

James Chavez

From: Abigail DeSesa [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 10:41 AM
To: Clerk of Board; Terrence Mann; Larry Israel; Kathryn Roberts
Cc: Abigail DeSesa; Bob Lewis; James Stephens; Bob Lewis; Oshea Orchid; Sami Fowler
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AQMD Hearing Cutting off Testimony and My Testimony
Attachments: AQMD Abatement Hearing Statement May 4, 2025.pdf

Hello, AQMD Hearing Board, Attorney Roberts, & AQMD Inspection Team

Attached please find my entire testimony (not a statement) I was TRYING to give today at the hearing with my video on proving who I am and seeing me take the oath. Last minute the Chair stated we would ONLY be allowed 2 minutes diverting from the standard 3 minutes. I have attended 6 of these hearings for this abatement alone. Yes, this is not my first abatement with this offender, Chiquita Canyon Landfill. The public testimony time would have taken less time had the Chair stayed with the usual process of 3 minutes. His apology over and over again with explanation stole our time to be heard. My actual request to this hearing board **never** got heard because I was cut off twice, so it could not be considered or discussed at all. Many of us spend a lot of time and effort to prepare and practice our statement for the standard 3 minutes allowed. We take the time to attend while being sick from this landfill, missing work or other responsibilities set aside just to be cut off by the Chair. As a person being harmed by this crisis it is incredibly disrespectful and I find it hurtful to be treated this way. I don't see the point in allowing the public to speak if we really are NOT going to be heard. We can get this treatment from the landfill. Why put ourselves through it with AQMD Hearing Board too?

I request the Clerk for AQMD respond that this message has been received and will be shared with the Hearing Board as the Chair stated it would be.

I welcome AQMD's attorney, Ms. Roberts, to call on me in the future as a public witness if that is what is needed to get someone from the public actually heard and taken seriously. We are the real witnesses that should also matter because this entire abatement is because of the harm this landfill is doing to us. Without the public's participation in reporting and allowing AQMD to come to our homes, businesses, and schools, there would be no abatement order. We are an integral part of this crisis and need to be treated as such. Abigail DeSesa 661-775-2771 (land line) or abigaildesesa@sbcglobal.net

Seriously disappointed,

Abigail DeSesa

26 Year Resident Val Verde Canyon, Castaic

PUBLIC:	CASE NO. <u>6177-4</u>
Exhibit No. <u>P-8</u>	Consisting of <u>2</u> pages
Identification <u>6/17/25</u>	Evidence _____

The content of this email is confidential and intended for the recipient(s) specified in the message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without the written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not occur in the future.

My name is Abigail DeSesa and I am a 26-year resident of Val Verde Canyon in Castaic. This is my 6th time during this smoldering event testifying before this Hearing Board. That includes September of 2023, January, March, April, August of 2024, and today in May of 2025. I also testified during the 2019 / 2020 Abatement Order for this landfill which many of actually suspect that is when this smoldering event really started. Chiquita Canyon Landfill is a repeat offender bringing harm to all around it.

All promises from the landfill that a specific thing they were doing was going to solve the noxious gases infesting our lives, homes, schools, and businesses were empty promises. It has been more than three years since this landfill has operated legally per the reports from the government committees working on this event overseen by the Federal EPA. This is NOT a good neighbor or business that can be trust and should have 24 hours around the clock supervision. Their track record is proof enough.

The residents are sick, from infants to the elderly, and everyone in between. I am sick. Our pets are sick and three of my own have died, our wildlife is being found all around our canyon dead including birds and thousands of bees. This is more than an annoyance to our noses. It is a major health risk that is not short-term. Three years is not short term and we still have NO end in sight. The RELs for acute and chronic do not remotely tell the story of what is happening here. Individual items are not our story. It is the entire cocktail of toxic combined gasses making this town very sick and not just the annoyance and discomfort of the odors as many like to call it. We are prisoners with no due process being forced to pay taxes on properties we cannot use and our quality of life makes the pandemic look like recess time out.

Thank you to AQMD inspectors and their supervisor who sent up the flares that there was and is a CRISIS happening here and for continually trying to remind the world it is still going on with no end in sight. I am respectfully requesting this hearing board join the many legislators of this state and our federal congressman in issuing a letter to the governor of California to declare a state of emergency for this ongoing crisis. While no one disputes that all is being done possible for the landfill, all is not being done for the people. We are not asking for handouts just a hand up. We need the ability to apply for low interest rate loans for a new home away from this disaster. The ability to appeal to our mortgage company to consider freezing our current home loans temporarily while we take on a new place to live and yet are still responsible for the current home. Your voice has power even if you do not have it directly. Please let your voice be heard with ours that there is in fact a crisis here. Thank you for hearing me and others in my community today.