

RESOLUTION
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
WALKER MINE TAILINGS

RESOLUTION No. 58- 181

ADOPTED: April 24, 1958

WHEREAS, WALKER MINE TAILINGS CONSIST OF REFUSE FROM AN ABANDONED ORE MILL;
AND

WHEREAS, TAILINGS APPEAR TO BE JOINTLY OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BY MESSERS ROBERT R. BARRY AND ROBERT E. WILSON; AND

WHEREAS, THE TAILINGS AREA COVERS SOME 100 ACRES LOCATED IN SECTIONS 7 AND 8, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 12E; AND IN SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 24, RANGE 11E, MDB&M; AND

WHEREAS, THE TAILINGS ARE PRESENTLY CONFINED BY A DAM AND ABOUT 3/4 MILES OF LEVEES, ALL OF WHICH ARE IN A STATE OF DISREPAIR; AND

WHEREAS, THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THESE TAILINGS LIES ON THE LOVEJOY RANGER STATION, A FEDERAL AREA EXEMPT FROM MINERAL ENTRY; AND

WHEREAS, OTHER PORTIONS OF THE TAILINGS, INCLUDING THE DAM, LIE ON NATIONAL FOREST PROPERTY; AND

WHEREAS, AREAS OF THE TAILINGS OUTSIDE OF LOVEJOY RANGER STATION LAND ARE COVERED BY MINING CLAIMS; AND

WHEREAS, DOLLIE CREEK DRAINS ACROSS THE TAILINGS TO ENTER LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK; AND

WHEREAS, DOLLIE CREEK FROM TIME TO TIME CARRIES SILT FROM THE TAILINGS INTO LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK; AND

WHEREAS, LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK FLOWS SOME 10 MILES THROUGH NATIONAL FOREST GROUND TO ENTER INDIAN CREEK; AND

WHEREAS, INDIAN CREEK TRAVERSES INDIAN VALLEY TO DRAIN INTO EAST BRANCH NORTH FORK FEATHER RIVER; AND

WHEREAS, DOWNSTREAM FROM THE POINT WHERE DOLLIE CREEK ENTERS LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK, WATERS OF LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK AND INDIAN CREEK ARE USED FOR DOMESTIC SUPPLY, IRRIGATION, STOCK WATERING, LIGHT INDUSTRY, POWER GENERATION, AND MINING; AND

WHEREAS, WATERS OF INDIAN CREEK ARE ALSO USED FOR FISHING, CAMPING, SWIMMING, AND PICNICKING; AND

WHEREAS, LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK WATERS DOWNSTREAM FROM THE CONFLUENCE WITH DOLLIE CREEK ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL FOR FISHING AND RECREATION AT ONE TIME, BUT THESE USES IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY UNCONTROLLED DRAINAGE FROM THE WALKER MINE AND THE WALKER MINE TAILINGS; AND

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WHEREAS, RESTORATION OF THE FISHING AND RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL OF LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK, AND PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE FISHING AND RECREATIONAL USES OF INDIAN CREEK ARE OF ECONOMIC CONCERN; AND

WHEREAS, INDIAN CREEK WATERS ARE DIVERTED, SOME 5 MILES BELOW THE JUNCTION OF LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK, INTO THE CANALS OF THE AMERICAN-INDIAN VALLEY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT; AND

WHEREAS, EXCESSIVE SILT IN INDIAN CREEK WATERS MAY RESULT IN DAMAGE TO IRRIGATION CANALS THROUGH LOSS OF CARRYING CAPACITY; AND

WHEREAS, IT IS THE INTENT OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD TO PROTECT THE EXISTING BENEFICIAL USES OF INDIAN CREEK WATERS; AND TO RESTORE THE BENEFICIAL USES OF LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK WHERE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE; AND

WHEREAS, SECTION 13053, DIVISION 7, CALIFORNIA WATER CODE, PROVIDES THAT EACH REGIONAL BOARD SHALL PRESCRIBE REQUIREMENTS RELATIVE TO ANY PARTICULAR CONDITION OF POLLUTION OR NUISANCE, EXISTING OR THREATENED, IN THE REGION; THEREFORE BE IT

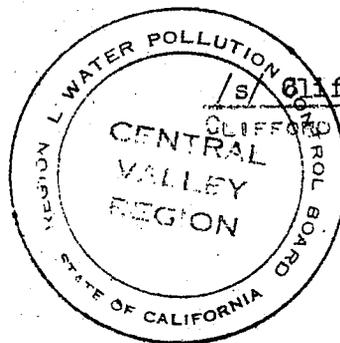
RESOLVED, THAT THE DRAINAGE FROM THE WALKER MINE TAILINGS SHALL NOT CAUSE:

1. AN INCREASE IN THE NATURAL TURBIDITY OF LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK,
2. SILT, GRAVEL, OR SLUDGE DEPOSITS IN LITTLE GRIZZLY OR INDIAN CREEKS,
3. CONCENTRATIONS OF MATERIALS IN LITTLE GRIZZLY OR INDIAN CREEKS WHICH ARE DELETERIOUS TO HUMAN, ANIMAL, PLANT, OR AQUATIC LIFE,
4. A NUISANCE DUE TO ODORS OR UNSIGHTLINESS,
5. PH OF LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK TO FALL BELOW 6.5 OR TO EXCEED 8.5.

IF IN THE FUTURE THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE CONDITIONS OR USE OF THE DISPOSAL AREA, IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD TO REVISE THESE REQUIREMENTS TO CONFORM TO THE NEW CONDITIONS OR USE.

THESE REQUIREMENTS DO NOT AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION OF ANY ACT RESULTING IN THE INJURY TO THE PROPERTY OF ANOTHER OR PROTECT THE DISCHARGER FROM HIS LIABILITIES UNDER FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS.

ATTEST:



/s/ Clifford E. Plummer
CLIFFORD E. PLUMMER, CHAIRMAN

/s/ Joseph S. Gurlinski
JOSEPH S. GURLINSKI, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BASIS FOR REQUIREMENTS

WALKER MINE TAILINGS
PLUMAS COUNTY

RESOLUTION No. 58-

WALKER TAILINGS CONSIST OF THE REFUSE FROM THE WALKER MINE MILL, WHICH CEASED OPERATIONS ABOUT 1942. TAILINGS COVER ABOUT 100 ACRES WITH A VARIABLE DEPTH OF UP TO 20 FEET. TAILINGS ARE CONFINED BY A LEVEE AND A DAM. THE LEVEE HAS ONE MAJOR BREAK, AND THE DAM APPEARS TO BE RATHER INSECURE.

SILT FROM TAILINGS MAY ENTER LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK AND, SOME 10 MILES DOWNSTREAM, MAY ENTER INDIAN CREEK. INDIAN CREEK WATERS ARE DIVERTED SOME 5 MILES DOWNSTREAM INTO THE IRRIGATION CANALS OF THE AMERICAN-INDIAN VALLEY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT TROUT WATER AT ONE TIME, BUT SUPPORTS LITTLE AQUATIC LIFE AT THE PRESENT TIME. INDIAN CREEK WATERS FIND CONSIDERABLE RECREATIONAL USE, INCLUDING SWIMMING AND FISHING, AND ALSO IS USED FOR IRRIGATION AND STOCK WATERING.

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME HAS STATED THAT RESTORATION OF FISHING, CAMPING, SWIMMING, AND PICNICKING USES OF LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK, AND PRESERVATION OF SUCH USES IN INDIAN CREEK, IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED TOURIST PRESSURE IN THIS AREA.

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES HAVE STATED THAT LITTLE GRIZZLY AND INDIAN CREEKS ARE IMPORTANT STREAMS TO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OF UPPER FEATHER RIVER. THE CALIFORNIA WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CONTEMPLATES FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THESE WATERS FOR IRRIGATION, POWER, RECREATION, AND STREAM FLOW MAINTENANCE.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT NOTE THAT BESIDES THE USES OF IRRIGATION, FISHING AND SWIMMING, DOWNSTREAM WATER MAY FIND LIMITED DOMESTIC USE. THESE DEPARTMENTS RECOMMEND THAT LITTLE GRIZZLY AND INDIAN CREEK WATERS BE KEPT WITHIN THE STANDARDS OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, AS SET FORTH IN THEIR "DRINKING WATER STANDARDS OF 1946."

THE REQUIREMENTS ARE BASED UPON THE PROTECTION OF THE INDICATED USES OF INDIAN CREEK WATERS; AND UPON THE MAINTENANCE OF WATER CONDITIONS IN LITTLE GRIZZLY CREEK SUITABLE FOR SUCH INDICATED USES.

Handwritten notes:
The water from the tailings is not suitable for drinking or irrigation.
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