

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. ___

AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2008-0021
FOR
MERIDIAN BEARTRACK COMPANY
MERIDIAN GOLD COMPANY
AND FELIX MINING COMPANY
ROYAL MOUNTAIN KING MINE
CALAVERAS COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereafter Regional Water Board), finds:

1. On 25 January 2008, the Regional Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order No. R5-2008-0021, prescribing requirements for Royal Mountain King Mine in Calaveras County. Mine operators Meridian Beartrack Company and Meridian Gold Company with landowner Felix Mining Company are hereafter jointly designated Discharger.
2. The Royal Mountain King Mine ceased active mining in June 1994 and is currently being closed. Mining facilities consisted of three open pits, a mill, a Flotation Tailings Disposal Area (FTR), a Leached Concentrate Residues Disposal Area, a Process Water Retention Pond, overburden disposal sites, and a low-grade ore storage area. This is a complicated, multi-unit closure that will require several years to complete.
3. WDRs Order No. R5-2008-0021 has required submittal dates for specific investigations and plans to complete the closure of the various mine facilities.
4. WDRs Provision 6.f) requires submittal of an amendment to the Closure Plan for the FTR by 1 September 2008. On 27 August 2008, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge to change the required submittal data to 1 May 2009.
5. Subsequent to adoption of WDRs Order No. R5-2008-0021 the FTR developed a leachate seep with elevated salts and other constituents. Because of this seep, the Discharger has requested additional time to respond to this unanticipated change in conditions before they submit the Closure Plan for the FTR.
6. The additional time will be used to test water removal methods from the FTR and investigate the potential to discharge FTR leachate to Skyrocket Pit Lake, one of three mine pits. Skyrocket Pit Lake water is discharged to Littlejohns Creek under NPDES Order No. R5-2007-0162.
7. The action to amend WDRs Order No. R5-2008-0021 is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.) because it involves no expansion of the project (14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 15301); it is an action taken by a regulatory agency to assure the protection of the environment; and the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment (14 CCR section 15308).

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8. The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
9. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard, and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. R5-2008-0021 is amended solely to change the compliance due date for Provision 6.f) from 1 September 2008 to 1 May 2009.

This Order is effective as of the date of adoption.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on _____.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

RDA:16-Sept.-2008