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

11 **In the Matter of**

12 SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY
13 MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,

14 Petitioner,

15 v.

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

19 Respondent.
20
21

CASE NO. 6177-4

**DECLARATION OF LAURANCE B.
ISRAEL IN SUPPORT OF PETITION
FOR ORDER FOR ABATEMENT**

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

Hearing Date: May 28, 2026
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Hearing Board
South Coast Air Quality
Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

22 I, Laurance B. Israel, declare as follows:

23 1. I am employed as a Supervising Air Quality Inspector within the Toxics and Waste
24 Management Group of the Office of Compliance and Enforcement at the South Coast Air Quality
25 Management District (“South Coast AQMD”). I have been employed with the South Coast AQMD
26 since June 29, 1987, and have held my current position since November 2022. Through my role
27 with the South Coast AQMD, I am familiar with Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL), both from
28

1 personal visits to and inspections at the facility, as well as through my role supervising other Air
2 Quality Inspectors within the Toxics and Waste Management Group who conduct inspections at
3 CCL. I have been conducting inspections and/or supervising other Air Quality Inspectors
4 conducting inspections at CCL for approximately 36 years.

5 2. I am familiar with the Order for Abatement issued in this matter (Case No. 6177-4)
6 and have testified in support of the South Coast AQMD's Petition for An Order for Abatement,
7 and subsequent proposals to modify the Order for Abatement, including the South Coast AQMD's
8 Proposed Modifications for this modification hearing.

9 3. The South Coast AQMD has received approximately 3,092 complaints from the
10 public alleging odors coming from CCL between December 9, 2025 (the date of the last status
11 hearing), and May 15, 2026. The types of odors complained of during this time include sour or
12 spoiled milk, chemical, leachate, and burning odors. The odor complaints came from residential
13 neighborhoods bordering the landfill, including Val Verde, Hasley Hills, Hasley Canyon, Hillcrest
14 Parkway, Live Oak, and Williams Ranch. During this same period, a total of 50 Notices of
15 Violation (NOVs) were issued to CCL for violating Health and Safety Code Section 41700 and
16 South Coast AQMD Rule 402, which both prohibit creating an odor public nuisance.

17 4. Generally, the volume of complaints has remained fairly steady compared with a
18 similar time period from the prior year. The District received approximately 3,240 odor complaints
19 between December 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025. The winter and spring months are generally the
20 more favorable wind season, with more frequent Santa Ana style wind events that typically help
21 limit nuisance odors, though wind speed and direction varies from day to day. For example, the
22 early months of 2025 saw historically strong Santa Ana winds for most of January, which likely
23 reduced nuisance level odors, but also regionally contributed to significant wildfires.

24 5. The number of nuisance NOVs issued to CCL since the last hearing has increased.
25 Between December 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025, the District issued 39 odor nuisance NOVs,
26 compared with 50 NOVs for the current period, representing an increase of 11 NOVs for public
27 nuisance. The increase in NOVs is likely due, at least in part, to the District's increased
28 enforcement presence, including in-person complaint investigation and response on weekends; 14

1 NOVs during this period were issued due to nuisance verification on non-workdays. The District's
2 increased enforcement presence has resulted from several significant recent operational upsets at
3 the Landfill, including significant flare downtime, the reduction in leachate pumping, and slope
4 stability concerns regarding the West Toe area.

5 6. Overall, at a minimum, the data shows that there has been no improvement in the
6 odor public nuisance caused by CCL year over year.

7 7. In addition to the NOVs issued for creating an odor public nuisance, six additional
8 NOVs were issued for other violations:

- 9 a. P82506 – issued on 12/31/25 for a violation dated 11/11/25 (Condition 86e –
10 Failing to inspect liquid treatment system for vapor leaks at least once every
11 week).
- 12 b. P82507 – issued on 1/14/26 for a violation dated on 11/14/25 (Conditions 15,
13 24, and 25; Rule 3002 – multiple counts for not maintaining equipment in good
14 operating condition, failing to comply with permit conditions, and failing to
15 prevent standing leachate/pooling/ponding exposed to the atmosphere – related
16 to the large spill from the force main, which filled the east sedimentation basin
17 and was allowed to evaporate over time).
- 18 c. P82508 – issued on 1/15/26 for a violation dated 12/22/25 (Condition 34c –
19 Failing to provide automatic electronic notification via email for an exceedance
20 of acute 1-hr OEHHA REL for benzene).
- 21 d. P82513 – issued on 4/8/26 for a violation dated 3/28/26 (Condition 75f – Failing
22 to submit final report of the feasibility study).
- 23 e. P82517 – issued on 5/1/26 for a violation dated 10/9/25 (Conditions 15, 25, and
24 86c; Rule 430; Rule 3002 – multiple counts for failing to remove construction
25 spoils, failing to comply with permit conditions, failing to perform actions to
26 mitigate odors and the dispersion of exposed leachate, discharging odorous
27 liquid vapors, failing to obtain permit to operate TOx equipment, failing to
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1 properly maintain equipment in good operating condition, and failing to report
2 breakdown).

3 f. P82518 – issued on 5/20/26 for a violation dated 1/10/26 (Condition 27e –
4 failing to submit a leachate leak or spill report within 48 hours of discovery).

5 8. In addition to the above NOV's, District staff issued Notice to Comply (NTC)
6 #E56457, dated February 4, 2026 and served on February 10, 2026, pursuant to 17 CCR section
7 95464(b)(4) – requiring Chiquita Canyon Landfill to submit Source Test protocols for South Coast
8 AQMD approval to conduct source tests on their 3 TOx units (Hero, Zeeco, and Parnel) to
9 demonstrate the LFG control devices are meeting the landfill gas destruction efficiency
10 requirements.

11 9. Attached as Exhibit 102 to this Declaration are photographs I took on January 15,
12 2026, at CCL.

13 10. Attached as Exhibit 107 to this Declaration are photographs I took on March 27,
14 2026, at CCL.

15 11. Attached as Exhibit 115 to this Declaration are photographs I took on May 20, 2026,
16 at CCL.

17 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
18 foregoing is true and correct.

19 Executed on this 26th day of May, 2026, at Diamond Bar, California.

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22 _____
23 Laurance B. Israel

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