



April 2017 Motherlode Monitor Newsletter

2017 Membership Renewal Time

Renew your membership for 2017 or join the Sierrans as a new member. Please find Individual/Family Membership and Corporate Membership Forms at www.sierrans.org. Print, fill out the form, and send your check to the address on the form. We look forward to building our membership further in 2017 and having you on board!! Become a voice for the resource industries in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday May 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m., Debate on Centennial Dam Reservoir Project, Peace Lutheran Church, 828 West Main Street, Grass Valley, CA.

The Nevada County Democrat Party is hosting a debate between the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) and several environmental groups about the proposed Centennial Reservoir Project. The debate will include Remleh Scherzinger (General Manager) and Nick Wilcox (Director) from NID, Otis Wollan (President) of the American River Watershed Institute, and Traci Sheehan (Coordinator) of the Foothills Water Network. The event is open to the public and a large crowd is expected, so get there early.

Wednesday May 3, 2017, 11 a.m., Sierrans' Board of Directors Meeting, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley, CA.

This meeting is scheduled to occur prior to the monthly membership meeting, see below.

Wednesday May 3 2017, 12 noon. Sierrans' Membership Meeting featuring David Lawler speaking about "Mercury Wars", 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150, Grass Valley, CA.

David Lawler will give a talk on his and Hank Meals' article in the Sierra Heritage Magazine (August 2016 edition) titled "Mercury Wars". It discusses the controversy between miners and environmentalists over historic mercury contamination in California's rivers and use of gold suction dredge mining. The goal is to generate a discussion about potential technologies and mining methods that might be used by dredge miners to minimize the impacts from their operations and the potential to clean up mercury from rivers and reservoirs.

David is an economic geologist and minerals specialist with +30 years of experience in domestic and international mineral exploration. He has a Master's degree in geoscience from the University of California, Berkeley. His diverse technical experience includes conducting mineral assessments of precious, base metal, gemstone, and industrial mineral deposits for numerous private investment groups and mining companies. He is considered a Latin American minerals specialist and has been instrumental in the evaluation, exploration and development of mineral deposits throughout Latin America.

David served as the Abandoned Mine Lands Coordinator for the California region for the US Dept. of Interior for a 10-year period. He and his team conducted watershed-scale assessments for "legacy mine" pollutants including mercury and arsenic. He is also Executive Director of the Farwest Geoscience Foundation, a scientific and educational non-profit group, based in Grass Valley, CA.

**Sierrans for Responsible Resource Development
P.O. Box 404, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (530) 271-0679
www.sierrans.org**

Saturday June 3 2017, at a time to be announced, Dedication Ceremony for a Historical Plaque Honoring Robert S. Shoemaker, North Star Power House and Pelton Wheel Museum, 10933 Alison Ranch Road, Grass Valley, CA

A dedication ceremony for a historical plaque honoring world-renowned metallurgist Robert S. Shoemaker will be held on June 3rd at the North Star Power House and Pelton Wheel Museum. The time of day will be announced in our next newsletter.

Bob Shoemaker (1925-2016) was inducted into the National Mining Hall of Fame in Leadville CO on September 24, 2017. He was a world-renowned metallurgist and was a docent and Director of the Museum for many years.

The Sierrans has been working with Bob's daughter, Jan, the City of Grass Valley (owners of the Museum), the Nevada County Historical Society (operators of the Museum), and the docents of the Museum on this project. A number of organizations (including the Sierrans and Society of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers) as well as individuals donated funds to pay for the plaque and its installation. The plaque will be donated to the City of Grass Valley and installed in the Museum by the docents. Details for the dedication ceremony are now being arranged.

Public Comment, Centennial Dam Project

The US Army Corps of Engineers released its Notice of Intent to prepare and Environmental Impact Statement for the Centennial Dam and Reservoir on February 10th, 2017. The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) plans to construct a new 275-foot dam and 110,000 acre foot reservoir on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie Reservoirs. Approximately 2,200 acres of land would be affected. The EIS will explore potential impacts to water supply, water quality, utilities and public services, traffic and navigation, fish, vegetation, wildlife, land use and agriculture, recreation, visual resources, air quality, and climate change.

The US Army Corps of Engineers held two public meetings – one in Auburn on March 1st and a second in Grass Valley on March 2nd. These were scoping meetings to provide an overview of the Proposed Action and the Draft Environmental Impact

Statement process and to afford interested parties with an opportunity to provide comments.

The Sierrans drafted and submitted a public comment letter as part of this process. Note that more public meetings will be held as the environmental review process moves forward. The project will be reviewed on a federal level under the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) and on a state level under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Several Sierrans directors attended a presentation on the Centennial Dam by Doug Roderick, Senior Engineer, NID hosted by the Engineering Association of Nevada County at their monthly membership meeting on April 26th. Mr. Roderick has been invited to attend the Sierrans' membership meeting in June.

Sierrans' Calendar

The Sierrans' for Responsible Resource Development 2017 Historical Calendar, featuring historic resource industry photos, is available. Remaining calendars are now available at a discounted price of \$5.00.

If you are interested in ordering one or more calendars, contact Pat Nelson or David Watkinson at plnelsonco@gmail.com or dwatkinson@sierrans.org respectively or pick them up at one of our membership meetings.



Contact Us

Contact us at motherlodemonitor@sierrans.org or by mail at the address in the footer of Page 1 of this newsletter.