

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Board Meeting – 30-31 May 2013**

**Response to Written Comments for Dr. Richard Miller
Class C Mining Waste Remediation Repository,
Conditional Waiver R5-2013-XXXX
Colusa County**

At a public hearing scheduled for 30-31 May 2013, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region ("Central Valley Water Board") will consider issuing a conditional waiver under Water Code section 13269 to regulate a Class C waste repository that will be created on property owned by Dr. Richard Miller. This document contains responses to written comments received from interested parties regarding the proposed conditional waiver. Written comments from interested parties were required by public notice to be received by the Central Valley Water Board by 29 April 2013 to receive full consideration. A single comment letter was received from Geonomics, Inc., owner of geothermal and other retained rights in the Wilbur Hot Springs area.

Written comments from the above interested parties are summarized below, followed by the responses of Central Valley Water Board staff.

GEONOMICS COMMENTS

Geonomics Comment: Mr. John Torok, President of Geonomics, Inc., submitted comments regarding the Board's actions at the Wide Awake and Central Group Mines. Mr. Torok points out that some of the mining waste material was generated over a generation ago, and contends that pollution from this material is indistinguishable from natural background conditions. Mr. Torok also commends Dr. Miller for his environmental stewardship.

RESPONSE: Board Staff agree that Dr. Miller, in allowing the mining remediation project to move forward, is helping to address mining wastes that he did not generate himself. However, the Board does have evidence that mining activities in this region do impact water quality, hence the need for the proposed remediation actions.