



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Requests Order Against Chiquita Canyon Landfill

Move Urges Disposal Facility to Find Solution to End Odors Impacting the Community

DIAMOND BAR – Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) filed a petition for an Order for Abatement that would require the Chiquita Canyon Landfill to take actions to reduce odors from the landfill that has impacted the community.

The Chiquita Canyon Landfill is a landfill/solid waste disposal facility located in Castaic, California. In May, South Coast AQMD began receiving hundreds of odor complaints that agency investigators traced back to the landfill. As a result of its investigation, South Coast AQMD found that the landfill was experiencing elevated levels of sulfur, specifically dimethyl sulfide, in its landfill gas—which its gas treatment system is not designed to remove. The underlying cause has been found to be caused by a subsurface chemical reaction.

South Coast AQMD issued the first Notice of Violation (NOV) against Chiquita Canyon for public nuisance in violation of the agency's Rule 402 and California Health & Safety Code Section 41700, on May 17th. They have since served 41 more NOVs to the facility; the last one on August 15th. Since the beginning of the investigation, South Coast AQMD has received more than 1,200 odor complaints.

Through the order, South Coast AQMD will require Chiquita Canyon to pursue actions to reduce odors, including requiring the facility to investigate the cause of the chemical reaction and find a way to stop it, and take interim steps to reduce the impact to the community until a final solution is achieved.

South Coast AQMD filed its petition seeking an Order for Abatement with the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board. The Hearing Board is an independent panel that hears all sides of a case, weighs the evidence, and reaches a decision. Actions requested by South Coast AQMD may be

modified based on the Hearing Board's findings and final decision. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for September 6, 2023.

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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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