

RICHARD SYKORA AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, RED INK MAID AND BIG SEAM MINE,
Placer County

The Red Ink Maid and Big Seam Mine is a small underground gold mine with about two-acres of waste rock dumps near Foresthill. The two 20-acre mining claims that make up the mine property drain to Mad Canyon, tributary to the Middle Fork of the American River. The property is owned by the United States Government and administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service). Richard Sykora is the mine claimant and has been the operator of the mine for the past 20 years. No prior Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) have been issued for this site. These WDRs implement the mining regulations in Title 27 for a Group C (low threat) mining waste and contain a Monitoring and Reporting Program that implements provisions found in Water Quality Order No. 97-03-DWQ, Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities (General Industrial Permit), in place of a Title 27 surface-water monitoring plan. These WDRs also require completion of reclamation of four existing waste dumps by 30 October 2009 to reduce the threat to water quality caused by erosion and slope failure of the waste dumps. (JSH)