

**BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE
SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

In The Matter Of

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,

Petitioner,

vs.

CHIQUITA CANYON, LLC a Delaware
Corporation,
[Facility ID No. 119219]

Respondent.

Case No. 6177-4

**DECLARATION OF PABLO SANCHEZ
SORIA, PH.D., CIH**

Health and Safety Code § 41700, and District
Rules 402, 431.1, 3002, 203, 1150

Hearing Date: January 16, 2024

Time: 9:30 am

Place: Hearing Board
South Coast Air Quality
Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

I, Pablo Sanchez-Soria, Ph.D., CIH declare:

1. I am of sufficient age and am competent to testify in this proceeding. I provide this declaration based upon my personal knowledge and expertise in human and environmental toxicology and am competent to testify to the facts and opinions set forth herein.

Background and Credentials

2. I am a Senior Toxicologist with Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health Consultants (“CTEH”), a toxicology and environmental health consulting firm, with special expertise in toxicology, risk assessment, causation analysis, toxicity evaluations, and complex industrial hygiene analyses. As a Toxicologist and a Certified Industrial Hygienist, I have worked on landfill projects and projects related to human health risk assessments concerning human exposures in both residential and occupational settings.

3. I have worked for CTEH for over 10 years. I have over 10 years of experience in the area of toxicology, specializing in human health risk assessments. I hold a Bachelor of Science with a double

1 major in microbiology and nutritional sciences and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the
2 University of Arizona, Tucson. I regularly serve as a technical director, manage, and conduct air
3 monitoring projects in the field of toxicology, risk assessment, and causation analysis for CTEH. I also
4 manage work evaluating the relationship between chemical exposure and health risks.

5 4. In the area of odorous constituent data analysis and assessment, I have overseen over 50
6 projects concerning odorous and other emissions that may be associated with landfill or other industrial
7 activity both on-site and in surrounding communities. I have personally led air monitoring and
8 environmental sampling teams on over 70 hazardous materials incidents and chemical releases, the
9 majority of which have involved evaluations of odorous constituents. During these incidents, I have
10 served various health and safety roles within an Incident Command Structure, alongside local, state, and
11 federal agencies, making joint decisions that have a direct effect on public and worker health and safety.
12 I oversee a staff of 7 professional toxicologist and health scientists nationwide, and have directed over
13 100 environmental scientists and data scientists in large-scale field responses involving evaluations of
14 human health and environmental impacts.

15 5. My experience monitoring, analyzing, and assessing odorous constituent data related to
16 landfills and human health risk analyses related to surrounding communities has provided me with the
17 skills, knowledge, and judgment to identify and advise on conditions related to public health.

18 6. I have been hired as an expert witness or provided testimony as a toxicological subject
19 matter expert before legislative bodies and regulatory agencies as well as in civil cases over 15 times.

20 **Experience Working with Chiquita Canyon Landfill**

21 7. I was initially retained by Chiquita Canyon, LLC (“Chiquita”) on August 16, 2023 to
22 work with Chiquita’s Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”) to evaluate the long and short-term
23 health and environmental impacts of the current odor problem as required by the Los Angeles County
24 Department of Public Health. In this role, I have provided guidance to Chiquita on the expansion of its
25 community air monitoring system and assessed the data collected for potential health impacts to the
26 community surrounding the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (the “Landfill”) from airborne constituents from a
27 toxicological perspective.

1 8. I was a witness for Chiquita as an expert on public health evaluation as it relates to air
2 quality and exposure to air contaminants during the September 6, 2023 hearing in this matter.

3 9. I serve on the DMS Committee, created pursuant to **Condition 12** of the Stipulated
4 Order, as the subject matter expert for public health relating to air quality and exposure to air
5 contaminants, including DMS. In this capacity, my colleague and fellow CTEH toxicologist, Dr. Angela
6 Perez, and I are also preparing a report for South Coast AQMD on the known health risks from acute
7 and long-term exposure to DMS, including any action levels from other public health or government
8 entities, and including a summary of recommended actions for persons exposed to DMS for acute and
9 long-term durations. This report will be submitted to South Coast AQMD on January 15, 2024.

10 10. This declaration is made for the January 16, 2024 status and modification hearing on the
11 Stipulated Order for Abatement adopted on September 6, 2023.

12 **Chiquita's Implementation of the Stipulated Order**

13 11. On September 6, 2023, the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board (the "Hearing Board")
14 adopted the Stipulated Order. With respect to implementation, CTEH has worked primarily on three
15 conditions: odor surveillance, the report on the known health risks from acute and long-term exposure to
16 DMS, and the monthly community meetings.

17 12. Under the Stipulated Order, Chiquita has been conducting daily odor surveillance in the
18 communities surrounding the Landfill. Pursuant to **Condition 1 and 1(a)**, Chiquita started conducting
19 odor surveillance on September 7, 2023. Odor surveillance consistent with the Stipulated Order has
20 been ongoing since. Individuals retained by CTEH and trained in odor surveillance have been
21 conducting Chiquita's odor surveillance since September 25, 2023. The odor surveillance occurs twice
22 daily, once between 7am and 11am and once between 8pm and 12am at 32 surveillance stops. At each
23 stop, odor surveyors stand outside of their vehicle to assess the odor and log the date and time, stop
24 number, wind speed and direction, narrative description of odors detected, current weather conditions,
25 and odor strength (1-5). All data is collected in a log.

26 13. To comply with **Condition 12(b)(v)**, Dr. Perez and I are preparing a report on the known
27 health risks from acute and long-term exposure to DMS, including any action levels from other public
28 health or government entities, and including a summary of recommended actions for persons exposed to

1 DMS for acute and long-term durations. The report will be submitted to South Coast AQMD on January
2 15, 2024 as required.

3 14. Under **Condition 29**, Chiquita has hosted one-hour public community information
4 meetings every month since the Stipulated Order went into effect. At each meeting, Chiquita provides
5 updates with regards to implementation of the Stipulated Order and makes time available for public
6 comments and questions. Meeting information, such as meeting dates and virtual attendance links, is
7 available on Chiquita's Odor Mitigation webpage. Myself or Dr. Perez have been available at each
8 community meeting. We typically present a brief update on our ongoing studies and explain the data
9 that is available on Chiquita's website, and are available for questions from the community or attendees
10 of the meeting. Following each meeting, all presentation materials are made available on Chiquita's
11 Odor Mitigation webpage.

12 **Proposed Modifications and Additions to the Stipulated Order.**

13 15. I understand that in advance of the January 16, 2024 Hearing the parties have discussed
14 proposed modifications to the Stipulated Order. I have reviewed the version of the proposed conditions
15 that is current as of the date of this declaration. I believe that the modifications and new conditions
16 described below are all reasonable modifications or additions to the Stipulated Order.

17 16. The parties propose modifying Condition 1(e) to require that the Odor Surveillance Log
18 include an acknowledgement by the person performing the odor surveillance that they did not visit on-
19 site areas at the Landfill where exposed trash or landfill odors exist within four hours prior to conducting
20 an odor surveillance.

21 Executed on this 9th day of January, 2024, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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24 Pablo Sanchez-Soria, PhD, CIH
25 Senior Toxicologist
26 CTEH
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