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## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

### California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region, Redding Office  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205  
Redding, CA 96002

**Date:** 30 July 2024

**Project Title:**

Walker Mine Project (Project)

**Project Location - Specific:**

Section 07, Township 24 North, Range 12 East, MDB&M.  
Nearest City: Taylorsville, CA  
Latitude: 39.9650° and Longitude: -120.6653°

**Project Location - County:**

Plumas County

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of the project is to provide temporary access throughout the site to facilitate site safe-guarding activities and the site characterization of mine waste containing regulated substances entering the Dolly Creek watershed. The proposed activities are needed to support compliance with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Walker Mine Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R5-2014-0039. The Project proposes to install temporary access culverts in three locations on the project site within small tributaries to Dolly Creek. The project also includes utilizing water from a stream as dust control for site activities described above. Dust control is necessary for health and safety purposes and to prevent contaminant dispersal.

**Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:**

**Federal Agencies:** The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit 33.

**State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification:**  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office.  
WDID No. 5A32CR00246.

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:**

Tim Hilmo  
Atlantic Richfield Company  
317 Anaconda Road  
Butte, Montana 59701

**Exempt Status:**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction. Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure would be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

In addition, the project meets the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15330, Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances. Class 30 consists of any minor cleanup actions taken to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of a hazardous waste or substance which are small or medium removal actions costing \$1 million or less.

**Reasons why Project is Exempt:**

This project is Categorically Exempt under CEQA section 15302 because the proposed Project replaces existing culverts and reconstructs existing berms and stream crossing with substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structures being replaced.

This project is Categorically Exempt under CEQA section 15330 because the Project aims to prevent, minimize, stabilize, and eliminate the release of remnant hazardous substances left over from historic mining operations. The culvert replacement would remove concrete and mining waste materials used to construct the initial culvert during the mine's operations with inert and clean material.

**Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Gabriel Leggieri  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District  
(530) 557-5120

**State Lead Agency Contact Person:**

Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist  
Chief Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Redding Branch Office  
(530) 224-2437

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(for) Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

cc: Tim Hilmo, Atlantic Richfield Company, Butte, Montana  
William Medlin, Woodard & Curran, Duluth, GA  
Reid Heaton, Woodard & Curran, Duluth, GA  
Gabriel Leggieri, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District