

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDR)
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)
PERMIT NO. CA0085171
AND TIME SCHEDULE ORDER
for**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
EMPIRE MINE STATE HISTORIC PARK
NEVADA COUNTY**

The State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation (Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility at Empire Mine State Historic Park, which includes a historic gold mine. The treatment facility was newly installed in November 2011 and consists of a settling pond and two wetlands designed to passively remove arsenic, iron, manganese, and turbidity from up to 2.3 million gallons per day (MGD) of mine drainage. The treated mine drainage is discharged to Magenta Drain Channel, a tributary to the Bear River via South Fork Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will consider renewal of the Discharger's existing NPDES Permit (WDR Order R5-2006-0058) and a new Time Schedule Order. The proposed Permit includes final effluent limits for acute and chronic toxicity, arsenic, dissolved oxygen, iron, manganese, turbidity, and color. Due to no detection, or detection below criteria, effluent limits for a number of metals are no longer included in the proposed Permit. The effluent limits for iron and manganese were based on a monthly average in the existing NPDES Permit. However, in the proposed Permit, the effluent limits for iron and manganese are based on a yearly average. The proposed Time Schedule Order includes a new 3-year time schedule for the Discharger to comply with the final effluent limits for dissolved oxygen and turbidity. Also, an additional 3-year time schedule is proposed to extend the existing time schedule for compliance with arsenic, iron, and manganese final effluent limitations.

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

DATE: 7/8 June 2012
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Room
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation

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 Central Valley Water Board no later than **9 March 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.

The Tentative NPDES Permit and Time Schedule Order were issued on 7 February 2012. Persons wishing to comment on the noticed hearing item must submit testimony, evidence, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on **9 March 2012**. Written evidence or comments submitted after 5:00 p.m. on **9 March 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 regarding the Tentative NPDES Permit and Time Schedule Order should contact Elizabeth Thayer at (916) 464-4671 or ethayer@waterboards.ca.gov. Interested parties may download the proposed NPDES Permit 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 may 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 final meeting agenda will be available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/ at least 10 days before the meeting. The agenda will provide the specific date the Board Meeting will be held for this item, indicate the anticipated order of all agenda items, and may include staff revisions to the proposed order(s).**

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/laws_regulations/. 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 Central Valley Water 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 five 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 may be interested in this matter.

Original Signed by

KENNETH D. LANDAU, Assistant Executive Officer

7 February 2012