



California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region

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TO: Barbara Evoy
Division Chief
Division of Financial Assistance

FROM: Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

DATE: February 2008

SIGNATURE: _____

SUBJECT: WALKER MINE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT, PROJECT NO. C/A 069

We are responding to the request to provide information regarding Cleanup and Abatement Account No. C/A 069 for the Walker Mine. The request asks for information about why we believe the account should be exempt from having its funds pulled back for other needs.

The Regional Water Board has a long-term liability at Walker Mine to prevent the discharge of acid mine drainage from this abandoned, underground mine. These obligations arise from pollution control features constructed at this site by the Board since the 1980s. If funds are withdrawn, the Board would not be able to meet the requirements of the Board's Walker Mine Pollution Prevention Project to ensure proper performance of engineered features and prevent discharge of pollutants to surface water. Obligations include maintenance work needed in the main underground adit leading to the mine seal, such as replacing support timbers and repairing ventilation ductwork. This type of work is anticipated for this summer and occurs every few years. The Board also uses CAA funds to monitor water levels in the mine and conduct periodic testing of the concrete mine seal to ensure its integrity. This year we will be working on a contract to fill subsidence areas (sinkholes) above the mine workings to reduce the amount of water that seeps into the mine. We anticipate this work to be completed during 2009.

Estimated costs are about \$111,000 annually to maintain the site and the water quality improvements. Additional funds will be needed to conduct the new work under contract for filling of the subsidence areas. We therefore request that the entire balance of \$469,500 be maintained in the account.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Rosenbaum of my staff at 464-4631.