



August 7, 2024

Mr. John M. Perkey
Vice President – Deputy General Counsel
Compliance and Government Affairs - Waste Connections
3 Waterway Square Place, Suite 110
The Woodlands, TX 77380



Dear Mr. Perkey:

We are writing to you regarding the ongoing public health nuisance occurring at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (Landfill). The federal, state, and local agencies have continued to receive feedback from residents regarding the impacts from the ongoing incident and on resources that can be deployed to mitigate them.

In particular, living in close proximity to the Landfill, many residents continue to complain of significant impacts to their health and quality of life due to the strong odors emanating from the site. These odors not only affect their daily activities but also raise health concerns among residents, especially vulnerable groups such as children, elderly individuals, and those with respiratory conditions. In response to a letter from Supervisor Barger's office in February, the Landfill put in place a voluntary community relief program for community members experiencing these impacts. Unfortunately, based on feedback received from residents in public forums and in complaint submissions, the relief efforts have not been sufficient to meet the community's needs.

The federal, state, and local agencies involved continue to take appropriate permitting and enforcement actions to bring the facility into compliance with required environmental and public health protections. While that regulatory work proceeds, Waste Connections should step up its efforts to further mitigate direct impacts to residents surrounding the Landfill. Waste Connections should reduce the administrative and paperwork burden of participation in the Community Relief Program, increase support for inquiries from residents, and ensure transparency of the program. In addition, Waste Connections should explore other resources, such as cooling centers or hotel rooms for periodic use by impacted residents, particularly when the landfill is performing excavation or other work that could increase off-site odor impacts from the reaction area.

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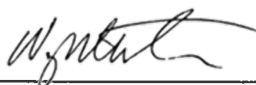
Quickly implementing these measures, while still expeditiously implementing mandated on-site mitigation efforts, should help signal that Waste Connections is undertaking a responsible approach to corporate citizenship and understanding the needs of the impacted communities. Waste Connections must proactively address these and other community concerns and work towards improving the quality of life for residents near the Landfill.

We look forward to your prompt response and to discussing additional ways to support impacted residents, businesses, and the broader community.

Sincerely,



MARTHA GUZMAN
Regional Administrator
United States Environmental
Protection Agency



WAYNE NASTRI
Executive Officer
South Coast Air Quality Resources Board



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District