



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Chiquita Canyon Landfill Ordered to Take Stronger Actions to Reduce Odors

**DIAMOND BAR** – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) Hearing Board amended an Order for Abatement (Order) requiring Chiquita Canyon Landfill to implement stronger mitigation measures to address persistent odors that have been impacting the community for years. New and modified requirements include expanded remote air monitoring and the use of drones for aerial surveillance to detect landfill emissions more rapidly and in areas that are inaccessible.

**The amended Order requires Chiquita Canyon Landfill to comply with the following:**

- **Install remote gas system monitoring:** Expand the remote system to monitor landfill gas wells, with real-time data available to South Coast AQMD, as well as reporting on actions taken to address issues observed from the real-time data.
- **Drone-based methane inspections:** Conduct drone-based aerial surveillance using methane detecting sensors over the Reaction Area weekly and over the entire landfill monthly, to provide emissions information more rapidly than ground-based surface monitoring and in areas not accessible by foot. Conduct immediate follow-up ground-level inspection and remediation of any detected air emission exceedances. Findings from these inspections are documented in monthly reports submitted to South Coast AQMD.
- **Daily cover inspections and repair using higher quality material to limit tears:** Inspect the landfill and geosynthetic covers in and around the Reaction Area daily and repair any identified tears or rips with a higher quality cover material at least 6 mm thick to prevent future tears and limit surface air emissions.

Since January 2023, South Coast AQMD has received more than 29,500 odor complaints from nearby residents and has issued approximately 350 Notices of Violation to Chiquita Canyon Landfill for violations of Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code Section 41700.

The Chiquita Canyon Landfill is a landfill/solid waste disposal facility located at 29201 Henry Mayo Dr., in Castaic, California. Foul odors from Chiquita Canyon Landfill have continued to significantly impact the public since early 2023. In January of this year, the landfill ceased accepting waste after the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board denied the landfill's request to open a new cell for disposal. This

denial was based, in part, on an ongoing underground chemical reaction, which continues to raise health concerns in nearby communities.

The South Coast AQMD Hearing Board first issued the Order for Abatement in September 2023 and subsequently amended it in January, April, August, and November 2024, and again in April 2025. As an independent panel, the Hearing Board hears all sides, weighs evidence, and renders decisions. Public testimony was accepted, and evidence was considered. The Hearing Board is scheduled to hear a further status update on October 29, 2025.

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning [app](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [Instagram](#).

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