

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2000 - 041

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TO EXECUTE A STANDARD AGREEMENT (EXCEEDING \$200,000)  
TO PROVIDE TREATMENT OF ACID MINE DRAINAGE (AMD)  
AT LEVIATHAN MINE, ALPINE COUNTY

WHEREAS:

1. Leviathan Mine is an inactive sulfur mine on property presently owned by the State of California and under the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The mine is located in Alpine County, approximately five miles east of Markleeville, California.
2. Degradation of water quality in Leviathan, Aspen, and Bryant creeks occurs as a result of the discharge of acid mine drainage (AMD) from Leviathan Mine. The AMD from Leviathan Mine can be characterized as a dilute sulfuric solution containing dissolved metals, including: arsenic, copper, nickel, aluminum, and iron.
3. In 1984, the SWRCB acquired ownership of the mine. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) completed the Leviathan Mine Pollution Abatement Project in 1985. The pollution abatement system captures and diverts surface runoff to reduce percolation into site soils, thereby, reducing the volume of AMD generated on site. In addition, the abatement system captures and evaporates AMD from underground mine workings in a series of lined evaporation ponds.
4. Even with the completion of the 1985 abatement project, AMD continues to discharge from the mine site. Discharge of AMD from the pond system routinely occurs in the spring when pond inflow exceeds the storage and evaporative capacities of the pond system.
5. The LRWQCB continues to evaluate and implement various means to treat AMD. During the 1999 construction season, the LRWQCB successfully implemented a treatability study to evaluate a particular method of neutralizing AMD (biphasic neutralization). The treatability study was successful in that it demonstrated that biphasic neutralization could be used to treat pond water (AMD) and resulted in the removal and treatment of approximately 4.5 million gallons of pond water.
6. The LRWQCB is required to obtain SWRCB authorization to enter into contracts that exceed \$200,000.
7. The LRWQCB is requesting SWRCB authorization to execute standard agreements (exceeding \$200,000, but not to exceed a combined total of \$1,990,000) to re-implement pond water treatment at Leviathan Mine during the 2000 construction season as a means to prevent pond overflows in 2001.

8. The LRWQCB proposes to encumber \$360,000 (\$16,000 from PCA 15301 and \$344,000 from PCA 15401) from the state fiscal year (FY) 99-00 budget for the proposed agreements. The remaining balance for the proposed contracts (\$1,630,000) will be subject to appropriation in the FY 00-01 budget act.

9. Execution of agreements to re-implement pond water treatment at Leviathan shall be contingent upon the LRWQCB receiving the necessary appropriations for such activities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the SWRCB authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to execute standard agreements (exceeding \$200,000, but not to exceed a combined total of \$1,990,000) to re-implement pond water treatment at Leviathan Mine during the 2000 construction (contingent upon the LRWQCB receiving the necessary appropriations for such activities for expenditure during state FYs 00-01).

#### CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on May 18, 2000.

/s/

Maureen Marché

Administrative Assistant to the Board