

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 2022-00XX
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
(NPDES)
PERMIT CA0085243
FOR
MERIDIAN BEARTRACK CO
ROYAL MOUNTAIN KING MINE
CALAVERAS COUNTY**

Discharger and Tentative Order Information

The Meridian Beartrack Co (Discharger) is the owner of the Royal Mountain King Mine (Facility), located at 4461 Rock Creek Road, Copperopolis, California. SLR International Corporation is the Facility operator. The Facility was a gold mine operated by the Discharger between 1988 and 1994. The Facility was originally regulated by Order 88-176, which addressed the removal, transport, processing, and disposal of mined material. Closure Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order R5-2016-0055 regulates the closure of the Facility. The Facility consists of three waste management units, three overburden disposal sites, three former mining pits, and administrative facilities. The sources of wastewater generated at the Facility include spring water emanating from the overburden disposal sites, seepage from the flotation tailings reservoir leachate collection and removal system, and water collected in Skyrocket Pit Lake. The Facility is currently permitted to discharge up to 3.0 million gallons per day (MGD), as a monthly average, from Skyrocket Pit Lake to Littlejohns Creek, a water of the United States.

Discharges from the Facility are currently regulated by NPDES Order R5-2018-0003, issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) on 01 February 2018. An Order is proposed to renew the NPDES permit. The tentative Order includes updated effluent limitations for arsenic and total dissolved solids and removes effluent limitations for antimony and selenium since effluent data for these constituents no longer exhibit reasonable potential to cause an exceedance of water quality objectives in 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:

DATE: 8/9 December 2022
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Dr., Suite #200;
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 and
Remote Meeting via Video Teleconference

The [final meeting agenda](#) (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/) 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 **3 November 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 **3 November 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.

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 **05 December 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.

If the Discharger would like to present information, 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 is 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 e-mail 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 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 Matt Richter at (916) 464-4745 or matthew.richter@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