

The president of the CTGCD board noted to the paper that either approach would eventually allow groundwater-use targets to be attained, but that with a correlative-rights approach the water right per acre of land might be so small as to be useless. Another board member worried that selecting the first-in-time principle would result in a rush of drilling of big wells—a development that would run contrary to the district’s charge to preserve and enhance groundwater resources and prevent waste.

The CTGCD approved new rules in April and scheduled a public hearing for May.

See www.burnetbulletin.com and www.centraltexasgcd.org.

Mines to Pay \$3M for Superfund Site

In late February, a U.S. District Court approved a \$3 million settlement involving the U.S. EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and two defendants—Newmont Capital Ltd. and Newmont Mining Corporation of Canada Ltd.—partially resolving liability at the Lava Cap Mine Superfund site in Nevada County, California. The defendants owned and controlled the mine from 1983 to 1986 in a failed attempt to reopen it.

From 1934 to its shutdown in 1943, the mine was one of the largest gold mines operating in California. In 1997, part of a log dam built to hold mill tailings in place collapsed,

discharging over 10,000 cubic yards of arsenic-contaminated tailings into Little Clipper Creek and Lost Lake.

EPA placed the Lava Cap Mine site on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1999, concluding that the site posed great risk to human health and the environment, and has since been implementing cleanup plans.

The total cleanup cost is estimated to be just under \$50 million. In other efforts to recover the money, EPA and DTSC filed a lawsuit in October against current owners and other former owners for \$22 million in past and future costs. That suit has not concluded.

Visit www.epa.gov.

HydroFacts

Feds Stimulate Western Water Management

Distribution of water-related stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (\$ in millions)

| | USEPA | AZ | CA | CO | NV | NM | TX | UT |
|---|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund* | 2,000 | 55.3 | 159.0 | 34.4 | 19.5 | 19.5 | 160.7 | 19.5 |
| Clean Water State Revolving Fund* | 4,000 | 26.7 | 283.1 | 31.7 | 19.4 | 19.4 | 180.9 | 20.9 |

*Both programs provide federal grants to states, which in turn make loans to communities and others, for projects under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. As money is repaid, new loans are made to others.

Additional money to federal agencies (may include non-water-related projects)

| Agency | \$ in millions | Activities funded |
|---|----------------|---|
| Army Corps of Engineers | 4,600 | investigations, construction, Mississippi River and tributaries, operation and maintenance, regulatory program, remedial action program for formerly utilized sites |
| Department of Agriculture | 1,380 | rural water and waste disposal program (only) |
| Bureau of Reclamation | 1,000 | reclamation and reuse projects, Central Utah Project Completion Act, California Bay-Delta Restoration Act, rural water projects, canals, maintenance, and replacement |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service | 340 | watershed projects and flood prevention, watershed rehabilitation |
| Fish and Wildlife Service | 280 | resource management and construction |
| International Boundary and Water Commission | 220 | construction along flood-control levees |
| Environmental Protection Agency | 200 | Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Trust Fund (only) |
| Geological Survey | 140 | facilities improvement, energy efficiency, stream gauges |

Federal bill summary available at window.state.tx.us/recovery/EstimatedStimulusImpactonTexas.pdf. EPA Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Allocation: www.epa.gov/water/eparecovery/docs/Final_SRF_eco_recovery_allotments.pdf. Full recovery act at www.recovery.gov.

Moab Uranium Pile Cleanup Progresses

In March, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced \$6 billion in stimulus funds would be used to accelerate environmental cleanup work in 12 states, including the removal of uranium tailings from the Colorado River near Moab. \$108 million will be used to increase the number of railcars and shipments, accelerating site cleanup by several years and removing two million additional tons of tailings by 2011. The first load was removed in April.

According to the *Associated Press*, the 16-million-ton tailings pile is supposed to be cleaned up by 2019 but was not expected to be finished before 2028. The pile dates to the 1950s, when uranium was mined for nuclear weapons. The mill was closed in 1984, but the tailings were left on the river bank. *AP* noted that total cleanup is expected to cost \$1 billion.

Other Department of Energy stimulus funding will accelerate waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, demolish 35 structures at Los Alamos National Laboratory, provide additional groundwater contamination information at the Nevada Test Site, and accelerate groundwater treatment and contaminated soil removal at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. ■

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