

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION**
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

concerning

**TENTATIVE ORDER
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2022-XXXX
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
PERMIT CA0084905
FOR
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
SLIGER MINE
EL DORADO COUNTY**

Discharger and Tentative Order Information

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Discharger) is the owner of Sliger Mine (Facility), located approximately 1,500 feet south of the junction of Sliger Mine Road and Fox Grove Lane. The Facility is currently an inactive historical gold mine located on federal lands administered by the Discharger. The Facility is located six miles northeast of the town of Cool and is 450 feet east of the Middle Fork American River and more than 200 feet higher in elevation. The mine consists of underground workings, mine openings, concrete foundations, and waste rock on the east side of the river canyon. The Discharger acquired the property as part of the land acquisition associated with the Auburn Dam site. A mine opening known as the ventilation adit (V-Adit) was developed during active mining at the site. Water that contains arsenic, iron, and other metals is discharged continuously from the V-Adit. Prior to installation of the bioreactor, discharge from the V-Adit flowed to the west in a drainage channel to the Middle Fork American River. The bioreactor was constructed so that it intercepts the drainage channel before it reaches the river and effluent from the bioreactor is directed to the drainage channel. The bioreactor is located approximately 25 feet higher in elevation than the Middle Fork American River.

The tentative Order includes new or revised effluent limitations for arsenic, copper, lead, chromium, and nickel. The tentative Order proposes the authorization of aquatic life and human health mixing zones and dilution credits for development of the effluent limitations for arsenic, copper, lead, chromium, and nickel. The tentative Order removes effluent limits for flow, iron, and electrical conductivity. Removal of these limits will not result in an increase in the pollutants or in the degradation of the receiving water.

Public Hearing Date and Location

A public hearing concerning the tentative Order will be held during the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled for:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
SLIGER MINE
EL DORADO COUNTY

DATE: 17/18 February 2022
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Cal/EPA Building
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; and
Remote Meeting via Video Teleconference

This public meeting is currently scheduled to take place in-person and via video and teleconference, but the format may be changed in the future. Any person wishing to obtain information about changes to the date, time, location, or format of the meeting should visit the [Board's website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings).

The [final meeting agenda](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 tentative Order.

Nature and Purpose of Hearing

At the hearing, the Central Valley Water Board will hear testimony and oral comments regarding the tentative Order. 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/) may be found at California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648 et seq. and are available upon request.

Prehearing Submission of Written Comments and Evidence

The **Discharger** is a party to this proceeding. As a party, the Discharger must submit written evidence or comments, if any, for the Board to consider no later than 5:00 p.m. on **7 January 2022** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Interested persons include any non-party that is interested in the outcome of the hearing. Interested persons wishing to comment, in writing, on the tentative Order shall submit comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **7 January 2022** to the Central Valley Water Board email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4, the Board Chair may refuse to admit written evidence or comments that are not submitted in accordance with this Notice and shall refuse to do so when there is a showing of prejudice to the Discharger or the Board. Excluded material will not be considered by the Board.

Requesting Party Status

Persons who wish to participate in the hearing as a party must submit a request in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on **7 January 2022** to the Central Valley Water Board

email at RB5S-NPDES-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov. The request must include facts demonstrating how the person will be substantially affected by the proceeding.

The Board Chair will not designate a person as a party if the Board Chair determines the designation will impair the interests of justice and the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding. The Board Chair, when granting a request for party status, may impose restrictions on the requestor's hearing participation, including limiting or excluding the use of cross-examination and other procedures to promote the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceeding.

Visual Presentations

Hearing participants 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 15 February 2022.

Hearing Procedure and Time Limits

The hearing on the tentative Order will be conducted in the general order listed under California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.5, except that the Board Chair may modify the order for good cause.

The **Discharger** will be advised in advance of the hearing of the total amount of time allocated for its presentation and closing statement. The Discharger invited to contact staff in advance of the hearing to discuss how much time it believes is necessary.

Interested persons may speak at the hearing and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals, if any. Each interested person will have 3 minutes to present oral comments. Additional time may be provided, upon request, at the discretion of the Board Chair.

Hearing Accommodations

The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to send an email to 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 tentative 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/). Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670-6114 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

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SLIGER MINE
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Contact in advance is not required but calling ahead will help ensure timely access to these documents.

Central Valley Water Board Contact

Anyone having questions regarding this hearing item should contact Will Chen at (916) 464-4713 or by email at Will.Chen@Waterboards.ca.gov.

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

Adam Laputz, Assistant Executive Officer