

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

TENTATIVE
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
SOPER COMPANY
SPANISH MINE
NEVADA COUNTY

Soper Company owns the historic Spanish Mine, a former underground gold and surface barite mine covering approximately 456 acres in Nevada County. The property is located approximately three miles north of the town of Washington. The Spanish Mine operated intermittently as a gold mine from 1883 to 1942 and as an open pit barite mine from the late 1970s to 1988.

As a result of former mining activities, groundwater seepage through underground mine workings produces and discharges moderately acidic water containing metals from two collapsed mine adits. In 2011, Soper constructed two passive treatment systems (PTS) at the property for the treatment of mine water which is collected and treated in the PTS. Bacterial sulfate reduction and limestone dissolution neutralize the acidity of the mine water and precipitate metals as insoluble sulfides in the treatment systems.

Further information about the Spanish Mine and the proposed waste discharge (WDRs) requirements can be found in the attached Information Sheet and the tentative WDRs available on the Central Valley Water Board's website at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders.

A public hearing concerning this matter will be held during the Regional Water Board meeting, which is scheduled for:

DATE: 8/9 June 2017
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

The designated parties for this hearing are as follows:

- Staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Soper Company

Interested persons may not cross examine witnesses, and will not be subject to cross examination. Interested persons may submit evidence (e.g., photographs, eye-witness testimony, monitoring data) if the evidence is submitted in accordance with the deadlines for submitting evidence described below. Interested persons who present evidence may be subject to cross-examination. Interested persons may request status as a designated party for purposes of this hearing by submitting such request in writing to the Board no later than **5 p.m. on 1 May 2017**. The request must explain the basis for status as a designated party and in particular how the person is affected by the discharge.

Tentative waste discharge requirements for the facility were issued for public comment on **30 March 2017**. Persons wishing to comment on this item must submit testimony, evidence, if any, and/or comments in writing to the Central Valley Water Board no later than by 5:00 p.m. on **1 May 2017**. Written materials submitted after 5:00 p.m. on the above date will not be accepted and will not be incorporated into the administrative record absent a ruling by the Chair. A party requesting to submit late materials must demonstrate good cause for the late submission, and the Chair must find that the late submission would not prejudice the Central Valley Water Board or any designated party.

All designated parties and interested persons may speak at the Regional Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony and cross examination will be limited in time by the Board Chair. Both designated parties and interested persons may be asked to respond to clarifying questions from Board members, counsel staff or others, at the discretion of the Board.

Anyone having questions on these tentative revised WDRs for Spanish Mine should contact Jeff Huggins at (916) 464-4639, or by email at Jeff.Huggins@Waterboards.ca.gov. Interested parties may download the proposed Order and related documents from the Regional Water Board's Internet website at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders.

Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Regional Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The procedures governing Central Valley Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq. and are available upon request. Hearings before the Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq. The procedures may be obtained by accessing http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/

Information on meeting and hearing procedures is also available on the Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml

or by contacting any one of the Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Ms. Kiran Lanfranchi-Rizzardi at (916) 464-4839.

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.

Original signed By

30 March 2017

Andrew Altevogt, Assistant Executive Officer

Attachment: Information Sheet