

James Chavez

From: Natalie Tate [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 10:27 AM
To: Terrence Mann; Diana James; Susan Evans; Kerry Frohling; Erica Larsen-Dockray; Jeremiah Dockray; Jennifer Elkins; Steve Lee; Steven Howse; Steve Howse; Sami Fowler; Vince Cantella; Yasmina Valdivia; Orchid Oshea; Thomas Tate; Darcy Ray Stinson; Elizabeth Jeffords; Directors VVCA; Clerk of Board
Cc: Victor Yip; Maria Castro; Michelle Naples; Amanda Sanders; Larry Israel; Abigail DeSesa
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Request for Residents NOV

Dear Mr. Mann,

I'm speechless at having heard Mr. Pierson make a joke of my AQMD Inspector Larry Israel at yesterday's AQMD hearing, I am hoping it was just that a "joke", but hear me well when I tell you Larry Isreal is not "useless" !!!

Larry is not to me or our community, he's been taking my reports of odors since May of 2000! Yes you see 2000, is when I started reporting the Chiquita Canyon Landfill and since having Breast Cancer in 2018 and being diagnosed again recently with now severe asthma I'm sorry but I don't find anything a joke about the Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

I was just confirmed odors and gases this morning by AQMD Inspector and we don't find anyone helping our Val Verde and Castaic community "useless".

Thank you for forwarding my feelings.

Sincerely,

Natalie Tate

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 1:45 PM, Natalie Tate [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. Mann,

Today has been a prime example of on site Inspector not showing up, not calling or leaving message.

With my community reporting at 6 & 7am and even myself reporting at 9:35 but waiting for inspector to show, I missed him because I was in a shower.

You'd think with 17 reports of complaints your inspector would be able to confirm more than "1" complaint!

It's so darn frustrating and our lives are being wasted while we wait around for inspectors.

Again, something needs to be done, as our community goes off to another Chiquita Canyon Landfill Meeting tonight as we've done for three years now and frankly we are "____" sick of this, there's odors, gases and irritation in our community.

Thank you for your time.

While very nice, my current inspector today, really couldn't help our community.

Sincerely,
Natalie Tate

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 11:01 AM, Abigail DeSesa [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello,

Not that anyone asked for a vote, but mine is in favor of a less victim burdensome policy too.

Not only do we have a sizeable chunk of time invested in this system, but we are also being over exposed and so are the inspectors who are well trained and know what they are doing. Once you have smelled this stuff you don't forget it. I am confident in Mr. Israel's inspector team. After submitting more than 700+ reports, I feel I have some experience with Mr. Israel and his inspectors. Maybe consider a threshold for such a policy of a level 3 or higher confirmed by one of Mr. Israel's inspectors at two addresses move directly to the NOV for the day and get everyone out of the cocktail of gasses flooding our town. This may assist in the overtime budget burden on SCAQMD too.

No matter what, I agree with Mrs. Tate that this is a burdensome policy for the victims and the inspectors.

Respectfully,

Abigail DeSesa
Val Verde / Castaic Resident

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 09:48:26 AM PDT, Natalie Tate [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. Mann,

I'm back again with the same type of request as this morning was a Level 5 Landfill Gases in the Val Verde Canyon.

Nausea and headache worthy difficulty in breathing we as a community would like to inform you that since we have to call, or report on line and alert the Landfill Hot Line for Chiquita Canyon, this process takes up more than an hour and a half daily if calling in the morning and waiting for the inspector. The process in the evenings is usually much longer, and sadly we are exhausted from the gases and the reporting processes.

Again we are asking for a better way of NOV process for a community when reporting and multiple reports for complaints have been submitted.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,
Natalie Tate

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 4:59 PM, Terrence Mann <tmann@aqmd.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, everyone. I wanted to check in with you regarding South Coast AQMD's complaint response program. I had planned to attend tonight's CAC meeting and address some of your concerns in person, but unfortunately I'm going to have to miss it due to a children's school event. I'll make my three main points here.

First of all, my team and I agree with the shared sentiment that the situation is not improving for those living near Chiquita Canyon Landfill. While the odors may not be traveling quite as far as they did last year, our inspectors continue to confirm that residents of Val Verde and the closest communities are being impacted by gas and chemical odors/emissions from the landfill pretty much every day. This situation therefore remains an ongoing, illegal public nuisance. I will add that, personally speaking, I do not understand why no state of emergency has been declared or why there have been no relocations. That was a primary reason why South Coast AQMD requested the federal government to stand up a multiagency task force, and we support Assemblymember Schiavo's extensive efforts and the County's recent lawsuit to get it done.

In addition, I want to talk about what transpired on May 1. We are stretched extremely thin right now and essentially ran out of local inspectors that night, resulting in some miscommunication when we sent in staff who was a couple hours away. I'm not going to make excuses, though; that should have been handled better on our part. When we receive more than 60 complaints in one day, it is reasonable to expect that we will be able to verify enough of them to take enforcement action, in the absence of a rainstorm or

some other unusual occurrence. I'm sorry for the inconvenience this caused you and your neighbors.

Finally, I think it was fair for you to ask us to reevaluate our enforcement process in light of the massive numbers of complaints received for Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Since April 2023, we have received over 28,000 odor complaints and have issued the facility more than 300 NOVs for public nuisance. Our position has been that there is actually a violation almost every day (i.e., any time we receive six or more complaints), but I understand the community's concern that the company is now claiming things are getting better because we are no longer issuing 15+ violations each month. My team was looking at this at the beginning of the year but was delayed due to the wildfires; I can commit to you that it will move back to the top of our to do list. While we will need to consult with our agency's legal department, I am confident that we will be able to make some much-needed changes to the six-complaint threshold for public nuisance NOVs in special situations like this one.

That's it for now. I will update the group when I have more to share, most likely at a future CAC meeting. In the meantime, South Coast AQMD inspectors will continue to respond to complaints and deploy to your community to support you during this difficult time. We're not going anywhere.

Thank you.

TM

Terrence Mann

Deputy Executive Officer

Compliance & Enforcement

South Coast AQMD

21865 Copley Drive

Diamond Bar, CA 91765

tmann@aqmd.gov

From: Diana James [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 4:05 PM
To: Susan Evans [REDACTED] >
Cc: Terrence Mann <tmann@aqmd.gov>; Abigail DeSesa [REDACTED]; Erica Larsen-Dockray [REDACTED]; Jennifer Elkins [REDACTED]; Jeremiah Dockray [REDACTED]; Steve Lee [REDACTED]; Steven Howse [REDACTED]; Sami Fowler [REDACTED]; Larry Israel <lisrael@aqmd.gov>; Vince Cantella [REDACTED]; Yasmina Valdivia [REDACTED]; Orchid Oshea [REDACTED]; Thomas Tate [REDACTED]; Darcy Ray Stinson [REDACTED]; Directors VVCA [REDACTED]; Elizabeth Jeffords [REDACTED]; Pilar Schiavo <pilar.schiavo@asm.ca.gov>; Zanalée@DTSC Zmily <Zanalée.zmily@dtsc.ca.gov>; Stephen Dutz <sdutz@aqmd.gov>; Natalie Tate [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Request for Residents NOV

Suzy, you are so right. I've been so sick the last couple of weeks unfortunately I have to push myself to keep moving and even going outside to care for a swimming pool I can't even enjoy. Every time I go out and work for just a little while, I am pretty much out of commission for the rest of the day. I know they're doing something over there. I can feel it in my head and in whole entire body. My breathing has been labored and I am dizzy a lot. The headaches are morning and evening reaching almost migraine status just like you said. My granddaughter is waking up with headaches and struggling in school because she seems to lash out to teachers and other students when she doesn't feel well and she ends up getting in trouble. Three weeks have been really bad for her. I want so bad to try to relocate, but it's hard! I have a handicapped paraplegic son,

my granddaughter, and daughter along with my niece and two other people that I'm providing a home for! I should be making complaints each time!!!! If you will call or text me each time you make a complaint, I will stop what I'm doing make a complaint as well. I really want to do my part in helping the rest of the Community as well. I'm going to try very hard to do better.

I'm sorry.

Diana James

JohnHart Real Estate

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone 😊

On May 2, 2025, at 1:54 PM, Susan Evans

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

These last couple of weeks have been horrendous. I call almost every day. Somedays, I just can't get out of bed to call or report online.

Last night had to be the worst response I have ever experienced since I began making the calls about 10 years ago.

I did receive a call from a private number about 10:40 pm. That person left me a message telling me she would be in the area of my house in about 7 min. She (Carly 909-396-2689) also left me her number to call her back, which I did. I told her to ring my chime doorbell when she arrived. The ring portion of that is in the master bedroom.

I did that kind of doorbell so I would not have to run downstairs to be face to face with the inspectors. I would be able to speak to them through the app and I would show them I am home from the upstairs window. I have been taking too many meds to breathe and I am on oxygen so I am not the athletic person I once was. I admit that I was unreasonable tired last night as I was using my rescue inhaler 4 times in 6 hours in addition to the oxygen.

I woke up at 3 am with the headache reaching migraine status and my neck and back cramping from falling asleep in an un-natural position waiting for the bell. I checked all my cameras and Carly never showed up.

This is absolutely asinine that an inspector has to confirm 6 homes or 1 school to get a NOV for this damn dump. Workers in the Industrial Center that also live in Val Verde are calling in complaints from their work and they do not always have the opportunity to meet with an inspector. I have a good friend who lives in Val Verde and works in the Industrial Center who calls, and I do not believe he has ever been confirmed because he is working and can't leave to talk to an inspector.

I don't understand why your inspectors have to see the informant to confirm. Do they smell it, yes, then it is confirmed. I do know the smells come and go so but if we report it and your inspectors smell it, that should count.

I am the person that wrote to the generic AQMD email using the word "patootie" a while back. I am finding out that none of the doctors I have seen over the last 10 years and have seen my conditions worsen will definitively state that the dump is to blame. Money talks and that is the dump's money talking to anyone who tries to stop them.

The dump even went so far as to sue citizens in Val Verde for using the name Chiquita Canyon in a web site that was created to bring attention to the problem 10 years ago. The citizens won amazingly because there is another area in Los Angeles County using the name Chiquita Canyon.

The dump is continually working overnight transferring the leachate, tank to tank and to truck, and that is when the fumes and VOC's are the highest. I realize that working what I call graveyard is not only difficult, but horrible on a persons physical and mental well being. Been there done that for 10 years, but it was apart of my job and I knew that going into that profession. Why can't someone be assigned the "graveyard" shift to confirm us?

I am getting more and more disillusioned with AQMD and LA County because this has been going on for so long. This is reminding me of Centralia, the fire under a town that is now abandoned because of the fire underground.

Respectfully as I can be, thank you.

Susan M. Evans

[REDACTED]

Val Verde, CA 91384

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Friday, May 2, 2025 at 12:14:38 PM PDT, Kerry Frohling [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. Mann,

I completely agree with Natalie Tate. Last night was horrible for Castaic and Val Verde residents. The landfill even posted they had equipment malfunction (an every other day occurrence because they cut corners - my opinion OR probably fact). Really the whole situation of waiting until there are three calls, driving two to four hours to get to our community, having the inspector verify the exact odors when most of the time the residents don't know what to call it but know its coming from the landfill, having the inspector confirm 6 in order to issue an NOV is RIDICULOUS! This needs to stop! Do you not trust your trained inspectors to recognize the landfill gases? One and done!

We have been living in this disaster for over 3 years! Children are being diagnosed with leukemia, moms with breast cancer, dads with thyroid and colon cancer! The landfill regularly goes over the chronic RELS of Benzene and other toxic gases, some that can't be smelled.

We are dying, and 6 complaints with 1 confirmed should be enough for an automatic NOV! To have 52

complaints and 1 confirmed and not get an NOV is insane! The Waste Connections Chiquita Canyon Landfill is constantly allowing equipment to breakdown or power off. By this time there should be NO EXCUSES ALLOWED! This is a DISASTER!

Also, I strongly recommend you have a satellite office out here, like you promised at the EPA meeting about the UAO. Maybe, if you collected the fines from the NOVs, you could afford the office.

Please forward this email to the SCAQMD hearing board.

Sincerely,

Kerry Frohling

On Fri, May 2, 2025, 11:17 AM Natalie Tate <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mr. Mann,

We have a difficult situation here in Castaic and last night proved that we need a more accurate approach to getting an AQMD NOV for a very large amount of residential odor complaints.

If you are unaware more than 52 complaints were made against the Chiquita Canyon Landfills Gas last night and more than 65 the entire day.

The inspector that arrived last night was only able to verify 1 complaint out of 52? This was not one of our regular inspectors and frankly a waste of time and money considering the residents are being told by the Chiquita Canyon Landfill that conditions are getting better.

If we as a community cannot be verified as an NOV we feel very upset because 52 families took the time to call

and report by online. This is extremely frustrating and we would like to ask for accommodations to change the 6 confirmed residential properties to the same as a schools property.

We should have received an automatic NOV for 65 complaints in a day.

Please let me know if this has to be brought up with the AQMD during their hearings?

I understand we are asking for a new way of reporting for NOV but, something needs to be done as the Chiquita Canyon Landfill is officially hiding behind lack of NOVs. We need to prove that this is a severe nuisance for the residents of Castaic and especially Val Verde.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Natalie Tate

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)