



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# PRESS RELEASE

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## South Coast AQMD Issues Multiple Violations to Chiquita Canyon Landfill

**DIAMOND BAR** – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) has issued five Notices of Violation (NOVs) to Chiquita Canyon Landfill (Chiquita) for installing and operating an air pollution control device without a permit, violating existing permit conditions, and failing to comply with the existing Order for Abatement (OA).

Key violations include:

- **Unpermitted Equipment:** Installing and operating a thermal oxidizer without a required permit. (NOVs issued: April 1 and May 28, 2025).
- **Equipment Issues:** Failing to properly maintain equipment, comply with permit requirements, and report breakdowns (NOV issued: May 29, 2025).
- **OA Violations:** Between December 2024 and May 2025, the landfill failed to:
  - Install protective liners underneath leachate storage tanks.
  - Install pressure gauges on leachate tanks.
  - Maintain leachate tanks under negative pressure.
  - Monitor and report all landfill gas pressure and temperature data.
  - Report landfill gas temperatures from the inlet of the gas treatment system.

Since January 2023, South Coast AQMD has received more than 29,000 odor complaints from residents living near the landfill. As of May 2025, approximately 340 additional NOVs have been issued to Chiquita Canyon for public nuisance violations under South Coast AQMD Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code Section 41700.

Located at 29201 Henry Mayo Drive in Castaic, California, Chiquita Canyon Landfill has been the source of persistent, foul odors since early 2023. In January 2025, Chiquita stopped 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 landfill remains under an amended Order for Abatement requiring additional odor mitigation measures. Originally issued in September 2023, the OA has been amended multiple times, most recently in April 2025, to strengthen enforcement and public health protections. In its latest action, the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board ordered the landfill to further reduce spills and leaks, upgrade its leachate tank systems, and conduct more frequent inspections.

As an independent panel, the Hearing Board hears all sides, weighs evidence, and renders decisions. Public testimony was accepted, and evidence was considered. The next status hearing is scheduled for June 4, 2025.

NOVs may lead to civil penalties. In some cases, facilities may opt to take corrective actions to reduce emissions and prevent future violations. If no settlement is reached, a civil lawsuit may be filed in superior court.

More information can be found at: <https://www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/hearing-board/hearing-board/hearing-board-case-documents>.

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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