

# ROYAL MOUNTAIN KING MINE CLOSURE

## NPDES Permit Application and Operation

Calaveras County, California

### Client:

Meridian Beartrack  
Company

### Contract Value:

\$50,000

### Performance Period:

2008

### Technical Areas:

- Project Piloting
- Environmental Infrastructure
- Water Resources
- Civil Design

### Successes:

The Water Board approved the Discharge Permit that does not rely on costly and expensive treatment systems

The Water Board approved the closure Waste Discharge Requirements for many of the requested variances from the Title 27 requirements, with some stipulations for continued evaluation of one of the Waste Management Units



### BACKGROUND

Meridian Gold Company is closing its former gold mine in the foothills of the Sierras. The mine is located in an area with difficult geology (fault zones, dikes) and poor natural water quality (TDS ranging from 500 to over 15,000 mg/L and naturally-occurring arsenic). The site includes:

- 5 Waste Management Units
- Two tailings impoundments
- One process water pond
- Three overburden piles
- One pit lake

### SES ROLE

SES revised the Closure Plan and Post-Closure Maintenance Plan for the 5 Waste Management Units, prepared the Report of Waste Discharge and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit application, as well as negotiating the permit requirements and conditions. To deal with groundwater issues, SES is currently considering Basin Plan amendments or Containment Zone designation.

SES interfaced with the Regional Water Quality Control Board throughout the process of preparing the documents. The team approach led to approval of both the Waste Disposal Requirements and the discharge permit by the board. The closure issues that remain unresolved were incorporated as future studies and deliverables in the Waste Discharge Requirements.



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