

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MARY REICHERT, State Bar No. 264280
SENIOR DEPUTY DISTRICT COUNSEL
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, California 91765-0940
TEL: 909.396.3400 • FAX: 909.396.2961
Email: mreichert@aqmd.gov

Attorneys for Petitioner
South Coast Air Quality Management District

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

In the Matter of

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,

Petitioner,

v.

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

Respondent.

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: June 3 and 17, 2025
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Hearing Board
South Coast Air Quality
Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

I, Laurance B. Israel, declare as follows:

1. I am employed as a Supervising Air Quality Inspector within the Toxics and Waste Management Group of 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. Through my role with the South Coast AQMD, I am familiar with Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL), both from

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 33 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 in Exhibits 73 and 74.

9 3. South Coast AQMD's methodology for investigating an odor complaint is designed
10 to determine whether "air contaminants or other material [are causing] injury, detriment, nuisance,
11 or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public" pursuant to South Coast
12 AQMD Rule 402 and California Health and Safety Code Section 41700. South Coast AQMD
13 developed an internal policy that guides investigations of complaints and issuance of notices of
14 violation if the prohibition against creating a public nuisance has been violated.

15 4. In residential areas like the neighborhoods bordering CCL, South Coast AQMD's
16 existing internal policy threshold for issuance of a notice of violation for public nuisance is met
17 when six individual complaints are verified by an inspector within a 24-hour period. The
18 complaints must be from separate households—multiple complaints from one household will only
19 count as one complaint for the purpose of making this determination.

20 5. When inspectors respond to a complaint, they typically meet with the complainant,
21 ask questions, and assess whether the complained-of air quality issues are present and ongoing.
22 This is accomplished by assessing whether the complainant themselves still detects the odor and
23 by relying on the inspector's olfactory senses and historical experience within the geographic
24 area—as opposed to using specific monitoring tools. This is because many noxious smells can be
25 more aptly detected by the human nose as compared to a measuring device. If the inspector
26 confirms in the complainant's presence that the odor is present and ongoing, then this qualifies as
27 a "verified" complaint.

1 6. If the complaint is verified, the inspector then attempts to trace the odor back to a
2 source, such as the Landfill. An inspector typically traces the source of an odor by measuring the
3 wind speed and direction where the odor was confirmed and then seeking the same odor at
4 locations up and down wind—narrowing this range until a single source is identified. Based on the
5 inspector’s training and knowledge of upwind and downwind emission sources within the
6 geographic area, and combined with the immediate wind data, the inspector will often be able to
7 determine the source of the odor. The neighborhoods surrounding CCL have been known to
8 experience odor issues arising out of CCL operations. That is, as time has passed, and complaints
9 are continually received relating to the same types of odors in the same geographical area, the
10 inspectors have become more familiar with the odors. Accordingly, inspectors are able to
11 differentiate ordinary landfill trash odors from the distinct odors associated with leachate and the
12 recent subsurface chemical reaction (which often emits a distinctive sour milk odor).

13 7. The South Coast AQMD has received approximately 570 complaints from the
14 public alleging odors coming from CCL during the month of May 2025 (as of 9am on May 29,
15 2025). The types of odors complained of during this time include sour or spoiled milk, chemical,
16 leachate, and burning odors. The odor complaints came from residential neighborhoods bordering
17 the landfill, including Val Verde, Hasley Hills, Hasley Canyon, Hillcrest Parkway, Live Oak, and
18 Williams Ranch. So far during the month of May, a total of eleven Notices of Violation (NOVs)
19 were issued to CCL for violation of Health and Safety Code Section 41700 and South Coast
20 AQMD Rule 402, which both prohibit creating an odor public nuisance. This is the greatest
21 number of nuisance NOVs issued to CCL since October 2024.

22 8. As of 9am on May 29, 2025, to date in 2025 the District has received more than
23 2,700 odor nuisance complaints alleging CCL as the source from the public, and the District has
24 issued 38 NOVs for creating an odor public nuisance. From January 2023 to the present, the total
25 number of odor nuisance complaints from the public amount to more than 29,000 and
26 approximately 340 odor nuisance NOVs have been issued. As a comparative example, during the
27 previous CCL Order for Abatement proceedings from approximately July 2020 to November
28 2022, South Coast AQMD received approximately 970 complaints and issued 25 NOVs to CCL

1 for public nuisance due to working-face trash odors. The continuing quantity of public odor
2 complaints received and NOVs issued by South Coast AQMD demonstrate that CCL continues to
3 create an ongoing odor nuisance.

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

6 Executed on this 30th day of May, 2025, at Diamond Bar, California.

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Laurance B. Israel