

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

RENEWAL OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

(NPDES No. CA0084905)

for

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

SLIGER MINE

EL DORADO COUNTY

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Discharger) owns the Sliger Mine, an inactive gold mine. The Sliger Mine discharges an average of 0.0646 million gallons per day of mine drainage water from its ventilation adit (V-Adit) mine shaft to the Middle Fork of the American River. The Discharger has recently installed and now operates a passive bioreactor treatment system, which utilizes sulfate-reducing bacteria to precipitate metals contained in the V-Adit drainage water prior to discharge. The discharge is regulated under an existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge and requested renewal of the existing NPDES permit. In response to comments received by the Discharger on the 14 April 2008 tentative Waste Discharge Requirements, staff have approved the application of dilution factors for certain parameters. Staff recommends the Regional Water Quality Control Board adopt the revised tentative NPDES permit to regulate the discharge from the facility.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Regional Board meeting which is scheduled for:

DATE: 23/24 October 2008
TIME: 8:30 am
PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Dr #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Staff of Central Valley Regional Water Board
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Representatives

Only designated parties will have these rights: to call and examine witnesses; to introduce exhibits; to cross-examine opposing witnesses; to impeach any witness; and to rebut the evidence against him or her. All other persons wishing to testify or provide comments are interested persons and not designated parties. Such interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Board no later than **16 October 2008**. The request must

explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is directly affected by the discharge.

The revised tentative Waste Discharge Requirements were issued on **18 August 2008**. Comments may be submitted only on those revised portions of the Waste Discharge Requirements that were affected as a result of the granting the dilution factors (as highlighted in the revised tentative Waste Discharge Requirements). Any persons wishing to comment on this noticed hearing item shall submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Regional Board no later than by 5:00 pm on **19 September 2008**. Written evidence or comments submitted after 5:00 pm on **19 September 2008** will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record if doing so would prejudice any party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Board Chair

Anyone having questions on the proposed Orders should contact Ken Landau at (916) 464-4726. Interested parties may download the proposed Orders and related documents from the Regional Water Board's Internet website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The procedures governing Regional Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Regional Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/. Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Regional Water Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzarda at (916) 464-4839.

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzarda at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

Ken Landau, Assistant Executive Officer

18 August 2008