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Subject: Public Comment for June 22, 2026 -Upper Valley Waste Management Agency (UVWMA) - Napa County
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 7:25:15 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[WasteConnectionsLawsuits2024 \(2\).png](#)
[WasteConnectionsLawsuits2023-24 \(2\).png](#)

[External Email - Use Caution]

To UVWMA Director Steven Lederer, UVWMA Board/Staff, Napa County Supervisors, Napa County CEO Ryan Alsop,
REGARDING THE UPPER VALLEY WASTE MANAGEMENT AGENCY JPA (JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY) UVWMA-JPA/Napa County

The sole charge of the UVWMA is the Upper Valley Disposal Service/Clover Flat Landfill, now owned by Waste Connections. The UVWMA -JPA member jurisdictions are: City of St. Helena, City of Calistoga, Town of Yountville, County of Napa.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email and please distribute to UVWMA Board and Staff and Napa County Supervisors at the earliest possible juncture before scheduled 1:30 PM, June 22 2026 UVWMA Board Meeting listed on Napa County website.

This is Geoff Ellsworth, former mayor of St. Helena (2018-2022) in Napa County jurisdiction. I am also now Co-Chair of the Ca. LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) California Statewide Waste Workers Advocacy Committee.

Your continued denial of remote access to these meetings and minimal information on the UVWMA website is an affront to the public trust and the public's right to public information. Please provide remote/zoom style access to the June 22, 1:30 UVWMA meeting. The meeting occurs at the Yountville Town Chambers where the Yountville Town Council meets and has all available technology to easily facilitate this transparency the public has a right to, and to do so is well within the budget of the UVWMA and Napa County.

Here is a link to the April 30 Waste Worker Advocacy Coalition Sacramento presentation at the Ca. State Capitol with significant reference to Upper Valley Disposal Service and the UVWMA <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhPVt9SYLJk>

Ca LULAC has been involved in building a Ca. Statewide Waste Worker Advocacy Coalition that has included communication with the offices of Ca. Assemblymember Liz Ortega (District 20, San Leandro) who is Chair of the Ca. Assembly Labor Committee as well as with the office of Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo (District 40 - Santa Clarita) where thousands of complaints and legal actions have been registered against Waste Connections (current owner of Upper Valley Disposal Service/Clover Flat Landfill in Napa County).

These legal actions include a lawsuit from the County of Los Angeles District Attorney (see links below and attachments).

Please note I have submitted these concerns and requests many, many times to the UVWMA under the Directorship of Steven Lederer over many years, **including for the remote access/Zoom style meetings that should accompany the large scale, long term, no-bid public contracts bequeathed to this waste company by the UVWMA.** The public who pay the salaries of Napa County employees/regulators like yourselves have a right to be informed of processes, decision making, and outcomes in such matters.

The concerns I reference include fires, toxic smokes, large scale contamination incidents, questionable infrastructure and lack of accountability to the community and primarily Latino workforce impacted by incidents at UVDS/Clover Flat Landfill.

The Napa County community and the Latino workers of Clover Flat Landfill are among the general public the UVWMA and its member jurisdictions(City of St. Helena, City of Calistoga, Town of Yountville, County of Napa) are mandated to protect with a commitment to public health and safety.

Note: The FBI investigation into UVDS/Clover Flat Landfill referenced by Director Lederer did not exonerate the company or the UVWMA and indicated an ability for the US Justice Dept. to return to the matter.

I will once again today provide an inventory of concerns for you to consider as custodians of the public trust with this company (Waste Connections/ Upper Valley Disposal Service/Clover flat Landfill) that holds significant public/government contracts and responsibility for those it serves under those contracts.

For the benefit of the public you serve the UVWMA should agendize and present a summary of the 2025 Napa County District Attorney Settlement with UVDS/Clover Flat Landfill/Waste Connections instead of just directing the community to go read it themselves.

This includes a \$6.6 million dollar settlement for environmental damages in Napa Valley from contamination incidents in 2018/2019, including leachate (garbage wastewater) spills, \$4 Million in Habitat Restoration, and \$1.1 Million in flood plain restoration. Unfortunately the settlement does not address impacts to the Latino workforce of UVDS/Clover Flat Landfill impacted by the incidents.

PLEASE ADDRESS THE ISSUES CONCERNING LACK OF TRANSPARENCY WE HAVE BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION FOR MANY YEARS, THESE INCLUDE:

- **Not Including critical Public Comment at the 12.15. 2025 Upper Valley Waste Management Agency from Suscol InterTribal Council.**
- **Removing Microphones from meetings when all technology is in place at the Yountville Town Chamber**
- **Not offering video recording or virtual meeting capabilities that are provided at nearly every other county meeting.**

- We have slipped backwards where Zoom used to be provided for UVWMA and it has been removed. We know from your budgets that you have more than ample funding and capability to provide this. As a Board it is your leadership that has led to this diminishment of public accessibility to their own government decision making processes.
- Non-updated UVWMA website has a 4 year gap in past agendas (nothing from 2022-2026)

Providing a single thread audio recording of the UVWMA meetings with no ability to fast forward or rewind when all technology is available to provide full access visual and audio is yet another disservice to the public the UVWMA Board and Staff were either elected or hired to serve.

WASTE CONNECTIONS disregard for Public Comment and Public Service Advocacy Organization

A large number of Waste Connection staff attended only 15 minutes of the previous UVWMA meeting (**Dec. 12, 2025**) and then staged a walkout during a **presentation from Ca LULAC** regarding Latino Waste Worker fatalities and waste site public safety and environmental concerns, absenting themselves from listening to community comments or concerns. They contributed nothing and showed a complete disregard for the public and Ca LULAC, actions that do not translate to community partnership. Why were they there? Was it an attempt at intimidation?

WASTE CONNECTIONS LOS ANGELES COUNTY/SANTA CLARITA - CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

What is occurring with Waste Connections related to Chiquita Canyon Landfill in Santa Clarita/Los Angeles County is informative to the situation in Napa County with Waste Connections ownership of UVDS /Clover Flat Landfill - in both regions Waste Connections operates on government contracts.

The Chiquita Canyon Landfill in Santa Clarita Ca./Los Angeles County, owned and operated by Waste Connections, has been dealing with sub-surface toxic burning and for at least 4 years prompting thousands of serious complaints and lawsuits from entire communities, including a lawsuit from the County of Los Angeles (see below) - despite thousands of complaints Waste Connections has not resolved the problems.

This is a Waste Today Article about the lawsuit filed by Los Angeles County against "CHIQUITA CANYON, LLC" "CHIQUITA CANYON, INC." and "WASTE CONNECTIONS US, INC."

<https://www.wastetodaymagazine.com/news/los-angeles-county-files-lawsuit-against-chiquita-canyon-landfill-operators/>
[an article](#)

Here is the LA County Lawsuit against Waste Connections

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KvKUW3FkPxRKd49J9xnqJYXCdNn1w3j3/view?utm_name=

Through the Los Angeles County Courts portal, the attached screenshots are case numbers for claims against Waste Connections (see attached). These are just the first two pages, it says there are over 1000 cases/claims since 2021, including the mass torts.

This is the LA County court link to search

cases: <https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/paos/v2web3/CivillIndex>.
<https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/paos/v2web3/CivillIndex/Results>

REGARDING UVDS/CLOVER FLAT LANDFILL

In the UVWMA meeting on Dec. 15, 2025 the Waste Connections regional manager and representative stated Upper Valley Disposal Service Whitehall Lane is NOT a Transfer Station. However, the company submitted a request by Christy Pestoni that was processed in May 2023 (see attached) to have UVDS Whitehall Lane be a transfer station. On Jan. .8.2024 (see attached) UVWMA Director Steven Lederer signed paperwork with Waste Connections allowing it to be transfer station, **but without public process or input from community or neighbors.**

Closure Date - the goal post continues to move.

- Waste Connections said they would submit plans to the Local Enforcement Agency (Napa County Cal Recycle LEA) **early 2025** for closure of Clover Flat Landfill and that timeline was not met.
- The latest update was that closure of Clover Flat was to begin mid-2027 and take two years - meanwhile the landfill continues to operate with its inherent fire and contamination risks to workers, community and environment.
- <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/2025/04/24/closure-of-troubled-napa-valley-landfill-likely-to-begin-in-2027/>

Employee Retention - Waste Connections claimed in earlier meetings they would retain all of their employees when they were purchasing the company.

TIMELINE

- 2.2023 Waste Connections purchases Clover Flat Landfill and Upper Valley Disposal
- 11.2023 Employees file complaints with state and federal agencies
- 3.8.2024 - 12 employees laid off/terminated at Upper Valley Disposal Service/ **all of Latino background** - bringing up questions of potential retaliation

8.2024 FBI visits UVDS Whitehall Lane & the Pestoni home

- 11.2024 UVDS Employees file a lawsuit

I would encourage the UVWMA Board, Supervisors and Staff to read the bolded headings in the attached employee lawsuit against UVDS/Clover Flat Landfill/Waste Connections (see attached) - it only takes about ten minutes to understand the significant abuses of a minority workforce in the modern United States claimed by the workers, and the public health/safety and environmental concerns indicated by the claims.

Geoff Ellsworth

Co-Chair

CA LULAC Waste Workers Advocacy Committee

323-691-9621

CALulac.org





The following list might contain records of different people/companies with the same name, and it may not contain records of the person/entity for whom you are searching.

Search performed on: 1/9/2026 5:54 AM

Company Name: Waste Connections

Click on the case number to view further case information.

[New Search](#)

[Print This Page](#)

Civil Name Search For "Waste Connections" From 1/1/2021 Up To 1/8/2025

1115 results found.

Case Number	Filing Date	Case Type	Name	Location	Available Docs
23CHCV00187	1/23/2023	Motor Vehicle - Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (U	WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.	Chatsworth Courthouse	7
24CHCV00061	1/8/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES	Spring Street Courthouse	168
24CHCV01058	3/26/2024	Claims Involving Mass Tort (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES	Spring Street Courthouse	6
24CHCV01062	3/26/2024	Claims Involving Mass Tort (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES	Spring Street Courthouse	6
24CHCV00061	1/8/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	Spring Street Courthouse	168
24CHCV00717	3/6/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	Spring Street Courthouse	8
24CHCV00775	3/11/2024	Claims Involving Mass Tort (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	Spring Street Courthouse	6

24CHCV00775	3/11/2024	Claims Involving Mass Tort (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	Spring Street Courthouse	6
24CHCV00923	3/19/2024	Claims Involving Mass Tort (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	Spring Street Courthouse	7
24CHCV00981	3/20/2024	Claims Involving Mass Tort (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	Spring Street Courthouse	6
24CHCV01105	3/28/2024	Claims Involving Mass Tort (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	Spring Street Courthouse	7
24CHCV01504	4/23/2024	Claims Involving Mass Tort (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	Spring Street Courthouse	7
23STCV20524	8/25/2023	Toxic Tort/Environmental (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	24
24CHCV00061	1/8/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	168
24CHCV00642	3/4/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	8
24CHCV00643	3/4/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	8
24CHCV00645	3/1/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	8
24CHCV00647	3/4/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	8
24CHCV00652	3/4/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	8
24CHCV00653	3/4/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	8
24CHCV00656	3/4/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	8
24CHCV00657	3/4/2024	Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (Unlimited)	WASTE CONNECTIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC.	Spring Street Courthouse	8