



REGION 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

April 20, 2026

Mr. Kevin Green
District Manager
Chiquita Canyon Landfill
29201 Henry Mayo Drive
Castaic, CA 91384-2705

RE: Notice of Deficiency to West Toe Buttress Work Plan (April 1, 2026)

Dear Kevin Green:

On March 17, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) issued a letter (the “Additional Work Letter”), enclosed as **Enclosure A**, to Chiquita Canyon, LLC (“CCL”) directing CCL to implement additional work under Paragraph 90 of the Unilateral Administrative Order, EPA Docket No. RCRA 7003-09-2024-0001 and CERCLA 106-09-2024-05, In the Matter of Chiquita Canyon, LLC, issued February 21, 2024 (the “UAO”). The additional work required under the Additional Work Letter included making improvements on the west side of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (“Landfill”). In response to the Additional Work Letter, on April 1, 2026, CCL submitted the Draft West Slope Improvements Work Plan (the “Plan”).

EPA has reviewed the Plan, and in accordance with Paragraph 31 of the UAO, EPA disapproves, in part, of the Plan, and directs CCL to modify the Plan.

Pursuant to Paragraph 33 of the UAO, CCL shall, within six (6) days of this notice, by end of day April 26, 2026, correct the deficiencies listed below and resubmit the deliverable to EPA for approval:

- i. Deficiency of Section “Project Summary”
 - a. The Plan should include a brief discussion of the need for the project, i.e. current conditions and how the project will address the problem.
 - b. The Plan should provide a project schedule to meet the project completion deadline of September 15, 2026, with specific start dates and completion dates for the phases detailed by the “Installation Process” section of the Plan.

- c. The Plan should confirm whether access to property outside of the Landfill boundary will be needed for the project and include in the project schedule timelines for obtaining access, consistent with the Additional Work Letter.
 - d. Consistent with the Additional Work Letter and the communication from John Perkey on March 31, 2026, EPA expects CCL to provide a certification of a qualified professional engineer(s) (in the case of relocation of the stormwater channel, a stormwater engineer) certifying the designs of the west slope improvements or stormwater channel, as applicable, concurrent with CCL's resubmission of the Plan.
 - ii. Deficiency of Section "Hours of Operation"
 - a. The Plan should provide that under normal working conditions, excavation will not be conducted between 6pm and 6am, on weekends, or on legal holidays, unless otherwise approved in writing by EPA (not South Coast Air Quality Management District ("South Coast AQMD")).
 - iii. Deficiency of Section, "Reroute Electrical Infrastructure"
 - a. The Plan lacks a discussion of how CCL will meet the requirement of the Additional Work Letter that "CCL shall take all necessary action to minimize the disruption to the gas collection system within the reaction area, including to horizontal collectors beneath the existing geomembrane cover, by moving, tying off, or otherwise modifying the existing gas collection system and to ensure continued gas collection to the maximum extent possible." The Plan should, without limitation, describe whether the electrical infrastructure to be relocated is critical for operation of gas collection and other equipment in the West Slope area and/or other parts of the Landfill; explain whether the relocation of electrical infrastructure is expected to result in equipment downtime in the area of the West Slope and/or other parts of the Landfill; identify the equipment that is likely to experience downtime; and identify any potential emissions that may result from such downtime.
 - b. The Plan should explain whether temporary portable engines or other equipment will be used to maintain operation of gas and leachate collection equipment such as thermal oxidizers and Lorentz pumps.
 - iv. Deficiencies of Section, "Relocation of Gas and Liquids Infrastructure"
 - a. The Plan should provide for final designs of the gas and liquid infrastructure (including but not limited to force main piping, gas header piping, soil vapor extraction wells, horizontal wells, vertical wells, sumps, pumps, gas probes, gas liner rises, and gas corrugated liner risers) in the West Slope Area. These final designs must specify the locations to which any infrastructure will be relocated; whether any infrastructure will be extended or tied into existing access points; and whether any infrastructure will be abandoned.

- b. CCL should ensure that at no point during the project will any gas or leachate piping be allowed to remain open to the atmosphere.
 - c. The Plan should explain how CCL will manage free liquids during the project. If CCL will manage free liquids by pumping the liquids via vac truck, the Plan should specifically address where the vac truck would be staged and what access the vac truck would have to the West Slope area.
- v. Deficiency of Section, “South Levee”
- a. The Plan states “a retaining wall will be constructed,” and then mentions “The South Levee will be based on prior drawings.” Please confirm whether CCL intends the “retaining wall” to be the same as the “South Levee”.
 - b. The Plan states that “The South Levee will be based on prior drawings.” The Plan must include final design drawings/specifications for the South Levee. The final design drawings/specifications for the South Levee should reflect any changes from the prior drawings, including the updated location at Cross Section F-F’ in Appendix B.
- vi. Deficiency of Section, “Locate Existing Anchor Trench”
- a. CCL should ensure that repairs are made to the existing bottom liner as the anchor trench is being located to allow for the efficient tying in or extension of the bottom liner over the lower buttress. The Plan should address the sequencing of such repairs and methods of such repairs.
- vii. Deficiency of Sections, “Construct Lower Buttress” and “Construct Upper Buttress”
- a. EPA understands that the April 1, 2026 submission of the Plan was “preliminary”. As such, the Plan lacks supporting analysis to confirm that the proposed buttressing fill “is designed and (will be) constructed with sufficient height, thickness, extent, compaction, and other criteria to provide adequate support to the west slope to prevent additional slope failure.” The Plan must include the design specifications of the lower and upper buttress as well as an analysis (e.g., engineering calculations) demonstrating that the upper and lower buttresses will be sufficient to ensure static and dynamic stability of the West Slope.
 - b. The design specifications in the Plan must include the expected source of the estimated 265,000 cubic yards of soil necessary for the buttress and the acceptance criteria for soil (chemical, geotechnical, etc.).
 - c. The Plan must clarify whether a smaller buttress for the northern section of the Western Slope will be included.
 - d. The Plan shall incorporate or attach a Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Plan which includes the methods that CCL will implement to verify that construction materials meet specifications prior to the use of such materials and that final construction of the upper and lower buttresses has been completed to design

specifications, including, without limitation, the methods for verifying that the fill material meets specifications and that compaction was performed to specifications. The QA/QC Plan should provide for CCL to submit to EPA documentation confirming satisfactory QA/QC was performed under the QA/QC plan.

- viii. Deficiency of Section, “Future Stormwater Routes and Controls”
 - a. The Plan must provide for final designs of the stormwater pathways, including (i) a design for routing stormwater to the East Basin and (ii) a design for routing stormwater to the South Basin.
- ix. Deficiency of Section, “Containment Structure on Southern End”
 - a. The Plan indicates that the construction of an additional retention basin on the southern end of the West Slope project is being considered; however, neither the revised (i) West Slope Preemptive Secondary Containment Plan (Revision v.1.4) and (ii) West Slope Contingency Secondary Containment Plan (Revision v.1.4) provide for an additional retention basin on the southern end of the West Slope. The Plan should clarify whether an additional retention basin will be constructed and, if so, include the design specifications for such a basin.
- x. Deficiency of Section, “Sampling Plan”
 - a. CCL cannot rely on its 2024 sampling results to characterize any waste generated as part of the West Slope project because the nature of the waste may have changed due to reaction conditions. Without additional sampling, CCL should place waste generated as a part of the West Slope project on any portion of the Landfill. CCL should confirm that if it generates any waste as part of the West Slope project, it will dispose such waste at appropriate off-site disposal facilities based on a proper waste determination; or, if CCL intends to place waste generated as part of the West Slope project on any portion of the Landfill, CCL should conduct sampling under a sampling plan approved by EPA, consistent with the Additional Work Letter.
- xi. Deficiency of Section, “Air Monitoring”
 - a. An Organic Vapor Analyzer (OVA) should be used for monitoring for Total Organic Compounds as methane unless another monitor is approved by EPA (not South Coast AQMD).
 - b. The Plan requires CCL to establish a “background level.” The Plan should clearly list the contaminants/analytes for which background levels will be established and, clarify throughout the Plan how background levels will be used (e.g., if stop work requirements suspend work until readings return to “pre-excavation levels,” clarify whether “pre-excavation levels,” is intended to reference background levels).
- xii. Deficiency of Section, “Excavation Working Face”

- a. The Plan should limit the excavation work place, which exposes refuse or other emission generating material to the atmosphere, to 1,000 square feet without prior written approval from EPA (not South Coast AQMD).
- b. The Plan lacks a discussion of how it will meet the requirement of the Additional Work Letter, that “CCL shall take all necessary action to minimize fugitive landfill gas emissions and odors from the west toe area.” The Plan should provide, at a minimum:
 - i. During excavation, all working excavation areas and excavated material shall be watered down until the surface is moist and then maintained in a moist condition to minimize emissions without creating a safety hazard condition; and
 - ii. Landfill materials and refuse which have been exposed to the atmosphere as a result of the excavation, which have not been excavated and relocated for burial or transported off site, shall be immediately, not to exceed 30 minutes, safety permitting or unless otherwise approved in writing by EPA, covered with a minimum of 6 inches of clean soil whenever excavation is not actively in progress, and at the end of each working day so that no portion of landfill material and refuse is exposed to the atmosphere.
- c. The Plan acknowledges that the removal of the cover could result in “landfill gas and leachate exposure.” Given the likelihood of these exposures, and the possibility of a slope failure, CCL should adopt measures to address community health and safety during the project, including, without limitation: (i) undertaking fenceline monitoring and stopping work and taking mitigation measures if thresholds are triggered; (ii) providing public notice of excavation activities at least 24 hours prior to such activities; (iii) providing a “cool zone” space for the public to go to during the course of the excavation activities and providing public notice of the availability of the “cool zone”; and (iv) providing public notice when any ambient air monitoring stations at the fenceline or in the surrounding community (MS-01 through MS-12) reach or exceed the applicable OEHHA acute REL concentrations (e.g., benzene acute REL is 8 ppb 1-hour average, H₂S acute REL is 30 ppb 1-hour average). Even if these requirements are covered in different sections of the Plan, they should be summarized in a section addressing community notification and impacts mitigation or a separate community health and safety plan for transparency.
- d. CCL should post a notice on the front page of its website (chiquitacanyon.com), and notify in writing all addresses located within 5,280 feet (1 mile) of the excavation area, at least 48 hours in advance of planned excavation commencement with a short description of the proposed excavation work, the estimate times of day excavation is proposed to occur, the estimated excavation start date, and estimated excavation end date.

xiii. Deficiency of Section, “Slope Stability Monitoring”

- a. The Plan should require the operation of a network of real-time total stations with monuments to track the slope movement. CCL should provide a report on slope

movement observed based on the monitoring station network on at least a weekly basis during all phases of the work from anchor trench excavation through immediately prior to construction of the upper buttress. CCL may request a later initiation of slope stability monitoring if expedited procurement is not available prior to initiating excavation work.

- b. Please clarify whether the reference to the “2024 Stability Analysis Work Plan” is a reference to the Slope Stability Recommendations, dated July 19, 2024, attached as Appendix C to the prior West Toe Drain Installation Project Work Plan. We note that the July 19, 2024, recommendations were revised as of August 23, 2024.
- c. CCL should work with local and emergency responders to ensure arrangements are in place for notifying the community in the event significant slope movement is detected, as requested in the letter dated April 14, 2026, regarding Public Health Directive to Develop a Community Exposure Mitigation Plan for a Slope Failure at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill, from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health.

xiv. Deficiency of Section, “Stop Work Requirements”

- a. CCL should implement South Coast AQMD’s Modified Order for Abatement, Condition 42 (“Condition 42”), for the West Slope Project as follows:
 - i. Implement the following subsections of Condition 42, as modified pursuant to this Notice:
 1. Condition 42(a), as modified pursuant to Section xv.a, below
 2. Condition 42(b), as modified pursuant to Section ii.a., above
 3. Condition 42(h), as modified pursuant to Section xi.a., above
 4. Condition 42(j), as modified as follows: During excavation, if the OVA or other approved organic monitor shows a sustained reading (greater than 15 second) of 200 ppmv Total Organic Compounds as methane or greater downwind from the excavation site at the property line (or other approved locations), the excavation shall cease and the area generating the emissions shall immediately be completely covered with a minimum of 6 inches of clean dirt. Excavation shall not resume until the readings return to the pre-excavation level.
 5. Condition 42(n), as modified pursuant to Section xii.b.ii., above
 6. Condition 42(o), as modified as follows: Daily inspection shall be conducted of any covered excavation area (per Condition 42(j), 42(n), above) to ensure the integrity of the cover(s) is maintained and secured so that no portion of the soil is exposed to atmosphere. If the cover material is not completely covering the landfill materials and refuse generating emissions, or if the integrity of the cover has been compromised, immediate corrective action shall be taken to add and

secure a new cover, or additional cover, on the area requiring corrective action. An inspection log shall be maintained to record the time of the inspections and any corrective action performed.

7. Condition 42(s), as modified as follows: Landfill excavation mitigation measures, other than those listed in this Notice and the West Toe Improvements Additional Work Letter, which EPA personnel determine are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public, shall be implemented upon written request.
8. Condition 42(v), as modified pursuant to Section xii.d., above
9. Condition 42(y), as modified pursuant to Section xii.a., above
10. Condition 42(aa), as modified as follows: During excavation, if any ambient air monitoring stations in the surrounding community (MS-01 through MS-12) reach or exceed applicable OEHHA acute REL concentrations (e.g. benzene acute REL is 8 ppb 1-hr average, H2S acute REL is 30 ppb 1-hour average), the excavation will cease and the area generating the emissions will immediately be covered with a minimum of 6 inches clean soil. Excavation will not resume until concentrations return and remain below the REL threshold(s) for the duration of at least one averaging cycle for the respective acute RELs.

For clarity, solely for the purposes of the West Slope project, CCL does not need to comply with the unmodified forms of these requirements.

- ii. Solely for the purposes of the West Slope project, CCL does not need to comply with the following Conditions:
 1. Condition 42(c);
 2. Condition 42(d-e);
 3. Conditions 42(i);
 4. Condition 42(k);
 5. Condition 42(t);
 6. Condition 42(x);
 7. Condition 42(z); and
 8. Condition 42(bb).

EPA has determined that compliance with these requirements is not practicable for the West Slope project and has the potential to interfere or delay the project.

- iii. Comply with the following subsections of Condition 42, if applicable, in their standard form, including reporting to South Coast AQMD (as applicable):
 - 1. Condition 42(f);
 - 2. Condition 42(g);
 - 3. Condition 42(l);
 - 4. Condition 42(m);
 - 5. Condition 42(p);
 - 6. Condition 42(q);
 - 7. Condition 42(r);
 - 8. Condition 42(u); and
 - 9. Condition 42(w).

xv. Deficiency of Section, “Mandatory Communications and Notifications”

- a. CCL shall notify EPA and South Coast AQMD at least two (2) days prior to each excavation commencement and within five (5) days after its completion. The notification shall be made by email to the EPA Project Coordinators and to South Coast AQMD [Christina Ojeda, Air Quality Inspector, (cojeda@aqmd.gov); Gerardo Vergara, Air Quality Inspector (gvergara@aqmd.gov); and Rule1150notifications@aqmd.gov]. The subject line of the email should contain “CCL West Slope Excavation Notification” The body of the email shall contain the following information:

- i. Company Name and Company ID
- ii. Site Address
- iii. Notification Type (2 days prior or 5 days after)
- iv. Estimated Excavation Start Date and Completion Date
- v. A Map of the Facility with Excavation Location Indicated

Notwithstanding the above, CCL shall proceed to take any action required by the non-deficient portion of the Plan in accordance with Paragraph 34 of the UAO. EPA retains the right to modify or develop the Plan and the UAO.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Laura Friedli, EPA Attorney Advisor, at (415) 972-3325 or Friedli.Laura@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Tyler Holybee
EPA Project Coordinator

Enclosures

Enclosure A – EPA’s Additional Work Letter (without enclosures)

cc: John Perkey, Waste Connections
Jim Little, Waste Connections
Kurt Shaner, Waste Connections
Dylan Smith, Waste Connections
Sarah Phillips, Waste Connections
Megan Morgan, Beverage & Diamond
Nicole Weinstein, Beverage & Diamond
Allyn Stern, Beverage & Diamond
Alana Mathews, California Environmental Protection Agency
Todd Sax, California Environmental Protection Agency
Sophia Carillo, California Environmental Protection Agency
Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, acting as the Local Enforcement Agency
Thanne Berg, California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dylan Clark, California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Zanalee Zmily, California Department of Toxic Substances Control

Enclosure A – EPA’s Additional Work Letter (without enclosures)