

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. R5-201X-XXXX
FOR
BLUE LEAD GOLD MINING, LLC
MINING, PROCESSING, AND RECLAMATION
BLUE LEAD GOLD MINE
NEVADA COUNTY

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This monitoring and reporting program (MRP) is issued to Blue Lead Gold Mining, LLC (Discharger) pursuant to Water Code section 13267. The MRP contains requirements for storm water monitoring, facility monitoring, and waste discharge monitoring; requires the submittal of annual reports and financial assurances reporting required by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R5-201X-XXXX, and includes requirements related to the implementation of the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements (SPRRs) dated February 2009. Compliance with this MRP is ordered by the WDRs and the Discharger shall not implement any changes to this MRP unless a revised MRP is issued by the Central Valley Water Board or the Executive Officer. Failure to comply with this MRP, or with the SPRRs, constitutes noncompliance with the WDRs and with Water Code Section 13267, which can result in the imposition of civil monetary liability.

A. MONITORING

Based on Finding 27 of the WDRs, mining waste from the Blue Lead Gold Mine has been classified as Group C mining waste under Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations ("Title 27") section 22480(c), because it contains hazardous constituents only at low concentrations, has low acid generation potential, and is readily containable by less stringent measures. In accordance with Title 27 section 22480(b)(3), mining waste from Group C are wastes from which any discharge would be in compliance with the applicable water quality control plan, including water quality objectives other than turbidity.

This MRP represents a Title 27 section 20080(b)(2) engineered alternative to the surface water monitoring requirements for waste management units (or Mining Units) under section 22500(a). This MRP is designed to eliminate unnecessary and duplicative monitoring requirements, while ensuring that the monitoring program meets the requirements of Title 27. The requirements of this MRP are summarized below:

1. Surface Water Monitoring

As described in Findings 59, 60, and 61 of the WDRs, in place of Title 27 prescriptive standards for a surface water monitoring system, this MRP requires coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's Statewide Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order 2014-0057-DWQ (Industrial General Permit). The Discharger shall certify and submit an Annual Report for the Industrial General Permit as required in Section B.1. of this MRP.

2. Storm Water Monitoring

Storm water monitoring shall be conducted in accordance with the Industrial General Permit Monitoring and Reporting Requirements. Storm water monitoring and analysis shall also comply with:

- a. Provisions for Monitoring in Section IX of the SPRRs.

3. Groundwater Monitoring

Based on Finding 43 of the WDRs, groundwater monitoring is not required by this MRP. Should the waste group classification change, the need for groundwater monitoring should be reassessed.

4. Monitoring Points

Finding 11 of the WDRs describes the Facility drainage boundaries and existing conditions; the northern drainage area is shown on Attachment XX. Storm water flow from the northern drainage area discharges to an existing seasonal drainage course at the northeast corner of the Facility, which then flows approximately 150 feet north to the South Fork of Greenhorn Creek. Monitoring must be performed at all discharge locations, where storm water, which has come in contact with mining waste discharges from the property boundary.

5. Facility Monitoring

a. Annual Facility Inspection

Annually, prior to the anticipated rainy season, but no later than **30 September**, the Discharger shall conduct an inspection of the facility. The inspection shall assess repair and maintenance needed for precipitation and drainage controls; general containment structure criteria; and shall assess preparedness for winter conditions including but not limited to the required surface impoundment capacity and erosion and sedimentation control. The Discharger shall take photos of any problems areas before and after repairs. Any necessary construction, maintenance, or repairs shall be completed by **31 October**. Annual facility inspection reporting shall be submitted as required in Section B.2 of this MRP.

b. Major Storm Events

The Discharger shall inspect all precipitation, diversion, and drainage facilities and all waste management unit berms for damage **within 7 days** following major storm events capable of causing damage or significant erosion. Freeboard in the settling pond(s) and freshwater pond shall be measured and recorded within 24 hours after onsite rainfall of greater than two inches in a

24-hour period. The Discharger shall take photos of any problems areas before and after repairs. Necessary repairs shall be completed **within 30 days** of the inspection. Notification and reporting requirements for major storm events shall be conducted as required in Section B.3 of this MRP.

c. Rainfall Monitoring

The Discharger shall monitor and report rainfall data using a nearby **California Department of Water Resources Data Exchange Center** station (i.e. Nevada City, Secret Town, or equal);

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecstation2/>

Data shall be used in establishing the severity of storm events and wet seasons for comparison with design parameters used for mining unit design, conveyance, and drainage design. Daily data and onsite observation shall be used for establishing the need for inspection and repairs after major storm events. Rainfall data shall be reported in the annual monitoring reports as required by this MRP under “Reporting”.

d. Standard Observations

The Discharger shall conduct Standard Observations at the facility in accordance with this section of the MRP. Standard observations shall be conducted in accordance with the schedule specified in Table 1 below:

| Table 1. Standard Observations | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Mining Unit Type</u> | <u>Frequency</u> | <u>Season</u> |
| Active | Weekly | Wet: 1 October to 30 April |
| Active | Monthly | Dry: 1 May to 30 September |
| Inactive/Closed | Monthly | Wet: 1 October to 30 April |
| Inactive/Closed | Quarterly | Dry: 1 May to 30 September |

Standard Observations for the mining units shall include:

- 1) Signs of erosion along the slopes or perimeter (show affected area on map):
- 2) Any seepage discharged from the base of any mining unit containing mining waste is considered a demonstrative indicator of the potential threat to water quality posed by the mining waste. Seepage discharged from the base of any Mining Unit shall be treated in accordance with SPRRs Reporting Requirements Section VIII.

Results of Standard Observations shall be submitted in the annual monitoring report required in Section B.2 of this MRP.

6. Waste Discharge Monitoring

- a. The Discharger shall monitor the quantity of all mining waste discharged to settling pond(s), discharged temporarily to waste pile(s), and reclaimed in accordance with the Reclamation Plan. The information should be recorded as specified in Table 2 below and submitted in the annual monitoring report required in Section B.2 of this MRP.

| Table 2: Waste Discharge Monitoring | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Parameters</u> | <u>Units</u> | <u>Frequency</u> |
| Area mined or disturbed | acres | Monthly |
| Mining waste discharged to settling pond(s) | cubic yards | Monthly |
| Mining waste discharged temporarily to waste pile(s) | cubic yards | Monthly |
| Mining waste reclaimed per reclamation plan | cubic yards and acres | Monthly |
| Settling pond(s) freeboard | feet and tenths | Monthly |

- b. To ensure that Group C waste group classification remains appropriate, the Discharger shall perform ongoing characterization of the mining waste in accordance with Water Code section 13260(k). Ongoing characterization of the mining waste shall be at the frequency of one sample for every 50,000 cubic yards of mining waste discharged or at least one sample per calendar year. Results of ongoing characterization of the mining waste shall be reported as required in WDRs Provision G.9.a. and included in the annual monitoring report required in Section B.2 of this MRP.

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B. REPORTING

The Discharger shall submit the following reports in accordance with the schedule in Table 3 below:

| <u>Section</u> | <u>Report</u> | <u>End of Reporting Period</u> | <u>Due Date</u> |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B.1 | Annual Report Industrial General Permit | 31 December | 15 July |
| B.2 | Annual Monitoring Report | 31 December | 1 February |
| B.3 | Annual Facility Inspection Report | 31 October | 15 November |
| B.4 | Major Storm Event Reporting | Continuous | 7 days from damage discovery |
| B.5 | Financial Assurances Report | 31 December | 1 June |

Reporting Requirements

The Discharger shall submit monitoring reports **annually** with the data and information as required in this Monitoring and Reporting Program and as required in WDRs Order No. R5-201X-XXX and the SPRR. In reporting the monitoring data required by this program, the Discharger shall arrange the data in tabular form so that the date, the constituents, the concentrations, and the units are readily discernible. The data shall be summarized in such a manner so as to illustrate clearly the compliance with the WDRs or the lack thereof. Data shall be submitted in a digital format, such as a computer disk.

The Annual monitoring report shall be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with the above schedule. Field and laboratory tests shall be reported in each monitoring report. The results of **all monitoring** conducted at the site shall be reported to the Central Valley Water Board in accordance with the reporting schedule.

The Discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records, all original strip chart recordings of continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Order. Records shall be maintained throughout the life of the facility. Such records shall be legible and shall show the following for each sample:

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- a) Sample identification and the monitoring point or background monitoring point from which it was taken, along with the identity of the individual who obtained the sample;
- b) Date, time, and manner of sampling;
- c) Date and time that analyses were started and completed, and the name of the personnel and laboratory performing each analysis;
- d) Complete procedure used, including method of preserving the sample, and the identity and volumes of reagents used;
- e) Calculation of results; and
- f) Results of analyses, and the MDL and PQL for each analysis. All peaks shall be reported.

Required Reports

1. **Annual Monitoring Report:** The annual monitoring report is due by **1 February** of each year. Each annual monitoring report shall contain at least the following:
 - a) A map showing each mining unit and;
 - the area mined or disturbed in acres;
 - the yardage or tonnage of mining waste discharged to each mining unit;
 - the yardage or tonnage and area of mining waste reclaimed per reclamation plan during the previous calendar year; and
 - include a projection of the year in which each discrete mining unit will be completed;
 - b) A copy of the Dischargers Industrial General Permit Annual Report required in Section A.1 of this MRP.
 - c) A map or aerial photograph showing the locations of observation stations, monitoring points, and background monitoring points.
 - d) A statement that the sampling procedure was conducted in accordance with the approved Sample and Analysis Plan.
 - e) Tabular and graphical summaries of all data collected during the year. All monitoring parameters shall be graphed to show historical trends at each monitoring point for all samples taken within the previous five calendar years at a scale appropriate to show trends or variations in water quality.

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- f) All historical monitoring data for which there are detectable results, including data for the previous year, shall be submitted in tabular form in a digital file format such as a computer disk. The Central Valley Water Board regards the submittal of data in hard copy and in digital format as necessary for conducting the periodic review and analysis required by Title 27. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27, § 20420(h)).
 - g) Tabulated monthly freeboard levels in the settling ponds with comparison to the freeboard requirement in the Facility Specifications of the WDRs.
 - h) A summary of all Facility Monitoring including onsite rainfall data for the reporting period required in Section A.5.c of this MRP.
 - i) A comprehensive discussion of the compliance record, and the result of any corrective actions taken or planned which may be needed to bring the Discharger into full compliance with the waste discharge requirements.
 - j) A written summary of the monitoring results, indicating any changes made or observed since the previous Annual Monitoring Report.
2. **Annual Facility Inspection Report:** By **15 November** of each year, the Discharger shall submit a report describing the results of the inspection and the repair measures implemented, preparations for winter, and include photographs of any problem areas and the repairs. Refer to Section A.5.a of this MRP, above.
 3. **Major Storm Event Reporting:** The Discharger shall notify Central Valley Water Board staff within **7 days** after major storm events of any damage or significant erosion and report any needed repairs within **14 days** of completion of the repairs, including photographs of the problem and the repairs. Refer to Section A.5.b of this MRP above for requirements for performing the inspection and conducting the repairs.
 4. **Financial Assurances Report:** By **1 June of each year**, the Discharger shall submit to the Central Valley Water Board updated financial assurance cost estimates and the financial assurance mechanism for closure, and post-closure maintenance (reclamation) of the Facility. Refer to Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan and Financial Assurances Specifications E.2, E.3, E.4 of the WDRs.
 5. **Annual Surface Mining Inspection Report:** By **1 February of each year**, the Discharger shall submit to the Central Valley Water Board completed copies of the following annual reports¹:

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¹ Refer to Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan and Financial Assurances Specifications E.1. to E.5. of the WDRs.

- a. Division of Mine Reclamation's Notice of Completion of Inspection;
- b. Division of Mine Reclamation's Surface Mining Inspection Report (MRRC-1);
- c. Division of Mine Reclamation's Mining Operations Annual Report (MRRC-2).

C. TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR ALL REPORTS

A transmittal letter explaining the essential points shall accompany each report. At a minimum, the transmittal letter shall identify any violations found since the last report was submitted, and if the violations were corrected. If no violations have occurred since the last submittal, this shall be stated in the transmittal letter. The transmittal letter shall also state that a discussion of any violations found since the last report was submitted, and a description of the actions taken or planned for correcting those violations, including any references to previously submitted time schedules, is contained in the accompanying report. The transmittal letter shall contain a statement by the discharger, or the discharger's authorized agent, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of the signer's knowledge the report is true, accurate, and complete.

The Discharger shall implement the above monitoring program on the effective date of this Program.

Ordered by: _____
PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

(Date)

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