

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES CORPORATION,

MAURICE ALTSHULER AND BARTLETT BURNAP,

MINING, PROCESSING, AND RECLAMATION

FRENCH CORRAL MINE

NEVADA COUNTY

The French Corral Mine is a surface placer gold mine located near French Corral in Nevada County. Surface mining operations were conducted at this facility during the 1980s under prior waste discharge requirements. Since 1993, the facility has been idle. The proposed mining operation includes excavation of the undisturbed tertiary gravels and existing placer tailings by mobile mining equipment and transportation to the processing plant by truck or conveyor. Processing of the gold bearing material is performed by conventional washing, scrubbing, and gravity separation using water and screening. Gold is removed by a physical separation process. No use of chemicals such as cyanide or mercury is proposed. The proposed mining rate is approximately 155,000 cubic yards per year through 2016. Process water will be retained in unlined settling ponds. No discharge of process water off-site is proposed. Reclamation will generally be performed concurrently with mining. The mining waste has been classified as Group C as defined by California Code of Regulations, title 27, § 22480. Further information about the proposed mining operation, the facility, and the proposed requirements can be found in the tentative WDRs that are available on the Central

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Valley Water Board's website at

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders.

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

DATE: 7/8 June 2012

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Staff of Central Valley Water Board
- Agents for California Natural Resources Corporation (mine operator)
- Maurice Altshuler and Bartlett Burnap (landowners)

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 **30 April 2012**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is directly affected by the discharge.

Persons wishing to comment on this noticed hearing item shall submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no

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later than by noon on **30 April 2012**. Written materials submitted after noon on **30 April 2012** 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 Central Valley Water 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 item should contact **Jeff Huggins** at **(916) 464-4639**. Interested parties may download the proposed Order and related documents from the Central Valley 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 Central Valley 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 Central Valley 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 Central Valley 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/water_laws/. Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Central Valley 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-Rizzardi 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-Rizzardi 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.

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

_____ original signed by _____

Frederick S. Moss, Assistant Executive Officer

29 March 2012