

## SUMMARY OF AML-RELATED NEWS AND FEDERAL BILLS

(Federal bills are listed by subject then date introduced. Copies of federal bills can be obtained by going to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in the bill number [they are not attached due to their length]).

- 1. Oversight Field Hearing on “Abandoned Mines and Mercury in California.”** On November 23, the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, led by Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) will hold an oversight field hearing on “Abandoned Mines and Mercury in California.”
  - When: Monday, November 23, 2009, at 10 a.m.
  - Where: California State Capitol, Room 4202, Sacramento.
  - Witnesses: TBA.
- 2. Suction Dredge Permit SEIR Public Comments Sought** (news courtesy of the DTMC)  
Small-scale suction dredge mining activity in California, as regulated by California law, allows a person to obtain a suction dredge mining permit from DFG upon payment of a fee. On average, DFG has issued approximately 3,200 suction dredge mining permits to California residents every year for the last 15 years. In late October 2009, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) released for public comment their scoping document, as part of their environmental impact review of suction dredge mining for gold. Public comment is being sought at three field hearings on the Notice of Preparation next week. For more information visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/suctiondredge](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/suctiondredge).

<p>The public were provided opportunities to comment in person at the following locations and times:</p> <p><b>Fresno:</b> Monday, Nov. 16, 5 p.m. California Retired Teachers Association Building 3930 E. Saginaw Way Fresno, CA 93726</p> <p><b>Sacramento:</b> Tuesday, Nov. 17, 5 p.m. City of West Sacramento Galleria 1110 West Capitol Ave. West Sacramento, CA 95691</p> <p><b>Redding:</b> Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m. Shasta Senior Nutrition Program Center 100 Mercy Oaks Drive Redding, CA 96003</p>	<p>Written comments must be postmarked by Dec. 3, 2009 and may be submitted, either by e-mail to <a href="mailto:dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov">dfgsuctiondredge@dfg.ca.gov</a> or by regular mail to:</p> <p>Mark Stopher California Department of Fish and Game 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001</p>
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- 3. As noted at the June AML Forum meeting, Congress has introduced several bills related to 1872 Mining Law Reform:** S.796 & S.140 by Senators Bingaman (NM) and Feinstein (CA), respectively, and H.R.699 and, more recently, H.R.3201 by Rep. Rahall (WV) and Rep. Lamborn (CO). A summary of the status of these bills follows. (A side-by-side comparison of S.796 and H.R.699 was provided at the June 2009 AML Forum meeting.)
  - [H.R.3201 \(Locatable Mineral Royalty and Reclamation Act of 2009\)](#)  
**7/14/09** –Introduced by Lamborn (CO), referred to House Committee on Natural Resources.  
**7/17/09** –Referred to Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources.
  - [S. 796 \(Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009\)](#).  
**4/2/09** –Introduced by Bingaman (NM); referred to Committee on Energy & Natural Resources.  
**7/14/09** –Committee hearing held (see also S.140). Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-116.

- [H.R. 699 \(Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009\)](#).  
**1/27/09** –Introduced by Rahall (WV), referred to House Committee on Natural Resources.  
**2/4/09** –Referred to House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.  
**2/26/09** –Subcommittee hearings held. Hearing led by Rep. Costa (D-CA).
  - [S.140 \(Abandoned Mine Reclamation Act of 2009\)](#).  
**1/6/09** –Introduced by Feinstein (CA), read twice, referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Note: Feinstein introduced [S. 2750](#) in previous Congress.)  
**7/14/09** –Committee hearing held (see also S.796). Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-116.
4. Both the U.S. Senate and House have also introduced bills related to “Good Samaritan” cleanup of abandoned mines.
- [S.1777 \(Good Samaritan Cleanup of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2009\)](#)  
**10/13/09** –Introduced by Udall (CO), referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Bill is intended to facilitate the remediation of abandoned hardrock mines.
  - [H.R.3203 \(Cleanup of Inactive and Abandoned Mines Act\)](#)  
**7/14/09** –Introduced by Bishop (UT).  
**7/15/09** –Referred to House Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment.  
**7/20/09** –Referred to Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources. This “Good Samaritan” bill is intended to promote remediation of inactive and abandoned mines by providing limited liability protection for entities that voluntarily clean up historic abandoned mine sites.
5. Other mining-related bills and potential additional legislative changes.
- [S.1570 \(Elimination of Double Subsidies for the Hardrock Mining Industry Act of 2009\)](#)  
**8/4/09** –Introduced by Feingold (WI) with Feinstein (CA) as a co-sponsor; referred to Senate Committee on Finance. Bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the percentage depletion allowance for certain hardrock mines.
  - [Water Resources Development Act \(WRDA\) of 2010](#). WRDA for 2010 could include revisions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Restoration of Abandoned Mine Sites (RAMS) Program.
6. Bills signed by President (Public Law [PL]):
- [P.L. 111-11: Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009](#) (H.R.146.ENR/S.22).  
**Signed 3/30/09**. Designated new National Wilderness Preservation System components—including three in California: Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel Wilderness; Riverside County Wilderness (190,000 acres, including parts of Joshua Tree National Park); Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness (70,000 acres)—and authorized Depts. of Interior and Agriculture to withdraw lands designated by this Act as a wilderness area from location, entry, and patent under Mining Laws.
  - [P.L. 111-5: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (ARRA) (H.R.1 / S.336).  
**Signed 2/17/09**. Includes \$790 billion economic stimulus funds for Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service to remediate abandoned mines in California.