

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2001 - 086

REQUEST FOR \$101,250 FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION CLEANUP  
AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) FOR A SLOPE STABILITY STUDY AT  
LEVIATHAN MINE, ALPINE COUNTY

WHEREAS:

There is a potentially unstable slope located on the northwest portion of the mine site known as the Delta Slope.

2. A Contractor provided the RWQCB with specific recommendations for short-term stabilization measures and additional field investigation and analysis deemed necessary to define long-term solutions.

Failure of the Delta Slope could result in damage to site infrastructures and loss of a primary access road.

4. Damage could result in the release of acidic drainage containing heavy metals to Leviathan Creek, which is a tributary to the Carson River.
5. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region identifies the need to protect the surface and ground waters of the Carson River Hydrologic Unit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board

Approves the LRWQCB request for \$101,250 to implement short-term slope stabilization measures for Delta Slope at Leviathan Mine and provide funding for continued geotechnical investigation and analysis to develop long-term solutions.

2. Approves funding this project through June 30, 2002.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk 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 July 19, 2001.

  
Maureen Marche  
Clerk to the Board

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 6-01-26

REQUEST FOR CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT FUNDS FOR A SLOPE  
STABILITY STUDY AT LEVIATHAN MINE, ALPINE COUNTY

Alpine County

Whereas, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (RWQCB), finds:

It is the responsibility of the RWQCB to regulate the activities and factors which affect or may affect the quality of waters of the region in order to achieve the highest water quality consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State,

2. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region was adopted in 1995. This plan identifies the need to protect the surface and ground waters of the Carson River Hydrologic Unit,

Leviathan Mine (the Site) is an inactive sulfur mine that the State of California purchased in 1984 to pursue cleanup and abatement water quality problems caused by historic mining. Jurisdiction over the Site rests with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) which in turn, has delegated jurisdiction to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (RWQCB). The Site is located in Alpine County, approximately five miles east of Markleeville, California.

4. Degradation of water quality in Leviathan and Aspen creeks occurs as a result of the discharge of acid mine drainage (AMD) from Leviathan Mine. AMD from Leviathan Mine can be characterized as a dilute sulfuric acid solution containing dissolved metals, including: iron, aluminum, arsenic, nickel, and copper,
5. In the Fall of 2000 RWQCB staff became aware of potentially unstable slope located on the north-west portion of the mine site. This slope, referred to as the Delta Slope, is located just north of critical site infrastructures, including an evaporation pond and the Site access road,
6. On January 31, 2001 RWQCB staff obtained \$35,250 from the Division of Clean Water Programs Cleanup and Abatement Account to perform an emergency slope stability analysis on the Delta Slope,
7. The results from the emergency slope stability analysis are contained in Kleinfelder's (the Contractor) March 16, 2001 report titled, "Geotechnical Investigation Report Phase I Preliminary Slope Evaluation, Leviathan Mine Delta Area Waste Pile." The report provided specific recommendations for short-term stabilization measures and additional field investigation and analysis deemed necessary to define long-term solutions,