

INFORMATION SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2015-XXXX
EAGLE BIRD MINING COMPANY, LLC
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
EAGLE BIRD MINE
SIERRA COUNTY

EAGLE BIRD MINING COMPANY LLC (MINE OPERATOR), AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE (LAND MANAGER), SIERRA COUNTY

The Eagle Bird Mine (Mine Site) is comprised of nine (9) lode gold mining claims on public lands owned by the United States Government and managed by the Forest Service. The Mine Site is located approximately 5 miles east-southeast of Downieville. Eagle Bird Mining Company LLC (the Discharger) plans to perform small-scale exploration and mining of up to 7,200 tons per year. No use of chemicals such as cyanide or mercury is proposed for the operation.

Intermittent mining and processing operations have taken place at the Mine Site starting in the mid-1880s, with recurring activities in the 1910s, 1930s, and most recently in 1969. However, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) have never been issued for the Mine Site. These proposed WDRs prescribe waste discharge requirements for mining waste that are protective of ground and surface waters.

Based on information in the Dischargers Report of Waste Discharge, mining waste at the Eagle Bird Mine can be classified as Group C as defined by Title 27 (Title 27) California Code of Regulations section 22480. Mining wastes from Group C are wastes from which any discharge would be in compliance with the applicable water quality control plan, including water quality objectives other than turbidity.

To ensure that Group C waste classification remains appropriate, the Monitoring and Reporting Program will require ongoing sampling and characterization of the mining waste in accordance with Water Code section 13260(k). Ongoing characterization is intended to detect changes in geology and mineralogy and then modify waste containment and waste discharge procedures to address any changes.

The Discharger has a Reclamation Plan and related Financial Assurance approved by Sierra County and reviewed by the Department of Conservation Office of Mine Reclamation for the purposes of compliance with the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). The Reclamation Plan and related Financial Assurance are functionally equivalent to Closure and Post Closure Maintenance of Mining Units and Closure and Post-Closure Funding required by Title 27, subsections 22510 (b), (c) and (f).

These WDRs incorporate by reference the Discharger's Reclamation Plan and approved Financial Assurance in place of Title 27 Closure and Post-Closure Maintenance Plan and Closure and Post-Closure Financial Assurances.

JSH/WMH