



September 2015 Motherlode Monitor Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Sep. 12-13, 2015 – Foresthill Heritage Annual Celebration. This event includes the California State Gold Panning Championship and the American Legion Annual Pig Roast. The event will offer crafts, games for families, a pancake breakfast, museum tours, vendors, music, costume prize and much more. For information contact the Foresthill Chamber of Commerce at (530) 367-2474, foresthillchamber@sebastiancorp.net, or go to www.foresthillchamber.com. For information on the State Gold Panning Championship, contact (530) 367-2891 or goldworld@wildblue.net. The event is held in Old Foresthill Memorial Park.

Sep. 18, 2015 Special Membership Meeting – please attend this short but critical meeting at 12 noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150. It is important we have at least 10 members at this meeting to form a quorum. The members need to vote to approve a "Restated Articles of Incorporation" for filing with the California Secretary of State. This is in turn needed for our application for tax-exempt status with the IRS. These filings are time sensitive to approval in the 15th is critical.

Sep. 20, 2015 – Miners Rally – please attend this event hosted at the Stone House Restaurant at 107 Sacramento Street in Nevada City between 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. This event is hosted by the Western Mining Alliance who is involved in a variety of court cases related to dredge mining in California. They will have a variety of speakers providing education and updates on these cases. They will also be looking for donations to help support the issues they are working on.

Oct. 7, 2015 Membership Meeting – our next membership meeting is scheduled at 12 noon, 431

Crown Point Circle, Suite 150. This meeting will include a presentation by David Watkinson on the McCook Reservoir Project in Chicago – a public and private partnership to excavate a quarry in Chicago as part of the Tunnel and Reservoir Project (TARP Project). It is a possible model for how new reservoirs could be developed in California and how existing reservoirs could be cleaned out to increase water storage capacity.

Oct. 14, 2015 Board Meeting – our next Board Meeting is scheduled at 12 noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150.

Nov. 4, 2015 Membership Meeting – scheduled at 12 Noon, 431 Crown Point Circle, Suite 150. Charlie Alpers from the United States Geological Service will give a talk on "Research on Sediment and Mercury Mobilization in the South Yuba River."

Sierrans Website

Please visit the website at www.sierrans.org. Please let us know comments on the site and how it functions. If you find any typo or other issues, please let us know at info@sierrans.org.

Please direct your friends and anyone who might be interested in joining the Sierrans to this site for information on our organization. You will find membership forms that can be filled out, printed, and set to us located there for new members and to renew membership when the time comes.

Note this website also contains news on upcoming events and can be a quick way to check times and locations of events (in addition to this newsletter).

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

Sierrans Tax Exempt Status

The Sierrans is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation. We have filed for tax-exempt status with the IRS and will subsequently do so with the State of California. It is expected this will take several months to complete this process.

On September 8th, we received a letter from the IRS requesting that we amend our Articles of Incorporation to a public benefit corporation instead of a mutual benefit corporation and provide additional information on the directors and officers of the organization. We are moving to file a "Restated Articles of Incorporation" with the California Secretary of State that requires Board and membership approval. Once approved, we will send this information to the IRS and move forward with our application.

SB209 and AB1142 SMARA Reform

Two bills are currently moving through the California Senate and Assembly with the goal of updating and reforming the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). These bills will potentially increase the maximum annual reporting fees for mining operators with operating or idle mines from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year. The maximum amount that can be collected annually from reporting fees will increase from \$3.5 million to \$8.0 million. Operations would be inspected annually and inspectors would have to have certain qualifications and training. A dual system of approval is mandated requiring both lead agency and state approval of reclamation plans and bond amounts. Concern is obviously for the small miner, who will potentially see increased requirements for reclamation plans, annual reporting fees, and bond requirements. These bills are both at the appropriations stage, where the fiscal analysis of their impacts should be evaluated. The Western Mining Alliance and Miners Assembled are actively following these Bills. We plan to network and support these organizations that are representing the mining industry's interest.

SB637 and Suction Dredging

A Bill is currently moving through the California Senate to regulate suction dredge mining in the State. Note that suction dredge mining has been temporarily banned in the State since August 2009 (Senate Bill 670) pending completion by the Department of Fish and Wildlife of a court ordered environmental review. This Bill was subsequently extended several times by Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown. The Western Mining Alliance and Miners Assembled are actively following this Bill. An update will be given on its status at the Miners Rally on Sep. 20, 2015 (see Upcoming Events).

American Mining Rights Association

To learn more about current legislation and how to fight back, visit AMRA's website link:

<https://americanminingrights.com/current-legislation/>

Membership Drive

The Sierrans are commencing a membership drive in September through the end of the year. Please help us get the word out about our organization and help us find likeminded members who are interested in supporting the resource industries in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The best way to do this is to direct people to our website, where they can find information about our organization and membership forms are available for use.

Contact Us

You can contact us at info@sierrans.org or by mail at the address in the footer of Page 1 of this newsletter.

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