

# ROYAL MOUNTAIN KING MINE

## Site Closure Regulatory Framework

Calaveras County, California

### Client:

Meridian Beartrack  
Company

### Contract Value:

\$250,000

### Performance Period:

2005 – Present

### Technical Areas:

- Project Piloting
- Solid Waste Management
- Water Resources
- Financial and Risk Management

### Successes:

Assisted in getting the regulatory agencies to think outside the box. Approaches include using floodwater to dilute and remove poor quality water, using existing pits for storage of poor quality seeps, and containment assessments to demonstrate the effectiveness of the closure of the waste management units instead of prescriptive requirements. Consideration is being given to establishing a Basin Plan Amendment to designate beneficial uses for local groundwater



### BACKGROUND

The Royal Mountain King Gold Mine, located in Copperopolis, California is under closure. Several of the waste management units, including 250 acres of overburden and a 150 acre tailings impoundment, were initially constructed to less stringent standards than the regulatory agencies are currently requiring. In addition, naturally occurring poor quality groundwater now fills the pits and seeps into local creeks.

### SES ROLE

SES has worked closely with the mine owners to establish a regulatory framework that improves water quality and meets the agencies requirements. The regulatory approaches that have been, or are being put in place include demonstrating containment equivalency for the overburden and tailings waste management units.