



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

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

July 25, 2023

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: B-0

Mr. John M. Perkey
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel
Chiquita Canyon Landfill
29201 Henry Mayo Drive
Castaic, California 91384

**CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 2004-00042-(5)
NEW LANDFILL GAS FLARE**

Dear Mr. Perkey,

Public Works received your letter dated July 21, 2023 (enclosed), from Waste Connections indicating that Chiquita Canyon Landfill (Landfill) intends to proceed with installing a concrete pad for the permanent flare without first obtaining a grading permit, and that the Landfill will notify Public Works 48 hours prior to pouring the concrete pad.

Please note that pursuant to Sections 106.1 and J103.1 of the County of Los Angeles Building Code (Building Code), a building permit is required prior to installation of the proposed concrete pad and a grading permit may be required prior to any grading work. Any building or grading work performed without first obtaining a separate permit for each work will prompt code enforcement action from Public Works, Building and Safety Division, pursuant to Section 103 of the Building Code and may result in imposition of administrative fines and/or legal action against the Landfill.

We share your desire to expeditiously mitigate odors at the Landfill. However, this must be done in a manner that complies with the law and does not unduly compromise the integrity of the flare system. As a reminder, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill's Conditional Use Permit, Condition 54 requires the Landfill to comply with all grading requirements of Public Works and the County Code, which requires the Landfill to obtain prior approval from Public Works for all grading that is outside of the Landfill's footprint as well as all grading within the Landfill's footprint that could impact off-site property.

In addition, Condition 56 also requires that all development structures and activities pursuant to the Conditional Use Permit conform to the requirements of Public Works. As background, the Landfill first submitted a building permit application to Public Works on October 9, 2022, and received plan check comments back on October 14, 2022. After nine months, on July 3, 2023, the Landfill resubmitted a revised plan, to which, Public Works responded on July 14, 2023.

Mr. John M. Perkey
July 25, 2023
Page 2

To further expedite the process, on July 19, 2023, Public Works met with the Landfill manager, Mr. Steve Cassulo, and his engineer to discuss plan check comments.

The grading permit exemptions referenced in the letter (Section J103.2 (1), (8), and (9)) were discussed during the virtual meeting on July 19, 2023. Drainage and Grading Section clarified that exemption (1) would not apply because the proposed work includes a concrete pad which is the structural foundation for the flare. This work is not exempt because failure of the soil or pad would result in potential damage or failure of the flare. Exemptions (8) and (9) have not been shown on the plans or addressed for us to determine if a grading permit can be exempt. Grading volumes have not been disclosed for our review which are needed to determine if a grading permit is required or not.

Drainage and Grading Section has provided comments, which included requesting grading volumes, on the first plan review submitted October 2022, re-submittal in July 2023, and during the virtual meeting on July 19, 2023. We continue to require the grading volumes to determine the necessity for a grading permit.

We understand the revised plan will be resubmitted on July 25, 2023, and we are fully committed to expediting the review and permitting process. Please also note that Public Works' review and permit does not relieve the Landfill from complying with requirements of other agencies, such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District, who also has regulatory overview of the Landfill.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Juan Madrigal of my staff at (626) 458-6385 or juanmadrigal@pw.lacounty.gov, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Very truly yours,

MARK PESTRELLA, PE
Director of Public Works

JUAN MADRIGAL
Assistant Deputy Director
Building and Safety Division



JM:ir
p:\bspub\admin\sec\doc\2023\letters\ltr55-chiquita canyon landfill response.docx

Enc.

cc: Chiquita Canyon Landfill Manager (Steve Cassulo)
County Counsel (Pavlovic, Suzuki)