



Richard M. Forster
District 2 Supervisor

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

CALFED Bay Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of a proposal being submitted by the University of Nevada to perform field testing of the Newton Copper Mine site in Amador County which is owned by Mr. Douglas Mondani, Mr. Donald Mondani, and Mrs. Gerri Cassinelli. As the District II member of the Amador County Board of Supervisors, I am supportive of the owners in their efforts to obtain the funding necessary for reclamation of the mine site.

The Newton Mine is an old wartime copper mine which is located adjacent to State Highway 88 between the cities of Jackson and Ione. Operation of the mine began in the 1860's and was a source of copper during wartime. Operations ceased in 1947. The California Regional Water Quality Board requested the water drainage through the mine site be cleaned up by the owners of the property in 1994, even though the owners had never operated the mine. The owners had consultants complete water tests, a waste characterization report, and an engineering plan. As a result of the reports, proposed reclamation costs were too expensive for the owners to pursue.

In an effort to remediate the existing problem, the University of Nevada has tested three different Newton Copper Mine tailings of the past six months using passivation technologies which have proven to be successful.

Much work has been performed by the owners to develop an acceptable plan. However, the high costs make it impossible for them to continue. Please give this proposal consideration and help us help you clean up the environment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Forster
District II Supervisor

RMF/ma
c: file