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**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
and  
**Notice of Filing of Draft Environmental Documents**  
Concerning

An Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan to Provide a Regulatory Framework for the Closure of Mining Waste Management Units at the Royal Mountain King Mine Site, Calaveras County

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING WRITTEN COMMENTS – 10 JANUARY 2014**

The Central Valley Water Board has developed a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Amendment) that would provide a regulatory framework for the closure of mining waste management units at the former Royal Mountain King Mine Site (RMKM Site) in southwestern Calaveras County. Meridian Gold Company (Meridian) conducted gold mining operations at the RMKM Site from 1989 to 1994. The Proposed Amendment and draft environmental documents are being made available for public inspection and comment before the Board conducts a public hearing to consider the adoption of the Proposed Amendment.

The Proposed Amendment will allow Meridian to close the inactive mine under closure criteria that are reflective of the relatively poor quality of the groundwater that underlies much of the RMKM Site. The Proposed Amendment will do the following:

- De-designate the municipal and domestic supply (MUN) and agricultural supply (AGR) beneficial uses of groundwater at the RMKM Site in locations where levels of total dissolved solids exceed 3,000 mg/L, underneath the waste management units that have not already been closed, and immediately down-gradient of those units.
- Require Meridian to continue to implement a groundwater management strategy at the RMKM Site.
- Establish a variance for the industrial service supply (IND) and industrial process supply (PRO) beneficial uses for certain constituents in the same area where the Board proposes to de-designate the MUN and AGR beneficial uses.

The Board's Basin Planning Program is considered a certified regulatory program, which means that the Board is exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report for basin planning activities under the California Environmental Quality Act because a sufficiently rigorous environmental review is incorporated into the basin planning process itself. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.5; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(g).) The Board's environmental review of the proposed Basin Plan Amendment is contained in a Staff Report and a completed Environmental Checklist. These documents have been posted on the Board's website for public review. Interested persons may download them from the following web address:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/hodson\\_littlejohns\\_fault\\_zone/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/hodson_littlejohns_fault_zone/index.shtml)

Copies of the Proposed Amendment, Staff Report, and Environmental Checklist can 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, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Staff contact information: Gene Davis at (916) 454-4687, [Gene.Davis@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Gene.Davis@waterboards.ca.gov).

Written comments must be submitted to the above email or postal address by **10 January 2014** in order to be included in the administrative record. Staff will review all timely comments and will prepare written responses and final recommendations for the Board's consideration at a public hearing scheduled for **27/28 March 2014**. Oral testimony at the hearing will be limited in time by the Board Chair. Groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. All exhibits presented at the hearing, including charts, graphs, and other testimony, must be left with the Board and will become part of the administrative record.

The public hearing is scheduled as follows:

**Date:** 27/28 March 2014 (Please contact staff two weeks prior to the meeting for the exact date.)  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Place:** Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200  
Ranch Cordova, CA 95670

At the public hearing, Board staff will provide the Board with recommendations regarding the Proposed Amendment and will discuss any changes made in response to comments received. The public hearing will also give interested persons the opportunity to give oral comments on the Proposed Amendment. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board may take action on the Proposed Amendment, which may include adopting the amendment as proposed, or adopting the amendment with minor changes.

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 5 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 would be interested in this matter.

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*Original signed by*  
Andrew Altevogt, Assistant Executive Officer

11/8/2013  
Date