



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

August 3, 2023

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **EP-5**

Mr. Steve Cassulo
District Manager
Chiquita Canyon, LLC
29201 Henry Mayo Drive
Castaic, CA 91384

**CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 2004-00042-(5)
PUBLIC WORKS' COMMENTS ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL'S JULY 27, 2023,
CONDITION 69 REPORT**

Dear Mr. Cassulo:

Public Works reviewed Chiquita Canyon Landfill's report, dated July 27, 2023 (Enclosure 1), which was submitted pursuant to Condition 69 of the Landfill's Conditional Use Permit. Based on the review, we have the following comments:

- The letter from Los Angeles County Public Health to Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) dated July 26, 2023, which was included in Attachment A of the report indicates there is an ongoing chemical reaction occurring underground within one of the cells that might be the source of the odor. CCL should provide a map showing the size and magnitude (acreage) and location of this affected cell.
- We understand that CCL is proposing to obtain additional flaring capacity to flare the landfill gas (LFG) to prevent the odor from reaching the community. CCL also needs to provide a detailed analysis on what mitigation measures the landfill is currently and/or planning to undertake to isolate or address this chemical reaction and prevent its spread to other cells.
- The report indicates the installation of a portable thermal oxidizer (i.e. temporary flare) to provide flare capacity and process greater amounts of landfill gas (LFG). CCL should provide in-depth and detailed information on this portable flare (i.e., equipment specification) along with a detailed analysis with data and calculations on how it is assisting to mitigate the current situation.

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- The report indicates the unexpected increase in LFG production is further exacerbating CCL's limited flaring capacity and that CCL and the Ameresco landfill-gas-to-energy operation together do not have sufficient capacity to pull and process the requisite amount of LFG from the system to decrease the reaction. CCL should provide in-depth and detailed analysis with data and calculations to demonstrate that the new flare will have sufficient capacity to mitigate the current situation as well as meet future LFG demand as LFG productions increase over time as the waste mass increases and older waste continues to decay.
- The report detailed several ongoing efforts designed to mitigate potential odor (i.e., fans, misting system, odor surveillance, handling of odorous load, etc.). While appreciated, these efforts are not sufficient as we understand the surrounding community is still actively experiencing noxious, sometimes chemical-like, odors emanating from the landfill that cause vomiting, eye and throat irritation, and headaches. CCL should discuss in detail additional measures that will be undertaken to prevent these odors from emanating from the landfill. CCL's discussion should include an implementation schedule with milestone dates when these measures are expected to start and be completed. Additionally, the analysis should take into consideration the study of wind patterns that was done as part of the recent AQMD Orders for Abatement which expired in November 2022.
- We understand that CCL will be conducting public outreach to provide status updates and information to the community on mitigation measures. CCL should provide details of this outreach as well as interim measures or relief such as providing air purifiers to impacted residents.
- Lastly, as requested by Public Health, CCL should provide a detailed report, signed by a qualified, technical expert evaluating the potential source/cause of the odor, the impacts on the community, and recommendations for short-term and long-term mitigation measures to address the odor impacts.

Please submit a written response to the above-listed items within 15 calendar days from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (626) 458-3500 or ethomp@dpw.lacounty.gov or Mr. David Nguyen at (626) 458-5189 or dnguyen@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Steve Cassulo
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MARK PESTRELLA, PE
Director of Public Works



Emiko Thompson
Assistant Deputy Director
Environmental Programs Division

DN:kp

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Enc.

cc: Department of Regional Planning (Alex Garcia, Edgar De La Torre,
Ai-Viet Huynh)
Local Enforcement Agencies (Dorcas Hanson Lugo, Karen Gork)
South Coast Air Quality Management District (Victor Yip, Devorlyn Celestine)
Department of Public Health (Liza Frias, Charlene Contreras,
Raul Sobero)
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Wen Yang,
Douglas Cross)
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management
Committee Integrated Waste Management Task Force