



1240 OAKMEAD PARKWAY, SUITE 301, SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086 (408) 245-4959

April 21, 1989  
Job. No. 18706-001-043

California Regional Water  
Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
San Joaquin Watershed Branch  
3614 East Ashlan Avenue  
Fresno, California 93726-6905

Attention: Mr. Ruben Moreno  
Senior Engineer

Gentlemen:

Application for Facility Permit/  
Waste Discharge, New Idria Mine  
Idria, California 95027

Enclosed please find one (1) original and two (2) copies of a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD). We are transmitting this ROWD to you on behalf of New Idria Associates (NIA), owners of the subject property. A letter from the Board to New Idria Associates, dated July 29, 1986 requested filing of the ROWD subsequent to a field inspection of mine drainage from the abandoned No. 10-Level tunnel on NIA's property.

The permit is being submitted to aid in updating an existing but outdated WDR, Resolution No. 70-205, adopted June 26, 1970. The Resolution was issued to the New Idria Mining and Chemical Company, owners of the property when it was still an active mine. The mine was abandoned in 1972. New Idria Associates purchased the property in 1986. NIA purchased the property as agricultural preserve, and does not use it for any mining purpose.

Dames & Moore is currently preparing a work plan and schedule to investigate and develop a remedial action plan for mine drainage from the No. 10 portal to San Carlos Creek, which passes through the property. We estimate that the work plan for the preliminary investigation will be ready for transmittal to your department about the third week in May. If you have any

CRVQCB  
April 21, 1989  
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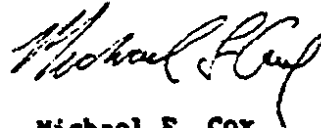
questions about the enclosed ROWD, please contact myself or Michael Cox at (408) 245-4959. We understand that you will advise New Idria Associates of the appropriate fee for filing the ROWD. According to the San Benito County Clerk, the land is currently designated agricultural preserve.

Sincerely,

DAMES & MOORE



Francis R. Greguras, P.E.  
R.C.E. 40316



Michael F. Cox  
Project Manager

FRG,MFC/slh

encls.

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**WORK PLAN  
MINE DRAINAGE INVESTIGATION  
NEW IDRIA MINE, CALIFORNIA  
FOR NEW IDRIA ASSOCIATES**

October 16, 1989  
Job No. 18706-001-043

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**Dames & Moore**





# DAMES & MOORE

129 OAKMEAD PARKWAY, SUITE 301, SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086 (415) 245-4959

October 16, 1989

Job No. 18706-001-43

New Idria Associates  
1080 North Eleventh Street  
San Jose, California 95112

Attention: Mr. Donald Mountz

Gentlemen:

Work Plan  
Mine Drainage Investigation  
New Idria Mine, California  
For New Idria Associates

Enclosed with this letter are seven (7) copies of the subject work plan for an investigation of mine drainage at the New Idria Mine, located in San Benito County, California. This report completes the work outlined in our proposal dated April 3, 1989.

We have enjoyed working with you on this interesting project. Should you have any questions about the work plan, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

DAMES & MOORE

*Jessica E. Donovan*

Jessica E. Donovan  
Senior Geologist

*Allen J. Kearns*

Allen J. Kearns  
Associate

JEI, AJK/jar

enclosures

**WORK PLAN  
MINE DRAINAGE INVESTIGATION  
NEW IDRIA MINE, CALIFORNIA  
FOR NEW IDRIA ASSOCIATES**

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**WORK PLAN  
MINE DRAINAGE INVESTIGATION  
NEW IDRIA MINE, CALIFORNIA  
FOR NEW IDRIA ASSOCIATES**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 PURPOSE**

This work plan presents the proposed scope of work for site investigations at the New Idria Mine, located in San Benito County, California. The purpose of the proposed study is to evaluate and develop a remedial strategy for acid mine drainage at the abandoned mine site to reduce impacts on water quality in San Carlos Creek. The data and recommendations presented herein are based, in part, on a preliminary review of background data concerning the site and a reconnaissance-level inspection of the site. Data from these activities are incorporated into the relevant sections of the text.

**1.2 BACKGROUND**

The New Idria Mine is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains in San Benito County, California, as shown on Plate 1. The mine was a major producer of mercury between 1854 and 1972. The history of mine development and ownership has been well documented by Gilbert (1984). The mining geology and furnacing of mercury ore at New Idria has been described by Linn and Dietrich (1961).

The mine and mill were owned and operated by New Idria Mining and Chemical Company (NIMCC) from 1951 to April 1972 when, due to declining mercury prices, the mine was closed. The mining equipment and property were then sold by New Idria Mining and Chemical Company. Since 1974, ownership of the property has changed several times. At intervals since 1982, there have been plans to mine the dumps at New Idria for gold and other metals. However, no significant mining developments other than some exploratory drilling and sampling have taken place.

The current owner of the town of Idria and the mine property is New Idria Associates. The property is leased to Futures Foundation, Inc., which uses the old mine facilities and buildings as a residence for about 20 people. The New Idria Mine (NIM) is still regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements Resolution No. 70-205 adopted on June 26, 1970 when the mine was active.

On April 11, 1989, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Central Valley Region, received a complaint from a downstream user of San Carlos Creek that NIM discharge was adversely affecting surface water quality. The RWQCB staff inspected the site and collected a series of water samples which showed that acidic water with elevated metal concentrations was discharging from the No. 10 portal of the mine, passing through a calcines (roasted mercury ore rock) pile and entering San Carlos Creek.

The samples collected by the RWQCB staff were analyzed for pH, electrical conductivity (EC), temperature, aluminum, arsenic, iron, magnesium, manganese, and nickel. The results are presented in an inspection report dated July 22, 1989 and can be summarized as follows:

































