

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION  
364 Knollcrest Drive, #205, Redding, California 96002

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

concerning

**TENTATIVE RESCISSION OF ORDERS**

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER R5-2010-0053  
AND TIME SCHEDULE ORDER R5-2011-0908**

**FOR**

**FRENCH GULCH (NEVADA) MINING CORPORATION  
AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON MINE  
SHASTA COUNTY**

**Discharger and Order Information**

Washington Mine (Mine), a subterranean hard-rock gold mine situated about 2.5 miles west of the French Gulch community in Shasta County, is owned (patented claims) and managed by the French Gulch (Nevada) Mining Corporation and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (unpatented claims) (collectively, Discharger). The mine has operated intermittently since 1852 and has historically been used solely for the extraction and processing of gold-containing ore.

Washington Mine is subject to regulation under the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting programs. Specifically, discharge of mine waste from the Mine is regulated by WDRs Order R5-2016-0091 (NPDES No. CA0085294) and WDRs Order No. R5-2011-0026. These permits specify effluent limits, discharge provisions, and land disposal requirements to manage the treatment and discharge of mine drainage or mine waste to surface water or land. Cease and Desist Order R5-2010-0053 and Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0908 were adopted by the Central Valley Water Board to establish compliance schedules and interim effluent limitations for discharges regulated by a previous NPDES permit associated with the Mine (WDRs Order R5-2010-0052, NPDES No. CA0085294).

The Discharger has implemented all required measures of Cease and Desist Order R5-2010-0053 and Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0908. Therefore, it is appropriate to rescind both orders.

The Central Valley Water Board will consider rescinding Cease and Desist Order R5-2010-0053 and Time Schedule Order R5-2011-0908 at a public hearing, as described below.

### **Public Hearing Date and Location**

A public hearing concerning the rescission of the Orders will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 16/17 April 2026  
TIME: 8:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Online OR City of Clovis Council Chambers  
1033 Fifth Street  
Clovis, CA 93612

The date, time, and location of the public meeting may change after this Notice is issued. The [final meeting agenda](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/) ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/)) will be available at least **10 days** before the meeting. The agenda will provide the anticipated date the hearing will be held for this item and anticipated order of all agenda items; however, the Board may consider agenda items out of their listed order. The agenda materials may also include staff revisions to the rescission of Orders.

The meeting will be webcast live on YouTube. A weblink for viewing will be provided in the Final Agenda. Any person who would like to participate in the meeting, but who is unable to attend in-person, may participate remotely via video or teleconference. Instructions for doing so will be provided in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

### **Nature and Purpose of Hearing**

At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will hear testimony and oral comments regarding the rescission of Orders. This proceeding will be a formal adjudicatory proceeding. The [procedures governing Central Valley Water Board adjudicatory hearings](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/)) may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. and are available upon request.

### **Opportunities to Provide Comments and Submit Evidence**

The Central Valley Water Board will consider oral and written comments on the proposed Order before it votes on whether to adopt the Order.

Written comments or evidence concerning the Order must be submitted by 5:00 pm on **20 March 2026** to the Central Valley Water Board email at [RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov).

Please email any comments to Marisol Gonzalez, with the subject line, "Comments on Proposed Rescission of Orders – Washington Mine." While email is preferred, written comments may also be mailed to the following address:

Attention: Marisol Gonzalez  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205  
Redding, CA, 96002

The Board Chair may refuse to admit any comments or evidence received after the comment period unless the submitting party provides a reasonable explanation for why the submission is late and the Board Chair determines that admission of the late submission would not prejudice any other party. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648.4.) Excluded material will not be considered by the Board.

**Oral comments** concerning the Order must be presented at the scheduled public meeting. Interested parties are generally allowed up to three minutes each to provide their comments. Certain "designated parties" may provide longer comments. The Discharger is a designated party. Any other party may request recognition as designated party by submitting a written statement of how they are directly affected by the rescission orders and why they would like to be considered a designated party. Such requests must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on **20 March 2026**. Instructions for how to provide oral comments will be included in the Final Agenda for the meeting.

### **Visual Presentations**

Designated parties may use PowerPoint or other visual presentations at the hearing, but the presentation content shall not exceed the scope of previously submitted written material. Presentations, if any, must be provided to the below Central Valley Water Board Contact by 12:00 p.m. on **14 April 2026**.

### **Hearing Accommodations**

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an e-mail to [agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:agenda5@waterboards.ca.gov) or call 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.

### **Availability of Documents**

The recission order and related documents may be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Tentative Orders Page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders/)). Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 364 Knollcrest Drive, #205, Redding, California 96002 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Scheduling an appointment to review the file by contacting the below Central Valley Water Board Contact in advance is not required but calling ahead will help ensure timely access to these documents.

### **Other Information**

The [Procedures Governing Central Valley Water Board Meetings](#) may be found in California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 1.5 (starting with section 647) and are available upon request or via the web, at ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/)).

Additional information on meeting procedures can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's [Meeting Procedures webpage](#), at ([http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/mtgprocd.shtml)).

Hearings before the Central Valley Water Board are **not** conducted pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.

All meeting procedure information is also available upon request to any one of the Central Valley Water Board's offices. Questions regarding such procedures should be directed to Mindy Maxwell at (916) 464-4839 or [Mindy.Maxwell@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mindy.Maxwell@waterboards.ca.gov).

### **Central Valley Water Board Contact**

Anyone having questions regarding this hearing item should contact Marisol Gonzalez at (530) 224-4204 or [Marisol.Gonzalez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Marisol.Gonzalez@waterboards.ca.gov).

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

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Stacy S. Gotham, P.E.  
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer