

**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 LAURANCE
ISRAEL IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION
FOR A SITE VISIT**

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

Hearing Date: January 29, 2026
Time: 9:30 am
Place: Hearing Board
South Coast Air Quality
Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

I, Laurance Israel, declare as follows:

1. I am employed as a Supervising Air Quality Inspector within the Office of Compliance and Enforcement at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (“South Coast AQMD”). I have been employed with the South Coast AQMD since June 29, 1987 and have held my current position since November 2022. I am assigned to the Toxics and Waste Management Group (“Toxics Group”) within the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, which includes the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (“CCL”) among its regularly assigned facilities.

2. As part of my work within the Toxics Group, I have conducted multiple personal visits to and inspections at CCL, and I also supervise other Air Quality Inspectors in the Toxics Group who conduct visits and inspections of CCL. I have been conducting inspections and/or

supervising other Air Quality Inspectors conducting inspections at CCL for approximately 33 years.

3. Due to my work which includes site visits to locations like CCL, and potential exposure to hazardous substances, I have had extensive safety training during my time at the South Coast AQMD. Specifically, I have completed the 24-hour training course on Hazardous Material Cleanup, Containment, and Emergency Response (known as “HAZWOPER”) that is consistent with the California state-wide adopted plan approved by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”). I also have completed multiple 8-hour refresher courses on HAZWOPER, including most recently on October 2, 2025.

4. South Coast AQMD policy requires all Air Quality Inspectors working in the Toxics Group to complete HAZWOPER training.

5. As part of my safety training, I am also trained in the use of, and have been personally fit-tested for, a respirator. A respirator is a face covering which can protect the lungs from airborne substances including toxics, vapors, gases, or dust. As part of the training for respirator use, a trainee must undergo a medical exam consisting of a questionnaire to ensure the person can safely use this equipment without adverse health impacts.

6. Due to the evolving conditions onsite at CCL, South Coast AQMD policy requires careful management oversight of South Coast AQMD employees visiting the site. South Coast AQMD policy limits employees who are eligible to visit the site to only necessary personnel and personnel who have had requisite training. Within the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, currently only Air Quality Inspectors within the Toxics Group are permitted to conduct inspections onsite at CCL. Even though Air Quality Inspectors from other groups with the Office of Compliance and Enforcement may assist in investigating and responding to public complaints of odors in the neighboring communities (necessary because of the high volume of complaints being received), only Toxic Group Inspectors may conduct onsite inspections at

CCL (e.g. to assess compliance with CCL's permits, South Coast AQMD Rules, or the Order for Abatement).

7. Additionally, due to changes in the site giving rise to the public nuisance, South Coast AQMD management has also imposed additional safety requirements for onsite visits by increasing the minimum personal protective equipment ("PPE") South Coast AQMD employees are required to wear. Currently, for staff visiting the area of the site known as the Reaction Area, or visiting the tank farms, particularly Tank Farm 7 and Tank Farm 13 where untreated leachate is conveyed and stored, or the top disposal area to the east of the Reaction Area, South Coast AQMD employees are required to wear a fit-tested respirator at all times when not in a vehicle. In addition, South Coast AQMD employees are also required to wear on their person a field-calibrated multi-gas meter while onsite at CCL. South Coast AQMD sets this requirement based on its review of site conditions. I am aware of several South Coast AQMD Inspectors who have reported adverse health symptoms to the South Coast AQMD following conducting a site visit to CCL.

8. To be consistent with South Coast AQMD policy if other South Coast AQMD employees outside the Toxic Group were to visit CCL as part of a site visit, those employees would need to undergo safety training. If the site visit were to include the Reaction Area, tank farms or the top disposal area to the east of the Reaction Area, South Coast AQMD personnel would need to wear fit-tested respirators.

9. In my time with the South Coast AQMD, I have appeared before the Hearing Board as a witness dozens of times in this case and in many others that have been within my assigned duties. In my opinion, a site visit by the Hearing Board to CCL poses safety risks, and in my opinion, those risks would outweigh the value of seeing the site in person. In my experience, the Hearing Board rarely needs to see a site in person to be able to understand the matter.

10. While there is potentially a benefit in having the Board Members each individually smell the odors that the community is experiencing, this would be done by visiting the community rather than the site itself. It is also important to note that wind and meteorology play a significant role in transporting odors to the community and thus the odors are not necessarily in the same location or at the same intensity every day. To fully understand the odor public nuisance in this case would likely require more than a single visit to the community. Indeed, part of the nature of this public nuisance is that it is impacting people where they live, not merely where they infrequently visit. Thus, in my opinion a single visit to the landfill is likely of limited utility to the Board in terms of experiencing and understanding the odors. In my opinion, the Board is better served through hearing testimony about the odors from the District, from Chiquita's witnesses, and the public.

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

Executed on this 16th day of January, 2026, at Sherman Oaks, California.


Laurance Israel