



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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### California Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Forum

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

#### Meeting Location

California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Toll-Free Conference Line Number: **888-972-9246**

Passcode: **18557**

### AGENDA

<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
<b>10:00 (0:05)</b>	<b>1. Welcome, Introductions, &amp; Announcements</b> (Facilitator: Stephen L. Jenkins, Michael Brandman Associates/All)
<b>10:05 (0:05)</b>	<p><b>2. Review Agenda &amp; Previous Meeting Minutes</b> (All) [<i>Minutes are on Forum website: <a href="http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_lands/amlu_forum.htm">www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_lands/amlu_forum.htm</a>.</i>]</p> <p>Purpose: Review and adjust proposed Agenda to reflect member reports and/or updates since last meeting. Review the previous meeting minutes for completeness and accuracy.</p> <p>Outcome: Agreement on Agenda order, topics, and timing. Provide any changes to/address any questions about the minutes.</p>
<b>10:10 (0:15)</b>	<p><b>3. Presentation on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Restoration of Abandoned Mine Sites (RAMS) Program</b> (Mark Cowan, USACE)</p> <p>Purpose: Inform Forum members about the RAMS Program following Congress's recent reauthorization of the Program in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (Public Law 110-114; see Attachment), including a \$20,000,000 appropriation for RAMS projects nationwide.</p> <p>Outcome: Provide information that will allow Forum members to better assess how California can obtain funding through the RAMS Program for abandoned mine remediation projects in California.</p>

**10:25 (0:20) 4. Presentation on Sustainable Conservation's Abandoned Mines Project** (Tim Vendlinski, Sustainable Conservation)

Purpose: Introduce Sustainable Conservation's work to advance the Good Samaritan Initiative, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Dept. of Justice, for abandoned mines in California, including a "test case" project to remediate the Mount Diablo mercury mine in Contra Costa County.

Outcome: Provide Forum members with information on Good Samaritan issues and a potential California pilot AML project that both the U.S. Senate and House have identified in the USACE's appropriation bills as a potential recipient of RAMS funds.

**10:45 (~0:45) 5. Spotlight on Technologies to Minimize or Eliminate Adverse Environmental Effects Associated with Abandoned Mines.**

Purpose/Outcome: Provide brief (up to ~10 minutes including Q/A) introductions to some innovative/alternative AML remediation technologies. *(Please contact [sreeves@consvr.ca.gov](mailto:sreeves@consvr.ca.gov) or [coggins@consvr.ca.gov](mailto:coggins@consvr.ca.gov) in advance of the meeting to make a presentation. This topic may be continued at future meetings.)*

Presentations confirmed as of December 5, 2007 (in alphabetical order)

1. Advanced Materials Processing, Inc. (<http://ampi.biz/>)
2. Blue Sky Water Technologies (<http://www.blueskytechnologies.biz/>)
3. Ionic Water Technologies (<http://www.iwtechnologies.com>)
4. Solucorp (<http://www.solucorpltd.com/>)

Background: The RAMS Program authorizes the Secretary of the Army to provide technical, planning, and design assistance for carrying out projects to address water quality problems caused by drainage and related activities from abandoned and inactive noncoal mines. **33 USC Sec. 2336(b)** states that such assistance may be in support of projects for the purposes of ... "(3) demonstrating management practices and innovative and alternative treatment technologies to minimize or eliminate adverse environmental effects associated with drainage from abandoned and inactive noncoal mines."

**BREAK (Time Permitting)**

**11:45 (0:05) 6. Update on Coordination on AML Issues with the Southern California Desert Managers Group** (see [www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov)) (John Key & Dave Lawler, U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Greg Pelka, California State Lands Commission [CSLC]; & Cy Oggins, Dept. of Conservation's Abandoned Mine Lands Unit [AMLU])

Purpose/Outcome: Update Forum members on recent efforts to coordinate on AML issues in Southern California.

**11:50 (0:20) 7. Presentation on 2007 Physical Hazard Remediation Projects on California State Lands** (Greg Pelka, CSLC)

Purpose/Outcome: Inform Forum members of special and technical aspects of recent abandoned mine closures completed by the CSLC, in partnership with the AMLU, in Southern California. This topic follows up on last meeting's discussion of physical hazard remediation projects on National Park Service lands.

**12:10 (0:10) 8. Other Items / New Business** (All)

Purpose/Outcome: Afford Forum members opportunities to introduce items of interest that are not on the formal Agenda.

**12:20 (0:05) 9. Future Meeting and Agenda Ideas** (All)

Purpose: Suggest future agenda topics and 2008 Forum meeting dates

Outcome: Identify future topics and meeting dates. (*The Forum usually meets quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.*)

- **Wednesday, February 20, 2008**
- **Wednesday, May 21, 2008**
- **Wednesday, August 20, 2008**
- **Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

**12:25 (0:05) 10. Summary of Action Items from Meeting** (Facilitator)

Purpose: Accurately summarize items from the meeting that require further action or discussion.

Outcome: List items for further action, responsible party(ies), and due date(s).

**12:30 ADJOURN**

**33 USC Sec. 2336**  
**TITLE 33 - NAVIGATION AND NAVIGABLE WATERS**  
**CHAPTER 36 - WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
**SUBCHAPTER V - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 2336. Abandoned and inactive noncoal mine restoration**

(a) In general

The Secretary may provide technical, planning, and design assistance to Federal and non-Federal interests for carrying out projects to address water quality problems caused by drainage and related activities from abandoned and inactive noncoal mines.

(b) Specific measures

Assistance provided under subsection (a) of this section may be in support of projects for the purposes of -

- (1) managing drainage from abandoned and inactive noncoal mines;
- (2) restoring and protecting streams, rivers, wetlands, other waterbodies, and riparian areas degraded by drainage from abandoned and inactive noncoal mines; and
- (3) demonstrating management practices and innovative and alternative treatment technologies to minimize or eliminate adverse environmental effects associated with drainage from abandoned and inactive noncoal mines.

(c) Non-Federal share

The non-Federal share of the cost of assistance under subsection (a) of this section shall be 50 percent, except that the Federal share with respect to projects located on land owned by the United States shall be 100 percent.

(d) Effect on authority of Secretary of the Interior

Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.).

(e) Technology database for reclamation of abandoned mines

The Secretary may provide assistance to non-Federal and nonprofit entities to develop, manage, and maintain a database of conventional and innovative, cost-effective technologies for reclamation of abandoned and inactive noncoal mine sites. Such assistance shall be provided through the Rehabilitation of Abandoned Mine Sites Program managed by the Sacramento District Office of the Corps of Engineers.

(f) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000.

**AMENDMENTS**

2007 - Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 110-114 substituted "\$20,000,000" for "\$7,500,000".

2003 - Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 108-137 substituted "\$7,500,000" for "\$5,000,000".