

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 86-057

CLEANUP OF WALKER MINE
PLUMAS COUNTY

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Board) finds that a condition of pollution exists which has resulted from a nonoperating copper mine owned by Robert R. Barry and Calicopia Corporation and leased by Standard Bullion Corporation, Inc. and Century 2000 (hereafter jointly referred to as Discharger). The mine is in central Plumas County, about twenty miles east of Quincy, in Sections 19, 29, 30, 31, and 32, T25N, R12E, and Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, T24N, R12E, MDB&M, and situated within the jurisdiction of this Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 85-033 (NPDES No. CA0080110, on 25 January 1985; adopted Order No. 83-148, Request to Abate Pollution, on 21 December 1983; and adopted Order No. 80-071, Referral to the Attorney General and Order No. 80-070, Cleanup and Abatement Order, on 30 May 1980, against the Discharger; and

WHEREAS, the Discharger has violated, and continues to violate, waste discharge requirements established in Order No. 85-033 and Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 80-070. No significant progress has been made by the Discharger towards reduction of the toxic acid mine drainage. The discharge flows to Dolly Creek, which is tributary to Little Grizzly Creek, tributary to Indian Creek, thence the East Branch North Fork Feather River, waters of the United States; and

WHEREAS, unless certain measures are initiated, the mine will continue to discharge acid water containing metals toxic to fish and other aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten (SRK) is currently under contract to determine the feasibility of sealing the mine. The Feasibility and Design Report for the proposed mine seal has been completed; and

WHEREAS, SRK's report has shown that sealing the mine's main portal will provide the most cost-effective method of pollution abatement and provide the best protection for the surrounding surface waters and watershed; and

WHEREAS, \$259,050 have been allocated from the Clean Water and Water Conservation Bond Act of 1978 for the purpose of implementing a solution to Walker Mine water quality pollution problem; and

WHEREAS, the projected total cost of the Walker Mine pollution abatement program will be \$393,516; and

WHEREAS, due to savings in the West Stanislaus Resource Conservation District State Assistance Program Grant Project, funds are available to cover the increased cost of the Walker Mine pollution abatement program provided the State Water Resources Control Board authorizes the redirection of these savings to the Walker Mine project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13305 of the California Water Code, the Board may "... request the city, county, or other public agency in which the conditions of pollution...exists to abate it." The regional board may give notice that a condition of pollution or nuisance "will be corrected by the...regional board at the property owner's expense". "The owner of the property on which the conditions exist...is liable for all reasonable costs incurred...in abating the condition." And, "...the cost for abating the condition...shall constitute a lien upon the property...upon recordation...."; and

WHEREAS, the Board published the Notice called for in the California Water Code Section 13305, on 21 December 1983; and

WHEREAS, the Board has requested Plumas County and the U. S. Forest Service abate the existing pollution. These agencies have notified the Board that they cannot abate the condition of pollution resulting from Walker Mine within a reasonable time. No other local public agency has jurisdiction in the Walker Mine area; and

WHEREAS, on 21 December 1983, the Regional Board filed a complaint in the Plumas County Superior Court for preliminary and permanent injunction and civil penalties against Robert R. Barry and Calicopia Corporation and Does I through XXX, inclusive. This matter has not been brought to trial; and

WHEREAS, an Initial Study has been completed for the pollution abatement project. It has been determined that, although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be significant adverse effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in the Initial Study have been added to the project. A Negative Declaration has been prepared; and

WHEREAS, the Board has approved the Negative Declaration in Resolution No. 86-056; and

WHEREAS the Board considers the water pollution abatement proposal at Walker Mine a project; and

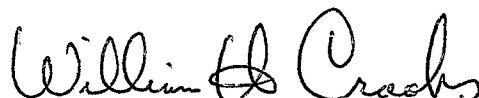
WHEREAS, issuance of this Resolution is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Title 14, Chapter 3, of the California Administrative Code; and

WHEREAS, on 28 February 1986, in Sacramento, after due notice of Paragraph 1 of this Resolution to the Discharger and all affected persons, in accordance with Section 13305, California Water Code, the Board conducted a public hearing and considered all objections and protests to the proposed correction of the condition: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Executive Officer shall take steps necessary to seal the mine in accordance with the SRK Report; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Officer is directed to request that the State Water Resources Control Board reallocate \$134,466 from the West Stanislaus Resource Conservation District State Assistance Program Grant Project to cover the increased cost of the Walker Mine seal project.

I, WILLIAM H. CROOKS, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 28 February 1986.



WILLIAM H. CROOKS, Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 86-056

NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT AT
WALKER MINE, PLUMAS COUNTY

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Board) finds that a condition of pollution exists which has resulted from a nonoperating copper mine owned by Robert R. Barry and Calicopia Corporation and leased by Standard Bullion Corporation, Inc. and Century 2000 (hereafter jointly referred to as Discharger). The mine is in central Plumas County, about twenty miles east of Quincy, in Sections 19, 29, 30, 31, and 32, T25N, R12E, and Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, T24N, R12E, MDB&M, and situated within the jurisdiction of this Board; and

WHEREAS, an Initial Study has been completed for the pollution abatement project. The Board has determined that, although the proposed pollution abatement project could have a significant effect on the environment, mitigation measures have been included in the project that will avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where there will be no significant effects; and

WHEREAS, there is no substantial evidence before this Board that the project as mitigated may have substantial adverse effect on the environment; and


WHEREAS, said Negative Declaration has been prepared and is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Board, on 28 February 1986, held a public hearing in Sacramento and considered all evidence concerning the Negative Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the proposed Negative Declaration together with all comments received during the review period: Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that said Negative Declaration is hereby approved.

I, WILLIAM H. CROOKS, Executive officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 28 February 1986.



WILLIAM H. CROOKS, Executive Officer

Amended:2/28/86

Attachment

EXHIBIT "A"

NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Pursuant to Section 21108
Public Resources Code

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Regional Water Quality
Control Board
Central Valley Region
3201 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

PROJECT TITLE: Water Pollution Abatement at Walker Mine

APPLICANT: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project will be: construction of a mine seal, rehabilitation of surface diversion structures and the implementation of a surface water survey for the purpose of abating acid mine drainage discharging from Walker Mine.

LOCATION: 20 miles east of Quincy, Plumas County, Section 7, T24N, R12E, MDB&M. See attached map.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has determined that, although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be significant adverse effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in the attached Initial Study have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.

Mitigation measures outlined in the Initial Study include the implementation of the "Surface Water Survey" and the rehabilitation of the diversion structures.

Contact Person: William A. Croyle

Telephone: 445-0270

APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE IS RECOMMENDED BY:

William A. Croyle 12/27/85
Signature Date
Water Resources Control Engineer
North Mountain Unit

William J. Marshall 12/27/85
Signature Date
Senior Water Resource Control
Engineer, North Mountain Unit

APPROVED
William H. Croyle 3-5-86
Signature Date
Executive Officer