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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

8 June 2012

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**SITE REMEDIATION WORK PLAN, MOUNT DIABLO MERCURY MINE, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

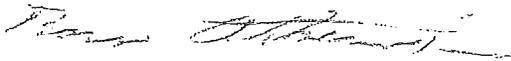
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has reviewed the Site Remediation Work Plan, Mount Diablo Mercury Mine (Work Plan), submitted on 9 May 2012. The Work Plan reviews the Mount Diablo Mine site status based on investigation results to date, proposes a remedial action approach and leaves detailed planning to be addressed in later submittals. The proposed remedial action involves excavating and transporting mine waste rock, calcines and Lower Pond sediments to a waste consolidation area; capping the consolidated wastes; capturing and re-routing spring/adit discharges to minimize their exposure to mercury contaminated wastes and soils; and restoring the Dunn Creek floodplain below the mine. The Work Plan in general provides: an evaluation of water quality; a health risk assessment; scopes of work for mine wastes removal, spring/adit discharge management, and long-term maintenance and monitoring; waste removal design methods and procedures; and a general project schedule.

We have three concerns that may be significant issues as Mount Diablo cleanup progresses:

1. An adequate supply of clean soil suitable for use as a soil cover should be identified as soon as possible.
2. We cannot be sure that the spring/adit discharges have not been impacted by interaction with mine waste until the existing waste pile has been removed.
3. Long-term monitoring and maintenance should be addressed early in the project planning process.

Staff concurs with the remedial action approach proposed in the Work Plan and recognizes that more detailed planning will occur at a later date. Water Board staff anticipates further enforcement to finalize the remedial action plan and require cleanup.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (916) 464-4614 or via email at [ratkinson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ratkinson@waterboards.ca.gov).



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