

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER NO. 93-043

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
SANTA FE PACIFIC MINERALS CORPORATION  
WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY FOR INERT WASTES  
East of Glamis - Imperial County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 6200 Uptown Boulevard NE, Suite 400, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125, submitted a Report of Waste Discharge dated March 15, 1993 for a new Board Order for an existing waste management facility (WMF) for inert waste, which has been in operation for approximately six years and is located east of Glamis in Imperial County.
2. The gold mining operation at Mesquite contain a mining and processing facility designed to recover gold from up to 10 million tons of ore annually. Ore is mined from an open pit, crushed, agglomerated, and stacked on heap leach pads. The Mesquite Mine is located adjacent to Highway 78 approximately 5-1/2 miles northeast of the Glamis Store and 35 miles east of Brawley, in a sparsely populated area of eastern Imperial County.
3. The discharger disposes of the mine self-generated, nonhazardous, non-liquid, inert mining refuse materials within its overburden pile located on private land. It is the disposal of these inert materials into the overburden pile that this Board Order regulates. There has not been a waste discharge requirements for the disposal of these wastes because the discharger has been granted a waiver in the past. Materials that can be disposed of in the overburden pile are limited to scrap iron, concrete, and glass.
4. Recycling of materials going to the solid waste facility is not economically feasible due to a number of factors including physical size of items, lack of market, and transportation costs. Items presently sent to recycling include used oil and batteries (these are excluded from disposal to the landfill) and some scrap metal items small enough to fit into transportation bins.
5. The solid waste facility is operated in an overburden pile contained on Section 7, T13S, R19E, SBB&M. The total area utilized is expected to be less than 10 acres. The landfill currently encompasses approximately 5 acres and is expected to increase in size as subsequent lifts are placed on the overburden pile.

CHANGE NAME / OWNERSHIP  
BY BOARD ORDER NO. R7-2004-0081

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CHANGE NAME / OWNERSHIP  
BY BOARD ORDER NO. 01-010

6. The discharger states that the volume of materials to be disposed of in the solid waste facility during the expected 20-year mine life (beginning 1985) will be negligible compared to the volume of the overburden pile. It is expected that the amount of refuse generated will be only a fraction of one percent of the overburden (0.0005 percent).
7. These waste discharge requirements are being implemented to comply with Section 13263 of the California Water Code and incorporate the applicable provisions of Chapter 15, Division 3, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.
8. "Inert Wastes" is described in Chapter 15 as waste which does not contain hazardous waste or soluble pollutants at concentrations in excess of applicable water quality objectives, and does not contain significant quantities of decomposable waste.
9. The discharger states with respect to the surface hydrology, the area is within the Salton Sea drainage basin. This is a closed hydrological basin which encompasses the Imperial, Coachella, and Mexicali agricultural valleys, each of which drain into the Salton Sea. Surface drainage from the Mesquite Mine area is further closed because the relatively small drainages which traverse the site drain toward the Sand Hills. There, the infrequent surface flows infiltrate into the ground or evaporate. These drainages originate in the Chocolate Mountains immediately north and drain to the southwest. They are normally dry, carrying flow only during infrequent precipitation events. Since there are no surface waters other than temporary pooling which occurs during a few occasional periods of precipitation each year, water in the vicinity of the project site consists solely of ground water.
10. The discharger reports the area overlies a minor subbasin in which low permeability basement rock and conglomerate bedrock are present at shallow depths. Only minor amounts of ground water are found. Lack of a ground water source forced the Mine to develop a ground water source for production purposes to an area outside of the subbasin, approximately 7 miles south of the mine area. Ground water beneath the Mesquite Mine ranges in depth from 180 to 350 feet. On-site pump tests and in-place permeability testing indicate permeabilities on the order of  $10^{-4}$  cm/sec. to  $10^{-6}$  cm/sec. for conglomerate bedrock, and  $10^{-6}$  cm/sec. for basement rock.
11. Annual averages for evaporation and precipitation in the area are 100 inches and 4 inches, respectively.
12. The 100-year, 24-hour precipitation event of the site is approximately 5.0 inches.
13. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan) was adopted on May 15, 1991 and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
14. The beneficial use of ground waters in the Amos-Ogilby Hydrologic Unit is:
  - a. Municipal supply (MUN)

15. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for this discharge.
16. The Board in a public meeting heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.
17. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these waste discharge requirements, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050(1) and 13050(m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. Waste material shall not be discharged on any ground surface which is less than five feet above the highest anticipated ground water level.
3. Waste materials shall be confined to the waste management facility as described on the attached site maps.
4. This discharge shall not cause degradation of any water supply.
5. The waste management units shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to a 24-hour storm having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.
6. Surface drainage from tributary areas, and internal site drainage from surface or subsurface sources, shall not contact or percolate through the wastes discharged at this site.
7. The discharger shall remove and relocate any wastes which are discharged at this site in violation of these requirements.
8. The discharge shall comply with all applicable provisions of said Chapter 15.

B. Discharge Prohibitions

1. The discharge or deposit of hazardous waste as defined in said Chapter 15 at this waste management facility is prohibited.
2. The discharge or deposit of designated waste as defined in said Chapter 15 at this waste management facility is prohibited.

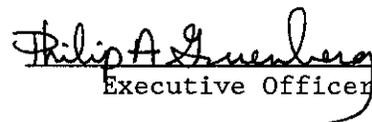
3. The discharge of nonhazardous solid waste as defined in said Chapter 15 at this WMF is prohibited.
4. The discharge of liquid or semi-solid waste i.e., waste containing less than 50 percent solids to the solid waste facility units is prohibited.
5. The discharge of wastes to surface waters, surface water drainage courses, or to ground waters is prohibited.
6. The discharge or deposit of waste to land not owned or controlled by the discharger is prohibited.
7. The discharge of waste containing any carcinogen or reproductive toxin listed by the Governor, pursuant to the Health and Safety Code, Sections 25249.5 through 25249.13, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65), where such chemicals may pass into any source of drinking water, is prohibited.

C. Discharge Provisions

1. The discharger shall immediately notify the Regional Board of any flooding, slope failure or other change in site conditions which could impair the integrity of waste containment facilities or of precipitation and drainage control structures.
2. The discharger shall maintain legible records on the volume and type of each waste discharged at the site. These records shall be available for review by representatives of the Regional Board at any time during normal business hours. At the beginning of the post-closure maintenance period, copies of these records shall be sent to the Regional Board.
3. The discharger shall maintain visible monuments identifying the boundary limits of the entire waste management facility.
4. One year prior to the anticipated closure of the facility or any unit (portion) thereof, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board, for review and approval by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, a closure and post-closure maintenance plan in accordance with Section 2597 of Chapter 15.
5. The surety bond (No.123940151) which has been posted with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) by the discharger shall be used in part or in total for investigation or remediation of any unauthorized discharge from this waste management unit.
6. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 93-043", and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
7. Prior to any modifications in this facility which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of waste treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board.

8. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
9. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all maintenance records, copies of all reports required by this Board Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Board Order, for a period of at least 5 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on November 17, 1993.

  
Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. 93-043  
FOR  
SANTA FE PACIFIC MINERALS CORPORATION  
WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY FOR INERT WASTES  
East of Glamis - Imperial County

Location of Discharge: Section 7, T13S, R19E, SBB&M

WASTE MONITORING

The discharger shall monitor all wastes discharged to the disposal site and report to the Regional Board the following:

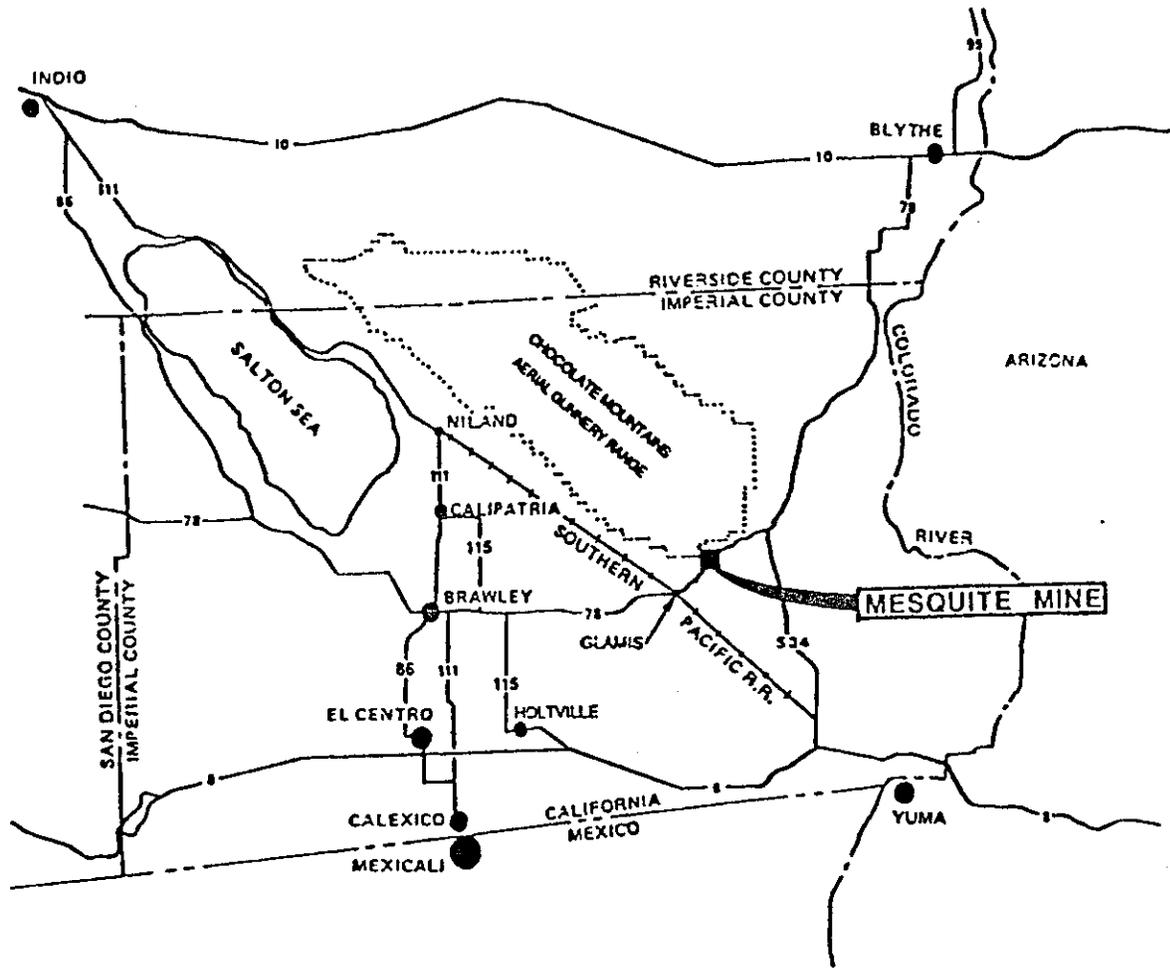
<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Inert Waste Discharged	Cubic Yards	Semi-Annually
Any discharge of wastes other than those allowed by this Board Order with	Type, Volume and Location	Immediately upon becoming aware that the waste has been discharged together with action for immediate correction and prevention of recurrence

REPORTING

1. Semiannual monitoring report shall be submitted to the Regional Board by January 15 and July 15 of each year.
2. The discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the specified information is readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner as to clearly illustrate whether the waste management unit is operating in compliance with waste discharge requirements.
3. Records of monitoring information shall include:
  - a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements.
  - b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements.
  - c. The date(s) analyses were performed.
  - d. The individual(s) who performed the analysis.
  - e. The results of such analyses.



85-000 RODS/RI



**SITE MAP**

**SANTA FE PACIFIC MINERALS CORPORATION  
 WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY FOR INERT WASTES  
 East of Glamis - Imperial County  
 Location: Section 6, T13S, R19E, SBB&M**

Order No. 93-043



FIGURE 1

**REGIONAL LOCATION MAP**

MESQUITE MINE

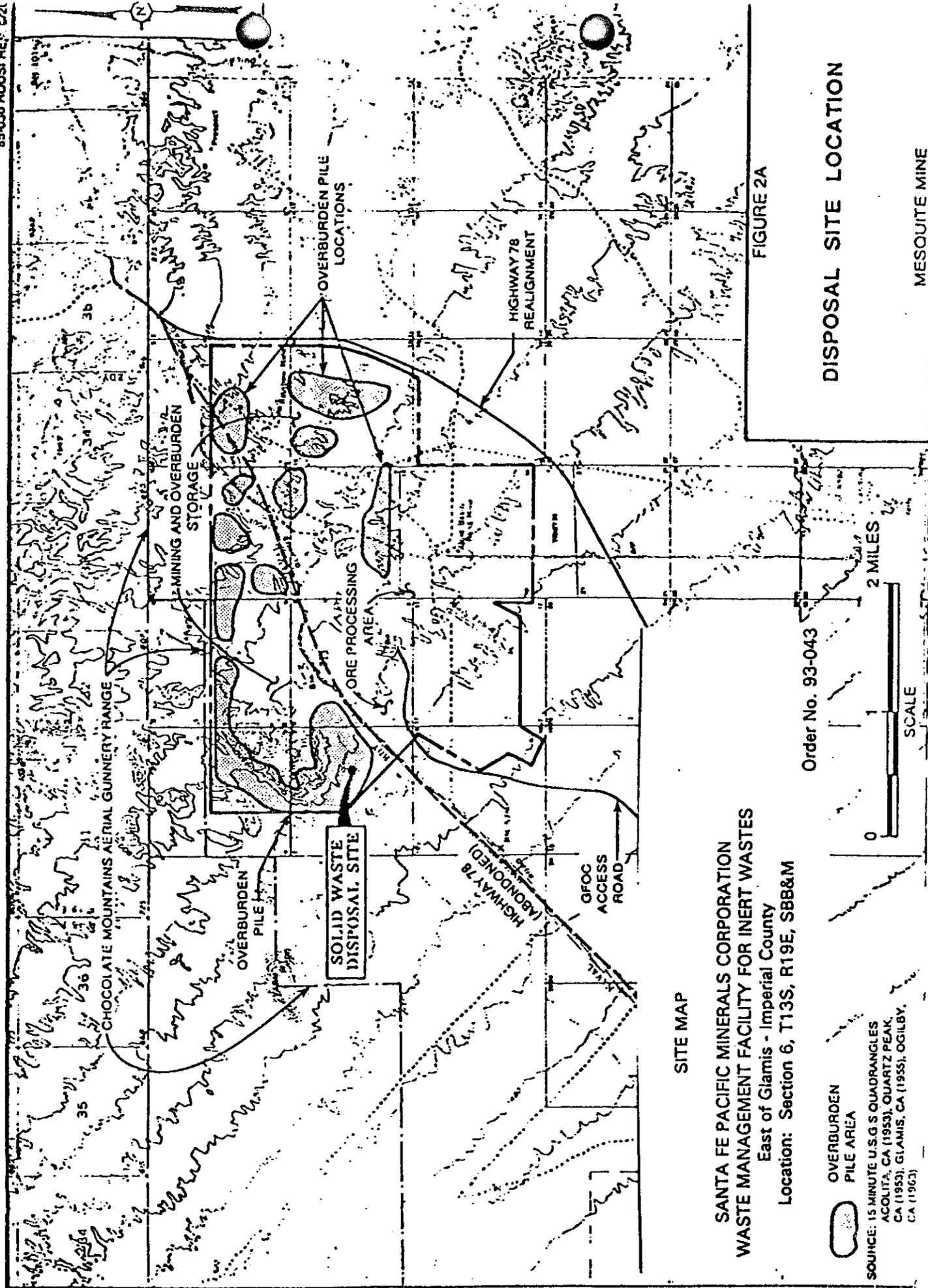


FIGURE 2A

SITE MAP

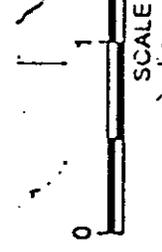
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OVERBURDEN  
PILE AREA

SOURCE: 15 MINUTE U.S.G.S QUADRANGLES  
ACOLITA, CA (1953), QUARTZ PEAK,  
CA (1953), GLAMIS, CA (1955), OGILBY,  
CA (1963)



DISPOSAL SITE LOCATION

MESQUITE MINE