



February 22, 2024

Meredith Williams
Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Joaquin Esquivel
Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Vanessa Delgado
Chair
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Re: Chiquita Canyon Landfill

Dear Director Williams, Chair Esquivel, and Chair Delgado

The undersigned are writing to elevate an environmental hazard with ongoing health and safety impacts to the communities of the 40th Assembly District and beyond. Since 2023, the Chiquita Canyon landfill has had an underground smoldering event in a closed portion of the landfill, which has not only resulted in airborne emissions, requiring installation of additional flares, but also leachate and runoff that has entered the surrounding ecosystem.

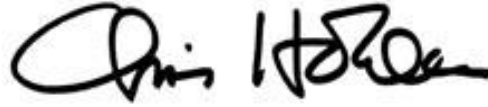
The surrounding community of Val Verde and Castaic as well as schools, which are just over 1 mile away, have endured prolonged exposure to noxious gases causing reported headaches, nausea, asthma, heart palpitations and more. LA County Public Health has declared this a public nuisance, finding elevated levels of benzene and carbon tetrachloride in February. On top of airborne harms, on February 15, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issued a summary of violations to Chiquita Canyon Landfill finding that leachate containing toxic chemicals was not only spouting from underground and pooling on the property, but materials were transported without the appropriate permit and also being treated by an entity without a permit to treat toxic materials, with the leachate being released into the LA sewer system after treatment not approved for toxic materials. Without a rapid resolution to this crisis, prolonged release of toxic chemicals into the immediate environment and now potentially the greater Los Angeles region, will lead to mounting negative impacts to LA residents and the surrounding ecosystems.

The undersigned Legislators request increased involvement with this hazardous site and also request an urgent meeting to discuss the current state of oversight and accountability imposed upon Chiquita Canyon Landfill, the steps that DTSC will be taking to expand monitoring and mitigation, and how the DTSC, the Water Board, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District will be coordinating with local, state and federal entities to ensure rapid resolution to this crisis.

Sincerely,



Pilar Schiavo
Assemblymember, 40th District



Chris Holden
Assemblymember, 41st District



Tina McKinnor
Assemblymember, 61st District
Chair, Los Angeles County Delegation



Mike Gipson
Assemblymember, 65th District



Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember, 36th District
Chair, Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
Committee

cc: Katie Butler, Deputy Director, Hazardous Waste Management Program