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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 22, 2023

Steve Cassulo, District Manager  
Waste Connections, Inc.  
Chiquita Canyon landfill  
29201 Henry Mayo Drive  
Castaic, California 91384  
Steven.Cassulo@WasteConnections.com

**Certified Mail**  
**Return Receipt Requested**  
**Claim No. 7010 3090 0002 1022 1714**

### **NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS – CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL, CASTAIC, CALIFORNIA (FILE NO. 67-020, ORDER NO. R4-2018-0172, GEOTRACKER GLOBAL ID. L10003464243)**

Dear Steve Cassulo:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) is the public agency with primary responsibility for the protection of ground and surface water quality within major portions of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The Los Angeles Water Board hereby issues this notice of violation (NOV) to Waste Connections, Inc. (Discharger), which operates the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (Landfill), a Class III municipal solid waste landfill located at 29201 Henry Mayo Drive, Castaic, California.

The Landfill is regulated under waste discharge requirements (WDRs) Order No. R4-2018-0172, including a Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP, CI 6231), adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board on December 13, 2018, for the discharge of municipal solid wastes. The WDRs include requirements for construction and operations activities at the Landfill to protect groundwater and surface water resources of the State.

On October 3, 2023, during an inspection of the Landfill following a complaint by the Los Angeles County (LAC) Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), Los Angeles Water Board staff observed a leachate seep in the north-western portion of Main Canyon of the Landfill that flowed from the edge of the Landfill to a concrete V-ditch. The V-ditch widens to a flat bottomed ditch on its course to the stormwater debris basin at the front of the Landfill. The Landfill Operator placed several soil berms along the flat-bottomed ditch to capture and pump off the leachate before it reached the debris basin. Observations made during the inspection are documented in the enclosed inspection report. During a joint site visit conducted by multiple regulatory agencies on November 2, 2023, the Los Angeles Water Board staff observed that the above mentioned leachate seep was still occurring.

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**NORMA CAMACHO, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

You are hereby notified that, based on the observations documented in the inspection report and information included in the LAC LEA complaint, the Discharger is in violation of the following requirements and provisions of the WDRs:

1. Section F.6 of the WDRs requires that *“Leachate and landfill-gas condensate containment systems shall be protected and maintained continuously to ensure their effectiveness and to prevent commingling of leachate and gas condensate with surface water run-on and run-off.”* The current conditions in the area of the leachate seep at the Landfill are not adequate to prevent the commingling of leachate and gas condensate with surface water run-on and run-off during a rain event.
2. Section B.3.a of the MRP requires that *“The Discharger shall, within 24 hours of discovery, report to Regional Board staff by telephone or email any previously unreported seepage from the Landfill. A written report shall be filed with the Regional Board pursuant to electronic submittal of information (ESI) reporting requirements within seven days, and contain at least the following information: i. Map - A map showing the location(s) of seepage. ii. Flow rate- An estimate of the flow rate. iii. Description - A description of the nature of the discharge (e.g., all pertinent observations and analyses). iv. Location - Location of sample(s) collected for laboratory analysis, as appropriate. v. Corrective measures - approved (or proposed for consideration) by the Regional Board Executive Officer.”* The Landfill Operator failed to report the leachate seep observed at the Landfill during the inspection to the Los Angeles Water Board as required in the WDRs.

You are directed to immediately correct the above cited violations of the WDRs. By **December 22, 2023**, the Discharger shall submit a written response to the Los Angeles Water Board to report all corrective actions that have been taken and actions that are planned to mitigate conditions of the Landfill that are in violation of the WDRs. No later than **February 20, 2024**, the Discharger shall submit a final report to the Los Angeles Water Board to demonstrate that the Landfill complies with the WDRs.

Compliance with the terms of the MRP included in the WDRs is required by California Water Code (CWC) section 13267. Pursuant to CWC section 13268, a person's failure to furnish technical or monitoring program reports as required may be subject to administrative civil liability of up to \$1,000 for each day a report is missing after the required deadline. For violations of the WDRs, pursuant to the California Water Code section 13350(e), you are subject to penalties of up to \$5,000 for each day in which the violations occur or \$10 for each gallon of waste discharged, but not both. These administrative civil liabilities may be assessed by the Los Angeles Water Board beginning with the date that the violations first occurred and without further warning. Please note that this Notice shall not be deemed to relieve you of liability for any violations that may have already occurred. The Los Angeles Water Board reserves the right to take any further enforcement action authorized by law, including referring this matter to the Attorney General's Office.

**If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Douglas Cross (Project Manager) at (213) 620-2246 or [douglas.cross@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:douglas.cross@waterboards.ca.gov), or Dr. Wen Yang, Supervisor of the Land Disposal Unit, at (213) 620-2253 or [wen.yang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wen.yang@waterboards.ca.gov).**

Sincerely,

Hugh Marley  
Assistant Executive Officer

Enclosure:

Los Angeles Water Board Inspection Report, October 3, 2023

CC:

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