

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: United States Bureau of Reclamation, Sliger Mine
El Dorado County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Cease and Desist Order (CDO) Amendment*

BACKGROUND: The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Discharger) owns the abandoned Sliger Mine located in El Dorado County. Wastewater is intermittently discharged from a mine portal to the Middle Fork of the American River. Existing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R5-2003-0001 (NPDES No. CA0084905) regulates the intermittent mine drainage of 0.06 million gallons per day. Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R5-2003-0002 provides a 30 December 2006 compliance date for the Discharger to comply with effluent limitations for Arsenic, Iron, Manganese, and Boron in the WDR Order.

The Discharger conducted a study to determine a feasible alternative to achieve compliance with effluent limitations in WDR Order No. R5-2003-0001. The Discharger evaluated the feasibility of (1) reducing inflow to the mine, (2) installing a hydraulic plug, (3) installing a semi-passive treatment system, or (4) conducting a mixing zone study to demonstrate compliance with effluent limitations in the receiving water. The Discharger chose to conduct a mixing zone study.

In April 2006, the Discharger requested a twelve-month extension to the effluent limitations compliance date to allow the time necessary to address Regional Water Board staff request for additional water quality monitoring results to be included in the proposed mixing zone study. The Discharger completed the mixing zone study and is requesting Regional Water Board consideration of effluent limitation compliance points in the receiving stream, downstream of the discharge location, a set distance supported by the conclusions of the Discharger's mixing zone study.

The tentative amendment to the CDO proposes to extend the date for compliance with the above-mentioned effluent limitations to 30 January 2008, the expiration date of the existing WDR. The proposed compliance period extension will allow the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) to: (1) review the Discharger's October 2006 mixing zone study, and (2) consider the Discharger's request for a receiving water mixing zone for determination of compliance with effluent limitations in their NPDES permit. Regional Water Board staff will review the mixing zone study and reconsider effluent limitation compliance point locations during the renewal of existing WDR Order No. 2003-0001, which expires on 30 January 2008.

ISSUES: None at this time.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

25 January 2007
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670