1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7	BEFORE THE HEAR	ING BOARD OF THE	
8	SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT		
9	In The Matter Of	Case No. 6177-1	
10	SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,	FINDINGS AND DECISION FOR A STIPULATED ORDER FOR	
11	Petitioner,	ABATEMENT	
12	VS.	District Rule 402 and Health and Safety Code	
13	CHIQUITA CANYON, LLC a Delaware	§ 41700	
14	Corporation, [Facility ID No. 119219]	Hearing Date: December 9, 2020, and	
15	Respondent.	December 16, 2020 Time: 9:00 am	
16 17		Place: Hearing Board South Coast Air Quality Management District	
18		21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765	
19	This Petition for a Stipulated Order for Abatement was heard on December 9, 2020,		
20	pursuant to notice in accordance with the provisions of California Health and Safety Code Section		
21	40823 and South Coast AQMD Rule 812, and continued by Order of the Hearing Board to		
22	December 16, 2020. The following members of the Hearing Board were present: Julie Prussack,		
23	Chair; Mohan Balagopalan, Vice Chair; Hon. Nate Holden; Allan Bernstein, DPM, MBA, and		
24	Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta on December 9, 2020, and all members were also present on December		
25	16, 2020, except for the Hon. Nate Holden, for whom alternate member Micah Ali was present.		
26	Petitioner South Coast Air Quality Management District ("South Coast AQMD") was		
27	represented by Mary Reichert, Sr. Deputy District Counsel, and Kathryn Roberts, Deputy District		
28	Counsel. Respondent Chiquita Canyon, LLC was represented by Jacob P. Duginski, attorney at		

Chiquita Canyon, LLC [Facility ID No. 119219] – Findings and Decision

11

12

10

15 16

17

18

19 20

21

22

23

28

law, of Beveridge & Diamond P.C. The public was given the opportunity to testify, evidence was received, and the matter was submitted. The Hearing Board finds and decides as follows:

### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. South Coast AQMD is a body corporate and politic established and existing pursuant to Health and Safety Code §§ 40000, et seq. and §§ 40400, et seq., and is the sole and exclusive local agency with the responsibility for comprehensive air pollution control in the South Coast Basin.
- 2. Respondent operates a landfill/solid waste disposal facility known as Chiquita Canyon Landfill ("CCL") located at 29201 Henry Mayo Dr., Castaic, California, 91384, South Coast AQMD Facility ID No. 119219. Respondent operates within the South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction and is subject to the South Coast AQMD's rules.
- 3. South Coast AQMD Rule 402 and California Health and Safety Code ("H&S Code") Section 41700 prohibit the discharge, from any source whatsoever, such quantities of air contaminants or other material which causes injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or the public, or which cause, or have the natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property.
- Respondent operates a landfill/solid waste disposal site with a footprint of approximately 400 acres pursuant to a Conditional Use Permit issued by the County of Los Angeles. Chiquita Canyon Landfill was first approved for waste disposal in 1967. The property has been in use as a landfill since 1972. The property has continued as a landfill under a series of Conditional Use Permits from Los Angeles County. Chiquita was most recently granted a renewed Conditional Use Permit in 2017 to allow continued operations. Under its current use permit, CCL is allowed to accept an average of 6,616 tons per day (TPD) of solid waste between the hours of 4:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Saturday. CCL may also accept green waste and beneficial reuse materials. CCL may accept a maximum of 2,800,000 tons per year of solid waste and beneficial reuse material combined. Beginning around April 2020, CCL moved operations for solid waste disposal to a new cell of the landfill, known as Cell 6, located in the southwest corner of the landfill.

continued to receive complaints of trash odors. In the month of October, South Coast AQMD

received more than 50 complaints alleging CCL as the source of an odor nuisance. While the

26

11.

Since September 22, 2020, the date of the last NOV, South Coast AQMD has

Chiquita Canyon, LLC [Facility ID No. 119219] - Findings and Decision

between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Respondent shall ensure that there is a minimum of 3 hours between the conclusion of the first daily odor surveillance and beginning of the second daily odor surveillance.

 Respondent shall conduct each odor surveillance at each of the following Surveillance Locations:

Stop	Description
1.	Intersection of Henry Mayo Drive and Chiquito Canyon Road
2.	Intersection of Chiquito Canyon Road and driveway leading to the LA County Fire's Del Valle Regional Training Center
3.	Intersection of Chiquito Canyon Road and Lincoln Avenue
4.	Intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Jackson Street
5.	Intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Harding Avenue
6.	Intersection of Buchanan Way and Chiquito Canyon Road
7.	Intersection of Chiquito Canyon Road and San Martinez Road
8.	Intersection of Central Avenue and Lincoln Avenue
9.	Intersection of San Martinez Road and Morningside Drive
10.	Intersection of Lexington Drive and Morningside Drive
11.	Intersection of Val Verde Road and Trellis Road
12.	Intersection of Hunstock Street and Del Valle Road
13.	Intersection of Del Valle Road and Silver Street
14.	Intersection of Del Valle Road and Hasley Canyon Road
15.	Intersection of Hasley Canyon Road and Gibraltar Lane
16.	Intersection of Hasley Canyon Road and Commerce Center Drive
17.	Intersection of Commerce Center Drive and Witherspoon Parkway
18.	Intersection of Franklin Parkway and driveway leading to the United States Postal Service
19.	Intersection of Henry Mayo Drive and Cambridge View Drive leading into the Valencia Travel Village RV Resort
20.	Intersection of Henry Mayo Drive and Wolcott Way

- c. The employee conducting the odor surveillance shall not have visited the working face or other areas where exposed trash exists at the Landfill prior to conducting an odor surveillance that day.
- d. Odor surveillance shall be conducted by proceeding to each Surveillance Location and making an assessment of each parameter listed in Condition 1.e. Assessment of each parameter shall be made while standing in ambient air and shall not be made from within a vehicle.

e. Respondent shall record odor surveillance results in an "Odor Surveillance Log." The Odor Surveillance Log shall contain, but not be limited to: (1) the date and time; (2) stop number; (3) the wind speed and direction; (4) a narrative description of any odor detected (including the type of odor, such as trash, landfill gas, chemical, odor neutralizer, as applicable); (5) current weather conditions; and (6) an assessment of the strength of any odor detected using the scale below:

0	No odor detected
1	Very light odor detected
2	Light odor detected
3	Moderate odor
4	Strong odor
5	Very strong odor

- f. Using the scale in Condition 1.e., if an odor strength of 3 or greater is detected that is of the type that may occur at a landfill at any five (5) or more Surveillance Locations during any single odor surveillance conducted by Respondent, Respondent shall immediately stop accepting waste in Cell 6.

  Respondent shall not accept waste in Cell 6 either until the close of that operating day or until a subsequent odor surveillance, conducted at least one hour later than the prior surveillance, determines that odors have been reduced to below the threshold of five (5) Surveillance Locations assessed at 3 or higher.
- 2. Respondent shall submit each month's Odor Surveillance Log to South Coast AQMD, along with all records maintained relating to receipt and resolution of any odor complaints pursuant to Condition 128 of Respondent's Conditional Use Permit (No. 2004-00052-(5)), by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the following month (attn: Larry Israel <u>lisrael@aqmd.gov</u>).

# **Operational Adjustments**

3. Respondent shall direct 50% of incoming waste to permitted areas other than Cell 6 and ensure that the working face of Cell 6 is no larger than 50% of the maximum working face size permitted by Respondent's Conditional Use Permit. Respondent may, however, subject to the requirements of Condition 1(f) above, place all incoming waste in Cell 6 and increase the size of

the working face to the extent permitted by Condition 4 below, at any time that (i) winds are
projected to blow away from Val Verde, or are projected to be blowing towards Val Verde at a
speed of less than 1 mile per hour or greater than 5 miles per hour, and (ii) local conditions are
consistent with such projections. Respondent shall monitor wind projections on Weather
Underground and monitor real time wind conditions through its onsite air monitor and onsite
observations on an hourly basis during the operating day. If Respondent is operating fully within
Cell 6 and winds are projected to blow towards Val Verde between 1 and 5 miles per hour later in
the operating day, Respondent shall return to diverting 50% of incoming waste to areas other than
Cell 6 and shall reduce the working face size to no larger than 50% of the maximum working face
size permitted by Respondent's Conditional Use Permit one hour prior to such projected wind
conditions.

- a. Respondent shall maintain records documenting the wind projections as monitored each hour of the operating day and onsite air monitor data.
  Respondent shall also maintain records documenting the working face size at its largest on each operating day, as well as any changes made to the working face size in accordance with Condition 1(f) or Condition 3. Such records shall be submitted to South Coast AQMD (attn: Larry Israel <u>lisrael@aqmd.gov</u>) upon request.
- 4. Until March 11, 2021, Respondent shall not exceed 70% of the maximum working face surface area permitted by Respondent's Conditional Use Permit at any time during which Respondent is using one cell for waste disposal, and 85% of the maximum permitted working face surface area at any time Respondent is using more than one cell for waste disposal.

  Notwithstanding the foregoing, until March 11, 2021, at no time shall Respondent exceed 70% of the maximum permitted working face surface area in Cell 6. After March 11, 2021, Respondent may use a working face size up to the maximum permitted by its Conditional Use Permit.
- 5. Respondent shall place and secure tarp covers over exposed solid waste at the end of each operating day Monday - Friday. At the beginning of each operating day, Respondent shall immediately apply odor neutralizer to solid waste as soon as any such tarp covers are removed.

- 6. Respondent shall visually inspect tarp covers at least once each operating day.

  Respondent shall record and maintain a "Tarp Cover Inspection Log." The Tarp Cover Inspection Log shall contain, but not be limited to: (1) the date and time of inspection; (2) a narrative description of any damage or defects observed on the tarp covers from the inspection; and (3) the corrective actions taken (repairs, reinforcement, replacement, etc.). Respondent shall submit each month's log to South Coast AQMD (attn: Larry Israel <u>lisrael@aqmd.gov</u>) by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the following month.
- 7. Respondent shall implement permanent repairs, reinforcement, and/or replacement of any observed damage or defects on the tarp covers from the daily inspection within 24-48 hours of identifying the damage or defect.
- 8. Respondent shall use fans equipped with an unscented odor control neutralizer that is prepared per manufacturer specifications and recommendations beginning at least one hour before the time at which any winds are projected to blow towards Val Verde between 1 and 5 miles per hour, or as soon as possible once onsite air monitor data or onsite observations indicate that winds are blowing towards Val Verde between 1 and 5 miles per hour. The odor neutralizer shall be pumped into a misting nozzle to deliver the odor neutralizer around the fan face for dispersion as needed. Respondent shall position these fans around the working face of the Landfill in such a manner as to dilute and neutralize odors that could potentially travel in the direction of receptors.
- 9. Respondent shall, within 15 days of this Stipulated Order, submit to the South Coast AQMD (and any other applicable agency or regulator) a permit application (with expedited processing requested and paid) for each Tier 4 engine to be used to power odor dispersion and misting fans ("orchard fans") along with a Title V Permit Revision application as necessary. Once valid permits have been issued by South Coast AQMD and any other responsible agency or regulator, Respondent shall construct and deploy the fans as soon as reasonably possible, but in no

case longer than 90 days after receiving the permits, and shall use the orchard fans so as to further dilute odors that could potentially travel in the direction of receptors.

### Landfill Gas Collection System

- 10. Respondent shall continue to retain a consultant with competency in the management, inspection, operation, and maintenance of landfill gas collection systems. Such consultant shall regularly inspect, evaluate, make recommendations on any necessary improvements to efficacy of the landfill gas collection system, and implement such improvements, which may include, but not be limited to, maintenance and/or replacement of landfill gas collection wells and associated landfill gas collection equipment and improved parameter monitoring of the landfill gas collection system.
  - a. Respondent shall report the results of the consultant's inspection, evaluation, recommendations, and implemented improvements to the landfill gas collection system and shall submit such report to South Coast AQMD (attn: Larry Israel <a href="lisrael@aqmd.gov">lisrael@aqmd.gov</a> and Harry Moon <a href="mailto:hmoon@aqmd.gov">hmoon@aqmd.gov</a>) by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the following month.
- 11. Respondent shall expand its landfill gas collection system as necessary and appropriate, and/or when recommended by Respondent's landfill gas collection system consultant, to new areas of the Landfill when the new areas begin to receive solid waste material.
- 12. Respondent shall submit to the South Coast AQMD a permit application (with expedited processing requested and paid) for modifications to the landfill gas collection system as needed along with a Title V Permit Revision application. Modifications requiring permit changes shall only be made after valid permits have been issued by South Coast AQMD.

#### Landfill Cover

13. Within 5 days of the date of this Order Respondent shall request authorization (including requesting and paying for expedited processing, if available) from the Los Angeles

County Department of Public Works and the Local Enforcement Agency to begin using an alternative daily cover that does not need to be removed, such as Enviro-Cover, on the working face. Respondent shall commence using such cover within 30 days after receiving approval for use of such material. Once Respondent has commenced using such alternative daily cover material, it shall cease using tarps as alternative daily cover at Cell 6.

- 14. Respondent shall visually inspect Landfill intermediate cover on a weekly basis.

  Respondent shall record and maintain an "Intermediate Inspection Log." The Intermediate

  Inspection Log shall contain but not be limited to, (1) the date and time of inspection; (2) a

  narrative description of any damage to the intermediate cover observed during the inspection; and

  (3) the corrective actions taken (repairs, reinforcement, replacement, etc.). Respondent shall submit each month's log to South Coast AQMD (attn: Larry Israel <u>lisrael@aqmd.gov</u>) by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the following month.
- 15. Respondent shall promptly implement permanent repairs, reinforcement, and/or replacement of any observed damage or defects on the intermediate cover from the weekly inspection. Repairs shall begin not later than 48 hours from discovery, shall conclude as soon as reasonably possible, and shall be performed in accordance with all applicable regulations.

## Community Outreach

- 16. Respondent shall create, maintain and regularly update a dedicated section of its webpage with a highly visible link on its homepage (the "odor mitigation section") for presenting information discussing odor mitigation at Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Such section shall be implemented by January 6, 2021, and meet the following requirements:
  - a. The odor mitigation section shall be accessible via a direct hyperlink included on the homepage of Chiquita Canyon Landfill's website (https://chiquitacanyon.com), via a clickable link with text stating "Click HERE for Odor Mitigation Information;"
  - The odor mitigation section shall display prominently at the top of the page a notification that complaints of any odors believed to be caused by Chiquita

Canyon Landfill can be made to the South Coast Air Quality Management
District via telephone at 1 (800) CUT-SMOG or 1 (800) 288-7664 or online on
South Coast AQMD's website (which shall hyperlink to the following:
http://www3.aqmd.gov/webappl/complaintsystemonline/NewComplaint.aspx);

- c. The odor mitigation section shall display prominently at the top of the page a notification that complaints may also be submitted to Chiquita Canyon Landfill (24-Hour Hotline at (661) 253-5155);
- d. The odor mitigation section shall include an "Updates on Implementing Mitigation Measures" section which shall provide a narrative description of current status of implementation of the conditions in this Stipulated Order, including, without limitation, Consultant Retention, fan engine permitting, and use of Enviro-Cover;
- e. The odor mitigation section shall include an "Odor and Maintenance Logs" section which shall include via hyperlink any logs created pursuant to this Order, as well as any reports or logs relating to odor or odor mitigation required by Respondent's Conditional Use Permit to be submitted to any government agency, preceded by a brief narrative description (e.g. "Odor Surveillance Logs for the Month of January can be found here");
- f. The odor mitigation section shall include a "Reports, Permits, and Orders" section which shall include via hyperlink, preceded by a brief narrative description:
  - This Stipulated Order and any approved modifications to this Stipulated Order
  - ii. The Report created pursuant to Condition # 18
  - iii. Safety Data Sheets for odor neutralizer used at the facility and the amount of such odor neutralizer used, including both the concentrated and as-diluted volume employed at the Landfill per month

- iv. Any reports relating to odor or odor mitigation required by Respondent's Conditional Use Permit (No. 2004-00052-(5)) to be submitted to any government agency, including any responses or discussion of remedial actions to odor violations or complaints required by any government agency
- v. A copy of Respondent's current Conditional Use Permit (No. 2004-00052-(5)).
- g. The odor mitigation section shall include a "Air Monitoring and Health Impacts Section" which shall include a brief narrative describing the current status of air quality monitoring required under Condition 68 of Respondent's Conditional Use Permit (No. 2004-00052-(5)). The "Air Monitoring and Health Impacts Section" shall also include, via hyperlink, preceded by a brief narrative description:
  - Any consultant reports submitted to the Community Advisory
     Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, or any government agency under Condition 68 of Respondent's Conditional Use Permit (No. 2004-00052-(5))
  - Any quarterly or annual reports submitted to the Los Angeles County
     Department of Public Health or South Coast AQMD under Condition 68
     of Respondent's Conditional Use Permit (No. 2004-00052-(5))
- h. The odor mitigation section shall include an "Upcoming Public Meetings" Section, which shall display the title/subject, date, time location and/or virtual access information (including videoconference link or teleconference number as applicable), and a note of whether public comment will be received for the following meetings:
  - Any noticed Hearing of the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board in Case No. 6177-1

26

27

28

- ii. Any meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) where odor mitigation and/or violations are included as an agenda item or anticipated to be discussed
- iii. Any meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) where odor mitigation and/or violations are included as an agenda item or anticipated to be discussed
- iv. Any other meeting open to the public at which the Landfill is a scheduled host and/or participant where odor mitigation and/or violation are included as an agenda item or anticipated to be discussed
- 17. Beginning in January 2021, Respondent shall host a public one-hour community meeting once a month. During each meeting, Respondent shall provide updates with regards to implementation of this Order and make time available for public comment on matters related to the Landfill. The meeting date and time and format (in-person or virtual) shall be announced via Respondent's website and shall also be sent via email to everyone who has signed up for email notifications on Respondent's website. The announcement shall include a link and dial-in information to the virtual platform used to conduct the meeting, or if the meeting is in-person, the location of the meeting. All meetings held in person shall adhere to all applicable public health guidelines, and shall take place within the Val Verde community.

#### **Consultant Retention**

- 18. Respondent shall retain a consultant to assess the following aspects of the Landfill's operations. Upon completion of the assessment of operations, the consultant shall propose adjustments or modifications to landfill systems or operations that the consultant reasonably believes, based on its professional judgment, could reduce the potential emission of odors from the Landfill and related community impacts. The consultant shall include an assessment of the feasibility and limitations of any proposed operational adjustment or modification. The consultant shall document its proposals in a final report to be submitted to the South Coast AQMD (attn: Mary Reichert mreichert@aqmd.gov and Kathryn Roberts kroberts@aqmd.gov) on or before February 22, 2021. The consultant shall conduct the following assessments or studies:
  - a. A study in the community of Val Verde based on available meteorological data to determine prevailing wind patterns in the community and related meteorological

- conditions. This study shall include an assessment of prevailing wind direction and speeds throughout the course of the past five calendar years.
- b. Onsite study to characterize wind patterns and related meteorological conditions at each of the locations identified for future landfill cell development. Study shall include an assessment of potential ridgeline and vegetative barriers between current and future landfill cell locations and the surrounding residential community.
- Analysis of verified complaint trends throughout the course of the past five calendar years.
- d. Onsite assessment for odiferous waste streams and waste stream combinations that includes a profiling of known waste streams, and a characterization of the total mix and any notable interactions between waste streams.
- e. Onsite assessment of when odorous wastes are received at the Landfill.
- f. Onsite assessment of fill sequencing and timing.
- g. Onsite assessment of solid waste receiving, queuing, unloading and compaction practices.
- h. Onsite assessment of cover material practices throughout and at the end of the operating day.
- i. Onsite assessment of odor neutralizer uses and applications.
- A list of general landfill best management practices to mitigate potential odors from a landfill.
- k. An evaluation of alternative or future working face and/or cell locations which may be maintained in parallel to the primary open working face/cell location for use in times of odor complaints
- 19. Respondent shall return for a status hearing on <u>March 11, 2021</u>, or as soon thereafter as the Hearing Board can schedule the status hearing, to report on the findings of the Consultant Report, and status of mitigation measures, and consider modification or Dissolution of this Order,

as appropriate. 20. Upon South Coast AQMD issuing Respondent two Notices of Violation for an alleged violation of H&S Code 41700 or South Coast AQMD Rule 402 at any point between this date and March 11, 2021, the Parties shall immediately move to set a status hearing before the Hearing Board. The Hearing Board may modify this Order for Abatement without the stipulation of the parties upon a showing of good cause therefore, and upon making the findings required by Health and Safety Code Section 42451(a) and District Rule 806(a). Any modification of the Order shall be made only at a public hearing held upon 10 days published notice and appropriate written notice to the Respondent. The Hearing Board shall retain jurisdiction over this matter until December 9, 2021 and at that time this Order shall no longer be of any force or effect, unless this Order is amended, modified, or dissolved before then. 

Chiquita Canyon, LLC [Facility ID No. 119219] - Findings and Decision



This Order for Abatement is not intended to be nor does it act as a variance. Respondent is subject to all rules and regulations of the District and to all applicable provisions of California law. Nothing herein shall be deemed or construed to limit the authority of the District to issue Notices of Violation, to seek civil penalties or injunctive relief, or to seek further Orders for Abatement or other administrative or legal relief. The Findings of Fact are based on evidence presented by Petitioner and Respondent as of the date of this Order. Allan Bernstein, DPM. I Vote No. :

#### PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I, the undersigned, declare that I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of eighteen years and I am not a party to the within action. My business address is 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California 91765.

On January 22, 2021 I deposited in the United States Mail at Diamond Bar, California, an envelope sealed and addressed to

MICHAEL HEARNS/ ASSISTANT DISTRICT MANAGER CHIOUITA CANYON LLC 29201 HENRY MAYO DRIVE CASTAIC, CA 91384

CASE FILE NO. 6177-1

which, envelope contained a true and correct copy of the attached Findings and Decision and/or Minute Orders before the Hearing Board, which envelope was then sealed and placed for collection, mailing and deposit on the above date, in the United States Postal Service, following ordinary business practices.

I am readily familiar with the practice of this office for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service; this correspondence would be deposited with the United States Postal Service on the above date in the ordinary course of business.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 22, 2021 at Diamond Bar, California

Priscilla Pineda

Pineds

Office Assistant