

INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER NO.
CLEAR LAKE LAVA, INC., BEV AND BILL VAN PELT
AND UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
HIDDEN VALLEY SAND AND GRAVEL
CACHE CREEK PLANT
LAKE COUNTY

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management owns the land on which Clear Lake Lava, Inc., and Bev and Bill Van Pelt operate a surface mining and aggregate processing plant. The facility is on two parcels totaling approximately 273 acres along the North Fork of Cache Creek, approximately two miles north of the Cache Creek Bridge on Highway 20 in Lake County. The Discharger mines between 35,000 and 40,000 tons of rock per year with approximately 10,000 tons used as aggregate road base. The materials are excavated from the mining areas and transported to the aggregate processing area where they are screened, washed, classified and sorted, and stockpiled.

Up to 192,000 gallons per day of wash water used in the operations is pumped from the North Fork of Cache Creek. The wash water mixes with the aggregate and flows through a "sand screw" where the sands and silts are separated and the sand is stockpiled. The silt and wash water then gravity flow through an 8-inch aboveground pipeline into a series of three settling ponds, which are interconnected. These ponds have a total capacity of approximately 55,343 gallons at two feet of freeboard. These ponds are periodically allowed to dry and excavated to a depth of approximately eight feet. The excavated material is used for reclamation purposes.

Historical gold mining has not occurred in the area. However because naturally occurring mercury is known to the area, this Order requires the Discharger to monitor mercury concentrations in its discharge. If mercury is detected at concentrations equal to or greater than 50 nanograms per liter (ng/L) in any settling pond water, then the Discharger shall submit a workplan to further characterize mercury in the water and sediment within the designated disposal areas and the dredging area. The 50 ng/L limit is the California Toxics Rule criterion to protect human health from consumption of water and aquatic organisms from inland surface waters.

Surface water drainage is to the North Fork of Cache Creek.

GJC:10-Nov-05