resources Control Board and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards), and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEPA helps ensure enforcement and compliance activities are consistent, effective and coordinated, including through its participation in the multi-agency critical action team. CalEPA has also dedicated an on-scene coordinator to the R-MAC group and is actively engaged with efforts to establish and achieve objectives at the site. Five of CalEPA's boards, departments and offices are participating in the R-MAC group.

The following information will continue to be updated with new actions taken by CalEPA BDOs.

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body_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
•body_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•body_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•body_link_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•
body_link_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_link_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
body_link_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•body_link_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_link_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•body_link_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•
body_link_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_link_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•body_ul_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•
body_ul_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_ul_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•body_ul_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•
body_ul_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_ul_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?•body_ul_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•body_ul_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_ul_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•body_ol_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•
body_ol_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_ol_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•body_ol_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•
body_ol_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_ol_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?•body_ol_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•body_ol_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_ol_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•body_quote_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•
•body_quote_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_quote_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
body_quote_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•body_quote_text_shadow_style,%91object
Object%93â?³ body_quote_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
body_quote_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•body_quote_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_quote_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•box_shadow_vertical_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
box_shadow_blur_tablet=â?•40pxâ?•vertical_offset_tablet=â?•0â?³ horizontal_offset_tablet=â?•0â?³
z_index_tablet=â?•0â?³ icon_color=â?•#000000â?³ module_alignment=â?•centerâ?•
border_color_all=â?•#ffffffâ?•box_shadow_horizontal_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•box_shadow_spread_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?•custom_margin=â?•-20px|||â?•][et_pb_accordion_item_builder_version=â?•4.27.4â?³

link_option_url_new_window=â?•offâ?• use_background_color_gradient=â?•offâ?•
background_color_gradient_stops=â?•#2b87da 0%|#29c4a9 100%â?•
background_color_gradient_stops_tablet=â?•#2b87da 0%|#29c4a9 100%â?•
background_color_gradient_stops_phone=â?•#2b87da 0%|#29c4a9 100%â?•
background_color_gradient_type=â?•linearâ?• background_color_gradient_direction=â?•180degâ?•
background_color_gradient_direction_tablet=â?•180degâ?•
background_color_gradient_direction_phone=â?•180degâ?•
background_color_gradient_direction_radial=â?•centerâ?• background_color_gradient_repeat=â?•offâ?•
• background_color_gradient_unit=â?•%â?• background_color_gradient_overlays_image=â?•offâ?•
parallax=â?•offâ?• parallax_method=â?•onâ?• background_size=â?•coverâ?•
background_image_width=â?•autoâ?• background_image_width_tablet=â?•autoâ?•
background_image_width_phone=â?•autoâ?• background_image_height=â?•autoâ?•
background_image_height_tablet=â?•autoâ?• background_image_height_phone=â?•autoâ?•
background_position=â?•centerâ?• background_horizontal_offset=â?•0pxâ?•
background_horizontal_offset_tablet=â?•0pxâ?• background_horizontal_offset_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
background_vertical_offset=â?•0pxâ?• background_vertical_offset_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
background_vertical_offset_phone=â?•0pxâ?• background_repeat=â?•no-repeatâ?•
background_blend=â?•normalâ?• allow_player_pause=â?•offâ?•
background_video_pause_outside_viewport=â?•onâ?• background_pattern_style=â?•polka-dotsâ?•
background_pattern_style_tablet=â?•polka-dotsâ?• background_pattern_style_phone=â?•polka-dotsâ?•
background_pattern_color=â?•rgba(0,0,0,0.2)â?• background_pattern_size=â?•initialâ?•
background_pattern_width=â?•autoâ?• background_pattern_width_tablet=â?•autoâ?•
background_pattern_width_phone=â?•autoâ?• background_pattern_height=â?•autoâ?•
background_pattern_height_tablet=â?•autoâ?• background_pattern_height_phone=â?•autoâ?•
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background_pattern_horizontal_offset_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
background_pattern_horizontal_offset_phone=â?•0pxâ?• background_pattern_vertical_offset=â?•0pxâ?•
• background_pattern_vertical_offset_tablet=â?•0pxâ?• background_pattern_vertical_offset_phone=â?•
0pxâ?• background_pattern_repeat=â?•repeatâ?• background_pattern_blend_mode=â?•normalâ?•
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background_mask_style_phone=â?•layer-blobâ?• background_mask_color=â?•#ffffffâ?•
background_mask_aspect_ratio=â?•landscapeâ?• background_mask_size=â?•stretchâ?•
background_mask_width=â?•autoâ?• background_mask_width_tablet=â?•autoâ?•
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background_mask_height_tablet=â?•autoâ?• background_mask_height_phone=â?•autoâ?•
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0pxâ?• background_mask_vertical_offset=â?•0pxâ?• background_mask_vertical_offset_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?• background_mask_vertical_offset_phone=â?•0pxâ?• background_mask_blend_mode=â?•
normalâ?• use_icon_font_size=â?•offâ?• text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•
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toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ toggle_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?•toggle_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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0pxâ?•toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength_phone=â?•
1pxâ?•closed_toggle_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•closed_toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object
Object%93â?³ closed_toggle_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•closed_toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object
Object%93â?³ closed_toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•closed_toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object
Object%93â?³ closed_toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength_phone=â?•1pxâ?•body_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•
body_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•body_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
body_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•body_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•
body_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?
•body_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•body_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•
body_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•
body_text_shadow_blur_strength_phone=â?•1pxâ?•body_link_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•
body_link_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•body_link_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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body_link_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
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body_link_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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body_ul_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_ul_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?•body_ul_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
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1pxâ?•body_ol_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•body_ol_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•
body_ol_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_ol_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
body_ol_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•body_ol_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•
body_ol_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_ol_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?•body_ol_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•

body_ol_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•body_ol_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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body_quote_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
body_quote_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•body_quote_text_shadow_style,%91object
Object%93â?³ body_quote_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
body_quote_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
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box_shadow_horizontal=â?•box_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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0pxâ?•box_shadow_vertical_phone=â?•0pxâ?•box_shadow_blur=â?•box_shadow_style,%91object
Object%93â?³ box_shadow_blur_tablet=â?•40pxâ?•box_shadow_blur_phone=â?•40pxâ?•
box_shadow_spread=â?•box_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ box_shadow_spread_tablet=â?•
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hover_transition_duration=â?•300msâ?•hover_transition_duration_tablet=â?•300msâ?•
hover_transition_duration_phone=â?•300msâ?•hover_transition_delay=â?•0msâ?•
hover_transition_delay_tablet=â?•0msâ?•hover_transition_delay_phone=â?•0msâ?•
hover_transition_speed_curve=â?•easeâ?•vertical_offset_tablet=â?•0â?³ vertical_offset_phone=â?•
0â?³ horizontal_offset_tablet=â?•0â?³ horizontal_offset_phone=â?•0â?³ z_index=â?•1â?³
z_index_tablet=â?•1â?³ z_index_phone=â?•1â?³ /][et_pb_accordion_item_builder_version=â?•
4.27.4â?³ title=â?•California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)â?•
title_tablet=â?•Californiaâ??s Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)â?•
title_phone=â?•Californiaâ??s Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)â?•
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background_color_gradient_stops=â?•#2b87da 0%|#29c4a9 100%â?•
background_color_gradient_stops_tablet=â?•#2b87da 0%|#29c4a9 100%â?•
background_color_gradient_stops_phone=â?•#2b87da 0%|#29c4a9 100%â?•
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background_color_gradient_direction_tablet=â?•180degâ?•
background_color_gradient_direction_phone=â?•180degâ?•
background_color_gradient_direction_radial=â?•centerâ?•background_color_gradient_repeat=â?•offâ?
•background_color_gradient_unit=â?•%â?•background_color_gradient_overlays_image=â?•offâ?
parallax=â?•offâ?•parallax_method=â?•onâ?•background_size=â?•coverâ?•
background_image_width=â?•autoâ?•background_image_width_tablet=â?•autoâ?•
background_image_width_phone=â?•autoâ?•background_image_height=â?•autoâ?•
background_image_height_tablet=â?•autoâ?•background_image_height_phone=â?•autoâ?•
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background_horizontal_offset_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•background_horizontal_offset_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
background_vertical_offset=â?•0pxâ?•background_vertical_offset_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
background_vertical_offset_phone=â?•0pxâ?•background_repeat=â?•no-repeatâ?•
background_blend=â?•normalâ?•allow_player_pause=â?•offâ?•

background_video_pause_outside_viewport=â?•onâ?• background_pattern_style=â?•polka-dotsâ?•
background_pattern_style_tablet=â?•polka-dotsâ?• background_pattern_style_phone=â?•polka-dotsâ?•
background_pattern_color=â?•rgba(0,0,0,0.2)â?• background_pattern_size=â?•initialâ?•
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background_pattern_width_phone=â?•autoâ?• background_pattern_height=â?•autoâ?•
background_pattern_height_tablet=â?•autoâ?• background_pattern_height_phone=â?•autoâ?•
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background_pattern_horizontal_offset_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
background_pattern_horizontal_offset_phone=â?•0pxâ?• background_pattern_vertical_offset=â?•0pxâ?•
• background_pattern_vertical_offset_tablet=â?•0pxâ?• background_pattern_vertical_offset_phone=â?•
0pxâ?• background_pattern_repeat=â?•repeatâ?• background_pattern_blend_mode=â?•normalâ?•
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background_mask_style_phone=â?•layer-blobâ?• background_mask_color=â?•#ffffffâ?•
background_mask_aspect_ratio=â?•landscapeâ?• background_mask_size=â?•stretchâ?•
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background_mask_width_phone=â?•autoâ?• background_mask_height=â?•autoâ?•
background_mask_height_tablet=â?•autoâ?• background_mask_height_phone=â?•autoâ?•
background_mask_position=â?•centerâ?• background_mask_horizontal_offset=â?•0pxâ?•
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0pxâ?• background_mask_vertical_offset=â?•0pxâ?• background_mask_vertical_offset_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?• background_mask_vertical_offset_phone=â?•0pxâ?• background_mask_blend_mode=â?•
normalâ?• text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?• text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•
text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?• text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•
text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?• text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•
text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•
text_shadow_blur_strength_phone=â?•1pxâ?• toggle_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•
toggle_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?• toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?• toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•
toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•
1pxâ?• toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength_phone=â?•1pxâ?• closed_toggle_text_shadow_style=â?•
noneâ?• closed_toggle_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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closed_toggle_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•closed_toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object
Object%93â?³ closed_toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•closed_toggle_text_shadow_style,%91object
Object%93â?³ closed_toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•
closed_toggle_text_shadow_blur_strength_phone=â?•1pxâ?• body_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•
body_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•body_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³

body_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
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body_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?
• body_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?• body_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•
body_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_text_shadow_blur_strength_tablet=â?•1pxâ?•
body_text_shadow_blur_strength_phone=â?•1pxâ?• body_link_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•
body_link_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•body_link_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_link_text_shadow_horizontal_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
body_link_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
body_link_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•body_link_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
body_link_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•0pxâ?•
body_link_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?• body_link_text_shadow_blur_strength=â?•
body_link_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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body_link_text_shadow_blur_strength_phone=â?•1pxâ?• body_ul_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?•
body_ul_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•body_ul_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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0pxâ?• body_ul_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
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1pxâ?• body_ol_text_shadow_style=â?•noneâ?• body_ol_text_shadow_horizontal_length=â?•
body_ol_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³
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body_ol_text_shadow_horizontal_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?• body_ol_text_shadow_vertical_length=â?•
body_ol_text_shadow_style,%91object Object%93â?³ body_ol_text_shadow_vertical_length_tablet=â?•
0pxâ?• body_ol_text_shadow_vertical_length_phone=â?•0pxâ?•
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Role

Non-hazardous waste solid waste facilities throughout California are regulated by CalRecycle-certified waste Local Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). The Chiquita Canyon Landfill is regulated by the Los Angeles County Public Health Department. CalRecycle monitors the LEA's performance and provides technical and enforcement guidance and support to LEAs and other agencies that regulate these facilities, including the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

CalRecycle is responsible for certifying local jurisdictions to act as the EA (a Local Enforcement Agency, or LEA), allowing local jurisdictions to retain control over local solid waste matters. However, in jurisdictions where CalRecycle has not certified an LEA, CalRecycle acts as the EA. With few exceptions, where there is a certified LEA, CalRecycle does not have authority to bring direct enforcement action against a SWF. That authority rests with the LEA.

Key Actions

• Issuance of expert analysis

- ■ On March 28, 2025, CalRecycle issued an [expert analysis](#) using new information provided by the landfill at the end of February. The data show:
 - The reaction is not under control.
 - The reaction has, in fact, expanded to 90 acres—over three times larger than the 28-acre reaction area claimed by the landfill.
- Based on this analysis, CalRecycle recommends that the LEA require the landfill operator to:
 - Relocate the leachate tank farm.
 - Expand the geosynthetic cover.
 - Install a vertical soil barrier to keep the reaction from spreading further.

• Landfill Gas Monitoring and Control, and Site Maintenance Violations

- The Los Angeles County Public Health Department (CCL's LEA) has issued violations to Chiquita Canyon Landfill for non-compliance with the following requirements:
 - Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20921 — Gas Monitoring and Control—
 - Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20750 — Site Maintenance—

• Notice of Intent to Include the Chiquita Canyon Landfill on the Inventory of Facilities that Violate State Minimum Standards

- On February 28, 2024, CalRecycle sent a notice to the operator of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill that the facility would be placed in the Inventory of Solid Waste Facilities Which Violate State Minimum Standards (Inventory) if the following violations were not corrected

within 90 days:

- Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20921 – Gas Monitoring and Control
- Title 27, California Code of Regulations, Section 20750 – Site Maintenance
- **Inclusion of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill on the Inventory of Facilities that Violate State Minimum Standards (Inventory)**
 - After confirming with the Los Angeles County LEA that the violations continue, CalRecycle issued notified the landfill operators on May 15, 2024, that the Chiquita Canyon Landfill is now on the Inventory through an inclusion letter. The LEA will continue to inspect the facility monthly and will provide inspection reports regarding the status of resolving the violations.
- **CalRecycle Technical Assistance to the Local Enforcement Agency**
 - In November 2023, the LEA required the CCL to apply additional cover, perform a slope stability analysis, install temperature monitoring probes, and develop a plan to construct a reaction break if the incident continues to expand. CalRecycle's Engineering Support Branch staff continue to provide technical support to the LEA and the landfill operators on these issues.
- **Participation in Multiagency Site Visits**
 - On November 2, 2023, staff from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Solid Waste Management Program, acting as the solid waste local enforcement agency (LEA), CalRecycle, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (USEPAR9) conducted a site visit at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. In addition, CalRecycle staff participated in a site visit on May 23, 2024, with LEA and USEPA staff to verify site conditions necessary to complete the review of the slope stability report.
- **Continued Technical and Enforcement Guidance**
 - In December 2023, U.S. EPA Region 9 established a multi-agency coordination group, which CalRecycle is a member of, for all the agencies mentioned above to coordinate the enforcement, resolution of technical issues, and the release of public information.
 - In February 2024, U.S. EPA Region 9, CalEPA, and Los Angeles County established the Response Multi-Agency Coordination Group (RMACG) to monitor and advise the operator of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill on the ongoing response to the reaction at the landfill. CalRecycle staff participate in the Environmental Unit of the RMACG with staff from the LEA, LARWQCB, DTSC, and the LA Co. DPW.

Visit CalRecycle's [Chiquita Canyon Sanitary Landfill webpage](#) for more.

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Role

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has regulatory authority over facilities in California related to hazardous waste management, ensuring compliance with environmental laws, conducting inspections, and overseeing cleanup activities if contamination is detected. DTSC monitors the management, handling, treatment, and disposal of toxic substances and investigates violations of California's Hazardous Waste Control Laws.

DTSC has been closely collaborating with state, local, and federal agencies to respond to the exothermic reaction taking place at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. DTSC has assisted with testing the leachate being created by the reaction and found that it contains levels of contamination making it a hazardous waste, resulting in several violations being issued to CCL as described below. DTSC will continue to investigate Chiquita Canyon's management of hazardous waste and remains committed to collaborating with our regulatory partners at the local, state, and federal levels to prioritize the safety of the community and the environment. DTSC will serve an important role in the R-MAC, helping to safely manage the increasing levels of leachate being produced by the thermal event, including testing, storage, treatment, and disposal of any hazardous wastes.

Key Actions

- **Issuance of an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order**
 - On April 1, 2025, DTSC issued an [Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order](#) to Chiquita Canyon Landfill, LLC and its affiliated and parent companies: Chiquita Canyon, Inc. and Waste Connections US, Inc. (collectively, "the landfill").
 - The order outlines that these entities' actions have created an imminent and substantial danger of a release of hazardous leachate that could harm public health and the environment.

- It requires the landfill to relocate the tank farm, expand the geosynthetic cover to encompass the entire main canyon waste mass, install a vertical reaction barrier at the southern portion of the landfill, and conduct additional monitoring, maintenance, and reporting activities to manage the reaction.

- **Summaries of Violations:**

- On April 1, 2025, DTSC issued CCL a [Summary of Violations](#). The landfill is required to take prompt corrective measures or face penalties of up to \$70,000 per day. The violations involved:
 - Failure to minimize the possibility of release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents.
 - Failure to comply with land disposal restriction requirements.
- On March 29, 2024, DTSC issued CCL a [Summary of Violations](#). The three violations involved:
 - Failing to minimize the possibility of releases of hazardous waste or constituents by not utilizing all resources to demonstrate immediate response and failing to utilize permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.
 - Disposing of hazardous waste leachate at unauthorized locations.
 - Experiencing a release of hazardous waste leachate due to a ruptured hose during treatment processes, causing an employee injury and violating regulations regarding hazardous waste disposal and containment.
- On March 1, 2024, DTSC issued a [Summary of Violations](#) to an offsite disposal facility called Avalon, owned by the Radford Alexander Corporation, for accepting hazardous waste from the Chiquita Canyon Landfill without the necessary permit. Avalon is an offsite disposal facility for nonhazardous waste and is not authorized to accept hazardous waste like the leachate sent there for disposal from the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Such hazardous waste must go to permitted facilities for safe disposal to protect the public health and safety and the environment.
- On Feb. 15, 2024, DTSC issued CCL a [Summary of Violations](#) with five citations for improper hazardous waste management in violation of California's Hazardous Waste Control Laws. Violations included failure to properly treat, store, and dispose of hazardous waste as required by law and failure to operate in a way that minimizes the possibility of an unauthorized discharge of hazardous waste.

- **Proposition 65 Notice:**

- On Feb. 16, 2024, DTSC notified Los Angeles County agencies of a threatened illegal discharge under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, more commonly known as [Proposition 65](#). Proposition 65 requires such a notice when a government agency becomes aware of an illegal discharge or threatened illegal discharge of

hazardous waste that is likely to cause substantial injury to the public health or safety.

Learn more on the [DTSC Chiquita Canyon webpage](#).

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Role

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, one of nine regional boards under the State Water Board umbrella, regulates the Chiquita Canyon Landfill through issuance and oversight of three permits: (1) waste discharge requirements to protect water quality from disposal of solid wastes to land, including provisions for leachate and landfill-gas condensate containment and groundwater monitoring; (2) a General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to protect water quality from stormwater runoff associated with Industrial Activities, including provisions for effluent limits, non-stormwater discharge prohibitions, pollution prevention, and monitoring; and (3) a General NPDES Permit to protect water quality from stormwater runoff associated with Construction Activities, including provisions for non-stormwater discharge prohibitions, pollution prevention, and monitoring. The regional board reviews pollution prevention plans and monitoring reports, conducts inspections to determine compliance with permit provisions, and takes enforcement action for violations of permit provisions as necessary.

Key Actions

- **Denial of request:**
 - On Sept. 25, 2024, to protect groundwater under the landfill in Castaic, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board reaffirmed its June decision denying Chiquita Canyon LLC's request to place waste in Cell 8B. The board determined that information submitted by the landfill operator was inadequate to address impacts from the ongoing development of individual cells within the landfill.
- **Notice of Violation:**
 - On June 27, 2024, the board issued a Notice of Violation to the landfill operator for alleged violations of the investigative order issued on March 20, 2024, including the failure to submit certain technical reports and monitoring and reporting data. The notice directs the landfill to submit the late and missing information to establish compliance.
- **Notice of Violation:**
 - On April 9, 2024, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Notice of Violation to the landfill operator after investigating multiple complaints from citizens. The notice documents violations of the company's industrial stormwater permit, including unauthorized discharges. Videos and pictures from citizen complaints show water being pumped from the south detention basin into a local waterway that flows into the Santa Clara River. Violations for failing to fully complete the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan were also cited. The notice directs the landfill operators to cease the unauthorized discharges, undertake corrective measures and, by May 9, 2024, submit a written response identifying those actions.
- **Notice of Violation:**
 - On March 28, 2024, the board issued a Notice of Violation to the landfill operator for failing to comply with its industrial stormwater permit. The notice documents violations observed by staff during Jan. 29 and Feb. 20 inspections, along with those identified through sampling data submitted by the landfill. The notice directs the landfill operator to take immediate action to correct the alleged permit noncompliance, including the installation of additional best management practices.
- **Investigative Order:**
 - On March 20, 2024, the Los Angeles board issued an investigative order requiring the landfill operator to submit technical reports and additional monitoring and reporting. The order also required the landfill operator to install additional groundwater monitoring wells and conduct sampling of all discharges into the sedimentation basin.
- **2023-2024 Storms:**
 - Staff conducted multiple inspections during the storms to determine if the landfill was effectively implementing best management practices and preventing stormwater contamination from leachate. However, contaminated stormwater may have exited the landfill during the storm events.
 - In advance of storms in December 2023 and January and February 2024, board staff directed the landfill operator to and prevent leachate from mixing with stormwater and exiting the site.
- **Notice of Violation:**
 - On November 22, 2023, the Los Angeles board issued a Notice of Violation to the landfill operator for violating its waste discharge requirements by failing to maintain adequate

leachate containment and report a leachate seepage . The notice required the operator to submit a report on all corrective actions taken to mitigate the waste discharge violations by Dec. 22, 2023 and submit a final compliance report by Feb. 20, 2024. Both reports described the temporary measures to manage and contain the leachate and permanent steps to repair the landfill liner.

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Role

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is a member of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill technical advisory task force, providing its expertise and support to South Coast Air Quality Management District, the local air district with primary authority over non-moving (stationary) source air pollution such as Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

[CARB Chiquita Canyon webpage.](#)

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Role

OEHHA is the lead state agency for the assessment of health risks posed by environmental contaminants. OEHHA's mission is to protect the public health and environment through scientific evaluations that inform, support, and guide actions like the ongoing response at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. OEHHA is participating in the R-MAC by supporting its public health assessment unit and is evaluating data being collected from the landfill and surrounding area to identify potential health risks, as well as providing its technical expertise to direct future health risk assessments as the thermal event continues.

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Further Background and Info

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On July 25, 2025, EPA issued aâ?Letter to Chiquita Canyon, LLCâ? (â??CCLâ?) that requires CCL to perform additional work pursuant to the Unilateral Administrative Order. EPA is requiring CCL to expand the geomembrane cover with at least an additional 100 acres of a less permeable EVOH geomembrane cover on the landfill surface, covering the current extent of the smoldering and subsurface reaction and all areas of the landfill that the reaction has the potential to expand to. These actions are necessary to remedy off-site impacts caused by odors and emissions and mitigate and limit the expansion of smoldering and the subsurface reaction.

On February 21, 2024, the U.S. EPA ordered CCL to [take immediate steps](#) to protect human health and the environment at the landfill. The [Unilateral Administrative Order](#) (UAO) issued by U.S. EPA, in coordination with the MCAT, requires CCL to comply with the law and properly manage, treat and dispose of hazardous waste and to take steps to mitigate the odors emanating from the landfill. The UAO requires CCL to provide a plan which meets these objectives and incorporates ongoing enforcement efforts by state and local agencies to ensure a comprehensive response to the challenges posed by the landfill.

For more information on the Chiquita Canyon response:

- [Chiquita Canyon Landfill response website](#)
- [U.S. EPA Chiquita Canyon Landfill webpage](#)
- [L.A. County Planning's Chiquita Canyon Landfill webpage](#)
- [South Coast Air Quality Management District](#)
 - [Chiquita Canyon Landfill notice of violations list from SCAQMD](#)
 - [Update on Activities to Reduce Odor Issues from Castaic and Sylmar Landfills](#) (Jan/Feb 2024 newsletter)
 - [Chiquita Canyon Landfill Required to Take Additional Steps to Address Oozing Liquid Causing Foul Odors, Increase Air Monitoring and Public Transparency](#) (1/17/24)
 - [South Coast AQMD Issues Violations to Chiquita Canyon Landfill for Failure to Maintain Leachate Collection System](#) (11/17/2023)
 - [Chiquita Canyon Landfill is Ordered to Resolve Odors Impacting Community, Find Cause of Increased Sulfur Emissions](#) (9/7/2023)
 - [South Coast AQMD Requests Order Against Chiquita Canyon Landfill](#) (8/15/2023)
 - [Submit Air Quality/Odor Complaints to AQMD](#)

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Author

kkipling