September 15, 2009

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS – Priority Overnight

Central Valley Regional Water
Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, No. 200
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

Re: Emma G. Trebilcot Trust

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Shriners Hospitals for Children, I am writing to express our strong objections to the proposed Cleanup and Abatement Order as it respects the Emma G. Trebilcot Trust. Shriners Hospitals for Children is a beneficiary of the Trust and has, since 1989, received income from the Trust to support Shriners’ various programs. We ask that the regional board reconsider the proposed Order, and remove the Trust from the list of dischargers.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a charitable corporation providing care to children free of charge with orthopedic, burns, and other special healthcare conditions. In addition, Shriners Hospitals for Children conducts research to improve the quality of care and quality of life of children and families. This Mission is carried out without cost to the patient or family.

Our charity funds its Mission through the generosity of its benefactors and donors. Among them, is Emma G. Trebilcot, who in her testamentary trust bequeathed one-fifth of her estate to Shriners Hospitals for Children to be held in trust, in perpetuity, for the benefit of our work among children, and especially children in California. Shriners Hospitals for Children has been receiving the income from this trust for almost two decades. These funds, along with the other gifts bequeathed for its Mission, provide the financial ability of this charity to continue excellence in pediatric care and research.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a passive beneficiary of the income from the trust of Emma G. Trebilcot. Any Order that may impact the income stream received by this charity from this Trust will be an unfortunate loss to the support this gift brings to our charity’s ability to provide free medical care to children.
There are valid reasons to reconsider the proposed Cleanup and Abatement Order as it pertains to the Trust. The impact of the Order, if finalized against the Trust, would fall solely on Shriners Hospitals for Children and the other charitable beneficiaries. Given that the Order seeks to remedy conditions created by mining activities from over a century ago, and the Trust played no part in these activities, having owned the property for only a short time between 1988 and 1989, we hope the regional board will agree that it is inequitable to burden Shriners Hospitals for Children with the costs of the unfortunate environmental problems on this property. We ask that the regional board leave intact the income our charity receives for its Mission as a beneficiary under the Trust.

Thank you for your consideration of this plea. We look forward to attending to this matter personally at the hearing set on these matters.

Sincerely,

John P. McCabe

JPM/csh/bas
September 14, 2009

Victor Izzo
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, No. 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Re: Wide Awake Mine, Draft Cleanup and Abatement Order
August 13-14, 2009 hearing date

Dear Mr. Izzo,

I am writing on behalf of the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired (the “LightHouse”) to express our objections to the proposed Cleanup and Abatement Order (the “Proposed Order”) and to request that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board release the Emma G. Trebicicot Trust (the “Trust”) from all obligations in connection with the Proposed Order.

The LightHouse is a public charity exempt from tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Proposed Order would directly affect income that the LightHouse receives and depends on as a beneficiary the Trust.

The LightHouse has been a beneficiary of the Trust since 1988 and has received more than $130,000 in proceeds since that time. These funds provide direct support for our charitable purpose of giving people the tools to live independently with vision loss. We rely on this income to carry out our charitable purposes.

The LightHouse was founded in 1902 as a reading room for the blind. Today, the LightHouse serves over 2,500 youth, adults and seniors throughout Northern California. Our programs include:

- Employment training and internships
- A fully accessible summer camp for blind and visually impaired youth, adults and seniors (Enchanted Hills Camp)
- Health and fitness classes, including yoga and martial arts
- Recreation opportunities for youth and adults, such as art and music classes
- Access to information through broadcast and web services, as well as conversion of print documents to Braille. Braille conversion services include on-demand tactile map and tactile floor plan creation.
- Technology training and seminars
• Insights – an annual juried art exhibition featuring the work of blind and visually impaired artists
• Adaptations – a store selling adaptive aids and appliances and offering extensive product demonstrations
• Education and training to assist people in their adjustment to vision loss (including Braille instruction, cooking and other daily living skills and training on use of white canes).

In the words of one young man who has benefited directly from LightHouse services, the LightHouse “is a place where everyone is a unique individual with something special to offer to this world.”

Mining that took place over a century ago, and in which neither Ms. Trebilcot nor the Trust played any role, caused the conditions that now require cleanup and abatement.

We strongly urge you to release the Trust from the Proposed Order. A representative of the LightHouse plans to speak at the hearing to ensure that this critical source of income remains intact so that we may continue to serve blind and visually impaired members of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request to release the Trust from the Proposed Order.

Sincerely,

Anita Shafer Aaron
Executive Director/CEO
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

RE: CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER, WIDE AWAKE MINE, COLUSA COUNTY

Dear Sir or Madame -

The Salvation Army is truly honored and grateful for those who have recognized over the years the value of our mission, allowing its goal to continue to guide and support those whose lives have been struck with tragedy.

One of those unforgettable and self-sacrificing individuals was a woman by the name of Emma Trebilcot.

Emma lived in Northern California, Colusa County, most of her adult life, regularly attending church services and giving of her precious time to the cause of others. Emma’s death sent a shock wave of emotions to her loved ones and friends, as well as to those of us within The Salvation Army organization that knew her.

As in life, Emma selfishly gave upon her death. The Salvation Army was one of four organizations to whom she respected and named in her Will to receive a portion of her estate:

“(1) The Trustee shall pay quarter-annually or at more frequent intervals the entire income of the trust to the following charities . . . . . .

One-fifth (1/5) to THE SALVATION ARMY.”

Emma’s generosity has supported The Salvation Army in maintaining its programs throughout Northern California, helping to rebuild lives through its Disaster Relief programs, Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation programs, the fight against human trafficking, the building of youth camps, music programs, elderly services, our League of Mercy (loneliness) program and its Christmas Charity programs, to name a few.

The Salvation Army has budgets in place to help ensure that these programs survive; these programs rely on distributions from the Emma Trebilcot Trust. The people whose lives these programs serve will be directly impacted by the loss of the Emma Trebilcot Trust distributions.

The Regional Board’s proposed action will cause devastating results for many of The Salvation Army’s programs that have, thanks to God’s grace and our many supportive donors, sustained its purpose over the years.
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We would like to close with The Salvation Army's Mission Statement:

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Thank you for your time.

Janene Sewell  
Estate Administration Manager  
Legal & Estates Department  
916-563-3779 (phone)  
916-239-3879 (fax)  
Janene.seowell@usw.salvationarmy.org

JS/
July 21, 2009

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

RE: Emma G. Trebilcot Trust

Dear Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board:

This letter is in response to your communication concerning the subject Trust and the proposal by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada, Inc. (Foundation) is a beneficiary of the Trust. In the event that the Trust's principal and income earning capacity were to be substantially reduced by the enforcement of a cleanup order affecting the Trebilcot Trust's property, the Foundation's beneficial interest would be drastically reduced.

The mission of the Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada is to preserve and restore the gift of sight by providing free ophthalmic examinations, operations and medications to the less fortunate members of our community.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of vision and the prevention of blindness. Together with the California Pacific Medical Center, a not-for-profit health care center located in San Francisco and serving all of northern California, the Foundation makes excellent eye care services through the Center’s Department of Ophthalmology available to individuals who could not otherwise afford treatment.

The Foundation, through California Pacific Medical Center, performs approximately 250 surgical procedures annually and over 250 laser procedures each year. The value of these procedures is approximately $4,500,000 and they are delivered at no cost to patients in communities throughout Central and Northern California and Nevada. The cost to the Foundation for these procedures is significantly less than the value because of the
Foundation’s partnership with California Pacific Medical Center and the generosity of the ophthalmologists practicing at that medical center and in the entire San Francisco area. Physician services are provided at no cost to the patient or the Foundation. Nonetheless, the Foundation does incur meaningful costs of approximately $450,000 per year.

Financial support for the Foundation comes from a number of sources, including individual gifts, membership fees from over 500 Lions Clubs throughout our area, and of course, from bequeaths such as from The Trebilcot Trust. The beneficial amount received from the Trebilcot Trust represents a substantial portion of the gifts received by the Foundation from such bequeaths and any reduction would represent a significant decrease in our charitable contributions and greatly reduce the quality of the services we provide to our patients.

Any negative financial impact occasioned by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board’s actions in this regard would not only impact the Trebilcot Trust, but would have a serious “trickle down” effect on our Foundation and its ability to serve the community of Northern California. Certainly, in this time of reduced medical benefits to the community, any health benefits delivered to and received by the needy in the community are of great and irreplaceable value.

Yours very truly,

Mark Paskvan
Program Manager
Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada, Inc.

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