

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION
PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, CHAPTER 3, SECTIONS 15000, et seq.
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

This statement and attachments constitute the Negative Declaration as proposed for adoption by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) for the project described below.

Posting Date: 8 April 2010

**To State
Clearinghouse:** 8 April 2010

Comment Period: 8 April 2010 to 7 May 2010

**Proposed Adoption
Date:** 26/27 May 2010

Project Title

ADOPTION OF NPDES PERMIT FOR FRENCH GULCH (NEVADA) MINING CORP,
WASHINGTON MINE

Project Description

Location: French Gulch Road 2.5 miles west of the community of French Gulch,
Shasta County. The surface water discharge is to Scorpion Gulch.

Approval of the proposed NPDES permit by the Central Valley Water Board will enable the French Gulch (Nevada) Mining Corporation to construct a water treatment system that will collect mine drainage from various mine adits and wastewater from a mine Mill, treat the water to remove pollutants, and discharge the treated wastewater to Scorpion Gulch, tributary to French Gulch Creek, Clear Creek, and ultimately to the Sacramento River. Current discharges from the adits are untreated; by collecting and treating both the on-going historic discharge and the proposed new discharge, overall water quality in the Scorpion Gulch and French Gulch Creeks should improve

The proposed NPDES permit contains waste discharge requirements to ensure protection of the beneficial uses of the receiving waters. The initial Environmental Study identifies air quality, and noise impacts to be less than significant.

Findings

An Initial Environmental Study was prepared for French Gulch (Nevada) Mining Corp. A Report of Waste Discharge, dated March 2007, was submitted to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). The Regional Water Board has prepared a proposed NPDES Permit. These documents describe the potential environmental impacts and their significance. The conclusion of the Initial Environmental Study finds that the project to adopt an NPDES permit will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Copies of the Initial Environmental Study, Negative Declaration, and the proposed NPDES Permit can be obtained by request to the Regional Water Board, the Lead Agency. Requests should be addressed to:

Phil Woodward
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
415 Knollcrest Dr, Suite 100
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 224-4853

**Other Agencies Whose
Approval May be
Required:**

N/A

Public Hearing:

26/27 May 2010
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, 11020 Sun Center
Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Attachments:

1) Initial Study with Attachments

**How to Submit
Comments:**

The Lead Agency invites comments on the proposed Negative Declaration from all interested persons and parties. Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on 10 May 2010. Written comments should be addressed to the Central Valley Water Board at the lead agency address provided above. Oral testimony will also be accepted at the public hearing. For more information contact: Phil Woodward, (530) 224-4853, pwoodward@waterboards.ca.gov

Original signed by

Robert A. Crandall
Assistant Executive Officer

Date: 7 April 2010

for

PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer