

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
MELBOURNE ALLENBAUGH AND STEVE ALLENBAUGH,
AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE
MAYFLOWER MINE
SIERRA COUNTY

The Mayflower is an underground placer mine located near Alleghany in Sierra County. Underground mining operations have been conducted intermittently at this facility since at least the early 1980s. No prior waste discharge requirements have been issued for this facility. Mining activities are performed underground where the placer gravels are extracted by means of an existing adit that extends several hundred feet under the buried tertiary channel. Ore bearing gravels are drilled and blasted, loaded into mine cars, pushed to the surface, dumped into the ore bin, and processed through a trommel. Waste rock is dumped adjacent to the bin and subsequently transported to the tailings placement area.

Processing of the gold bearing material is performed by conventional washing, scrubbing, and gravity separation using water and screening. Gold is removed from the concentrates by physical separation. No use of chemicals such as cyanide or mercury is proposed. The proposed mining rate is less than 200 tons per year. 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 ("Title 27"), § 22480. Regulations set forth in Title 27 which establishes prescriptive standards for construction of Mining Units and containment are not applicable for Group C mining wastes. Group C mining wastes are wastes from which any discharge would be in compliance with the applicable water quality control plan, including water quality objectives other than turbidity.

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 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: 30/31 May 2013
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:

- Melbourne Allenbaugh and Steve Allenbaugh
- United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

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 **5 April 2013**. 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 **by 5:00pm on 5 April 2013**. Written materials submitted after **5:00pm on 5 April 2013** 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 California Code of Regulations, title 23, § 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.

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

Original Signed by

Andrew Altevogt, Assistant Executive Officer

4 March 2013