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I AM BEING HARMED AND I CANNOT ESCAPE!

I moved to Val Verde 25 years ago for the peace, quiet, beauty and fresh air. My two daughters were born and raised in this home that I own. However, these things have been taken away from me and my family by the landfill which is less than a mile away. Some things that we have enjoyed for the past 25 years that we can no longer do are: Sit outside on our balcony; Sleep at night with our windows opened; Take our dogs for walks; Have guests over; Host holiday parties; Garden; Swim at Val Verde Park pool; Hike at Val Verde Park.

The stench from the landfill chemicals that we are inhaling Every Single Day is horrendous. I am often awakened from my sleep by the stench in the middle of the night and have difficulty falling back asleep. I must run in and out of my car to my house. The stench gets stuck in my nose, and I can taste it. It makes me nauseated. Every weekend I must leave Val Verde to get fresh air.

I have been affected by this both psychologically and physically. After more than a year of dealing with this I am traumatized! I am angry! I have anxiety every day and difficulty sleeping. I am depressed. I have brain fog, fatigue and anxiety which makes it difficult to work and manage a household. I have a constant runny nose. I often get headaches, sore throat and burning eyes. I am extremely worried about the long-term effects of these toxic chemicals on myself, my family, my neighbors and my pets. I worry about cancer and neurological issues. I worry every single day and that worry causes anxiety and depression.

I feel like a prisoner in my own home which was my peaceful sanctuary for a quarter of a century. I had planned on living in this home for the rest of my life and leaving it to my daughters. Now, I just want to flee. However, I cannot sell my home for its market value because the landfill disaster has caused the value to diminish. If I moved to a comparable house in nearby Santa Clarita, I would not get enough money from selling my house and would have to pay several hundred thousand dollars more. I simply cannot afford that. Additionally having to move

from my home of 25 years would be a huge, life-altering event for me and my family. Thus my family and I are prisoners here with no options to escape.

Besides the health effects caused by being poisoned by the landfill, I also have suffered financially. My electricity bills have increased greatly because I can no longer open my windows to cool down my house in the early mornings or evenings and am constantly running air purifiers. I have had to purchase 4 air purifiers and replacement filters. I have also had to pay thousands of dollars in medical bills.

I am also fatigued by all the additional work this landfill disaster has caused. There are constant meetings to attend, documenting, reporting, researching, social media. All these meetings, reporting, logging have become a part-time job added to the many responsibilities that I already have in my life.

The AQMD wants us to report the odors every time we smell them. For me, that means every single day. I started reporting the odors around the beginning of 2023. Although I am assaulted by the odors daily, I don't report daily, as I am simply burnt out of doing this additional unwanted chore. Often the odors occur when I am sleeping, and they wake me up. I don't want to make a report in the middle of the night when I am trying to fall back asleep. I resent the fact that I must do this in the first place. It's stressful and time consuming to make a daily report, give information, get a call back or wait for an AQMD representative to come over to tell them what I am experiencing and have them verify it. It is also an invasion of my privacy and peace. And all the reporting has not solved any of my or my communities' issues.

The Chiquita Canyon Community Relief Program program is a joke. The system is dysfunctional. Why must those of us who are affected have to even submit this application in the first place? And to make matters worse, we must recertify every month and when we do, we get no confirmation of recertification, so we must call for confirmation. The community should be RELOCATED. I want the landfill to be shut down! I want them to buy my house for the price it would cost for a comparable house in Santa Clarita and I want expenses for moving.

My daughter had to move away for a few months because she was having asthma attacks caused by the landfill. She also must leave for weeks at a time to breathe fresh air. Both of my daughters and my daughter's friend who lives with us have been experiencing many of the same health and psychological issues as me. My pets are lethargic. My cat has a cough.

I cannot comprehend why the landfill is allowed to continue to operate. I cannot comprehend why all the agencies and politicians involved are not doing anything to close it down. Why hasn't a state of emergency been declared? Why is nothing being done to help the community? Why are we not being relocated? Why is the Chiquita Canyon Landfill allowed to HARM and POISON the community!!!!

Sincerely,