

**8-9 DECEMBER 2022 BOARD MEETING
UNCONTESTED AGENDA ITEM**

AGENDA ITEM: 12

SUBJECT:

The following is a proposed permit for consideration of adoption. All agencies and dischargers concur or have offered no comments.

BOARD ACTION:

Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal (NPDES Permit CA0085243).

BACKGROUND:

A. MERIDIAN BEARTRACK CO, ROYAL MOUNTAIN KING MINE, CALAVERAS COUNTY

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.

The tentative Order was issued for a 30-day public comment period on 3 October 2022 with comments due on 3 November 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the NPDES Permit.

REVIEWS:

Management Review:	
Legal Review:	

BOARD MEETING LOCATION:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting
Cal EPA
1001 I Street, #1
Coastal Hearing Room
Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Internet Zoom Meeting