

**STATE CAPITOL**  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0040  
(916) 319-2040  
FAX (916) 319-2140

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
27441 TOURNEY ROAD, SUITE 240  
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355  
(661) 286-1565  
FAX (661) 286-1408

Assemblymember.Schiavo@assembly.ca.gov  
www.Assembly.ca.gov/Schiavo



**COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR, MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS  
HEALTH  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY  
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

**SELECT COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR, ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND  
CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE  
DIGITAL FRONTIER AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
ACCOUNTING AND TRANSPARENCY  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESSNESS  
MENTAL HEALTH ACCESSIBILITY WITHIN  
NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COMMUNITIES  
RETAIL THEFT

April 23, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Additional Assistance for Communities Impacted by Growing Crisis at Chiquita Canyon

The undersigned are writing to request additional support for the communities impacted by the growing crisis at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) and a change in strategy beyond the current approach of monitoring community air quality, logging the painful symptoms of community members, and waiting for the lawsuit to advance.

For approximately 3 years, trash under the surface of CCL has been burning, emitting toxic and carcinogenic gasses and producing millions of gallons of toxic liquid. The undersigned are extremely grateful for the rapid and sustained response by numerous state agencies to direct action on the landfill site. This has included providing technical assistance to the local enforcement agency, denying permits which likely led to the closure of the landfill, and, most recently, additional enforcement actions required by CalEPA departments to stabilize the worsening picture on the ground.

However, the crisis is now growing and more action is needed for the impacted community. As noted in CalEPA's April 1st press release, the estimated size of the reaction has tripled, moved well beyond the area covered with a membrane designed to reduce emissions, and threatens the stability of regions containing toxic liquid pumped out of the reaction area. And more troubling, revised projections indicate that the reaction may take not years, but now will burn for multiple decades. In fact, children of local parents could have children of their own before this disaster is resolved. Beyond the short term impacts, the yet to be known health impacts will be felt by the local community for decades to come.

Unfortunately, the reaction continues to release methane, hydrogen sulfide and cancer causing chemicals like acrolein and benzene, along with nearly 20 other hazardous and carcinogenic chemicals. Residents experience daily impacts including headaches, nausea, dizziness, nosebleeds, vomiting, heart palpitations, difficulty breathing, increased heart rates, cancer, and tremors, to name a few. Recently, one resident had a three hour nose bleed that required her to call an ambulance to go to the ER where she started bleeding from her eye ducts. To protect the

health and safety of residents, the state must directly support the residents who face decades of exposure to these chemicals, increased utility bills and costs to harden their homes to escape the gasses seeping into their houses, additional hospital visits to address symptoms of gas exposure, increased cancer risks, and more. If not, decades long exposure to this public health crisis means that an entirely new generation of Californians will be burdened by this toxic pollution. While the landfill had established a community relief program in March of 2024 to assist with some of these costs, the landfill has, as of February 28, ended the community relief program. This means that the community has been left to fend for themselves and to react to a disaster brought upon them. Residents will no longer have support to afford \$1,200 per month utility bills when they cannot open windows and doors, schools won't get support with air filters, and additional doctor visits will be fully covered by residents.

In late 2024, Los Angeles County filed a lawsuit against CCL. While the undersigned are hopeful that the residents can receive financial support from the responsible party through this action, the community cannot wait for an injunction or for the final resolution of a legal battle that may take years. In the case of Aliso Canyon, final settlement and reimbursement of state costs did not occur until 2018, three years after the gas leak impacts occurred. Residents are breathing toxic air day in-day out, and their children are outdoors daily for recess or PE in conditions that parents fear are going to develop into chronic health conditions. This is an untenable situation with residents facing difficult choices. And given the uncontained nature of the reaction, the State must reevaluate its current level of engagement, specifically in the level of support and guidance provided to residents.

As the Los Angeles County Delegation detailed in a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (LACBOS), while not all toxic air contaminants in the communities surrounding Chiquita Canyon have exceeded recommended exposure limits, health studies conducted after the resolution of the Aliso Canyon disaster noted that air quality similarly did not exceed those thresholds in the surrounding communities. Further, there have been 20,000% more complaints to the air board as of this date than when Los Angeles County Department of Health (LACDPH) directed relocation action be undertaken by Aliso Canyon.

While the undersigned still believe that the current situation for residents warrants an emergency declaration from both the county and state to afford some of the below actions, in the absence of an emergency declaration, the community is desperate for the following immediate actions and we ask you to urgently provide relief with these reasonable requests:

1. Exemption of schools in the surrounding communities from physical education requirements if there is not enough space indoors.
2. Clarity of areas defined to be most impacted by the release of landfill gasses.
3. Tax relief for any funds received from the landfill to date, and any funds received from either the landfill or governmental entities in the future, connected with the disaster.
4. Short-term and long-term relocation assistance.

5. Mortgage relief for those who have temporarily relocated.
6. Ability to transfer tax base to a new primary residence.
7. Longitudinal study of health impacts to the surrounding community.

Parallel to this letter, the Los Angeles County Delegation has sent a letter to LACBOS, of which your office has received a copy, urging them to direct LACDPH to take additional measures to protect the health and safety of residents. We will keep you apprised of the Board's response, and should LACDPH not take additional action we will request greater engagement from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The extent of harm to the thousands of residents in the Val Verde and Castaic communities poses a menace to public health and CDPH should direct additional action on the part of the County to respond and adequately address the public health needs of the community. We ask that if the response of LABOS and LACDPH is inadequate the state use the full extent of their power to act, including declaring a state of emergency and CDPH stepping in to act in the interest of public health.

Though structures are not being impacted, the habitability of the community has been compromised, in similar nature to the Aliso Canyon disaster based on health studies conducted at the time, and it is unconscionable to require residents who cannot afford to escape to suffer until the court action is resolved. The undersigned request either clarity on the barriers to providing the above assistance and consideration of how the county and state can address these needs in an expedient manner.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter, and we look forward to your evaluation and response.

Sincerely,



PILAR SCHIAVO  
Assemblymember, 40<sup>th</sup> District



LENA GONZALEZ  
Senator, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
Senate Majority Leader



JESSE GABRIEL  
Assemblymember, 46<sup>th</sup> District  
Assembly Budget Chair



JOSH LOWENTHAL  
Assemblymember, 69<sup>th</sup> District  
Speaker Pro Tempore



TINA MCKINNOR  
Assemblymember, 61<sup>st</sup> District  
Chair, LA County Legislative Delegation



SADE ELHAWARY  
Assemblymember, 57<sup>th</sup> District



DAWN ADDIS  
Assemblymember, 30<sup>th</sup> District



DR. JASMEET BAINS  
Assemblymember, 35<sup>th</sup> District



REBECCA BAUER-KAHAN  
Assemblymember, 16<sup>th</sup> District



STEVE BENNETT  
Assemblymember, 38<sup>th</sup> District



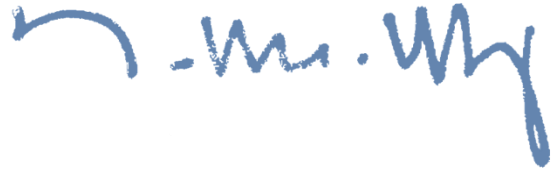
MARC BERMAN  
Assemblymember, 23<sup>rd</sup> District



LISA CALDERON  
Assemblymember, 56<sup>th</sup> District



JUAN CARRILLO  
Assemblymember, 39<sup>th</sup> District



DAMON CONNOLLY  
Assemblymember, 12<sup>th</sup> District



ROBERT GARCIA  
Assemblymember, 50<sup>th</sup> District



JOHN HARABEDIAN  
Assemblymember, 41<sup>st</sup> District



DR. COREY JACKSON  
Assemblymember, 60<sup>th</sup> District



ASH KALRA  
Assemblymember, 25<sup>th</sup> District



ALEX LEE  
Assemblymember, 24<sup>th</sup> District



AL MURATSUCHI  
Assemblymember, 66<sup>th</sup> District



STEPHANIE NGUYEN  
Assemblymember, 10<sup>th</sup> District



DR. DARSHANA PATEL  
Assemblymember, 76<sup>th</sup> District



JAMES RAMOS  
Assemblymember, 45<sup>th</sup> District



CELESTE RODRIGUEZ  
Assemblymember, 43<sup>rd</sup> District



MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ  
Assemblymember, 53<sup>rd</sup> District



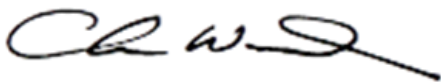
NICK SCHULTZ  
Assemblymember, 44<sup>th</sup> District



TRI TA  
Assemblymember, 70<sup>th</sup> District



AVELINO VALENCIA  
Assemblymember, 68<sup>th</sup> District



CHRIS WARD  
Assemblymember, 78<sup>th</sup> District



BEN ALLEN  
Senator, 24<sup>th</sup> District



HENRY STERN  
Senator, 27<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Christine Aurre, Legislative Affairs Secretary  
Sam Miller, Deputy Legislative Secretary  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors