

CIEA E-Newsletter Vol. 2 Issue #5: September 20, 2009

Warm greetings!

We are pleased to bring you this issue of CIEA E-News. This issue celebrates the success of our friends and colleagues in the success of the Bill on Banning In Stream Dredge Gold Mining! Congratulations and thank you to everyone for your hard work. Press Release and details are below, read on...

Also in this issue is information on the new report revealing the pervasiveness of mercury contamination in the United States, which gives further evidence of the widespread need for both state and federal support for new science and cleanup efforts.

Connected to the pervasiveness, we are also looking forward to the upcoming UNEP Mercury Treaty process aimed at decreasing global emissions of mercury from industry, address existing toxins in the environment and aid in mercury storage plans. Speaking of storage, federal plans for mercury storage is also in the news.

Please see the upcoming events calendar below. As always, if you would like more information about these events please follow the links or call CIEA we can help give some background or point you in the direction of further information.

Hope to see you out there!

Yours faithfully,

Sherri Norris
California Indian Environmental Alliance
PO Box 2128, Berkeley, Ca. 94702
(510) 848-2043
sherri@cieaweb.org
www.cieaweb.org

In this issue:

- Upcoming Events & Advocacy Calendar
- Featured Articles:
 - 1) Elders Spread Word on Mercury Contamination
 - 2) New Government Study Shows Mercury in Fish is Widespread
 - 3) Mercury in Stream Ecosystems
 - 4) Governor Signs Bill In Stream Dredge Mining for Gold
 - 5) KCMO City Council Says No to Fed Mercury Storage Plan
 - 6) Lawmakers Want GJ Out of Mercury Storage Consideration
 - 7) Federal Judge Considers Protecting Pregnant Women from Mercury-preserved Flu Shots
 - 8) Sulphur Creek Beneficial Uses Amendment to WQCP for Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins

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Upcoming Events and Advocacy Calendar

Oct. 1 North Coast RWQCB Board Meeting, Santa Rosa. For more information visit:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/

- Oct. 6 Regional Monitoring Program of the San Francisco Estuary Institute.** At the Scottish Rite in Oakland. To register visit the sfei website at <http://www.sfei.org/rmp/annualmeeting/index.html>. Registration will be cut off at 5 pm on September 25th. Link to agenda: http://www.sfei.org/rmp/annualmeeting/2009/RMP09AnnMtg_AgendaFlyer.pdf
For more information contact Linda Russo, San Francisco Estuary Institute, (510)746-7355
- Oct. 19-23 Fall RTOC Tribal Caucus Meeting & Annual Tribal/EPA Conference - hosted by the Tohono O’odham Nation,** Tuscon Az.
For more information visit the web at: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/tribal/rtoc/upcoming.html>
- Oct. 28-29 North Coast RWQCB Board Meeting and Workshop,** Yurok Tribal Headquarters, Klamath. For more information visit: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/
- Oct. 31 Indian Student Renewable Energy Challenge,** Deadline for Phase I design submission is Saturday, October 31, 2009. For more information, contact Ashley Stockdale at (202) 219-0740 or go to the challenge website at: dep.anl.gov/indianed_energychallenge
- Nov. 4-5 Tribal Water Summit, at the Radisson Hotel, Sacramento (500 Leisure Lane, 95815).** Issues and Positions Sessions on: Rivers, Streams, Dams, and Fish; Watersheds; Tribal Water Rights in California; Institutions/Legal/Agencies; Discussion of Solutions and Next Steps with Tribal, State, and Federal Government Officials. Agenda and additional information to follow. For more information contact Dorian Fougères, (916) 341-3328, fougeres@gmail.com
- Nov. 16-19 Tribal Energy Program Training,** Denver , CO - DOE's Tribal Energy Program Review. Save-the-Date: For information on the Program and our "Guide to Tribal Energy Development," see www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy.
- Nov. 18 California Abandoned Mine Lands Forum,** convened by the Department of Conservation - to provide a venue for discussion and coordination on water quality, safety and environmental hazard issues that agencies and other groups face with their abandoned mine land remediation projects in California. Please contact Sarah Reeves at Sarah.Reeves@conservation.ca.gov or Cy Oggins at Cy.Oggins@conservation.ca.gov, or call (916) 323-9204 if you plan to attend a scheduled meeting. For more information visit: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/omr/abandoned_mine_lands/Pages/amlu_forum.aspx

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1) Elders spread word on mercury contamination - *New study says problem is widespread*

By Rob Capriccioso, Indian Country Today - Sep 20, 2009

MADISON, Wis. – In olden days, Clarissa Welds, an elder of Lake Superior, as she calls herself, never worried about how many fish she ate.

“It was the way of our ancestors. We were fisherman, and Mother Earth gave us what we needed to survive. We didn’t have to worry if the food was safe,” said the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians citizen.

“I miss those times.”

Welds’ outlook began to change after two children, one a relative and the other the child of a close friend, were diagnosed with learning disorders and behavioral problems in the 1990s.

Doctors said the health issues could have to do with their mothers’ diets, Welds recalls. Mercury in the freshwater

fish they ate was a particular concern, according to medical experts.

Studies have shown the presence of mercury in food correlates with a variety of negative health effects, including the problems seen in the children close to Welds.

Health officials today say mercury, a neurotoxin, is still quite problematic. It is a persistent substance – one that doesn't go away quickly or easily – that tends to affect the nervous system and is especially dangerous to pregnant women and youth.

The main source of contamination in natural waters is mercury that is released into the atmosphere and deposited into watersheds by precipitation. Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of mercury emissions in the United States.

In February, the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) announced that it intends to control air emissions of mercury from coal-fired power plants by issuing a rule under the [Clean Air Act](#).

For now, the presence of mercury in lakes and streams doesn't seem to be going away any time soon, despite stricter pollution monitoring and testing in many regions. In fact, new research from the Interior Department indicates that mercury contamination is widespread.

According to the department's latest [U.S. Geological Survey](#) study, released in August, scientists detected mercury contamination in every fish sampled in 291 streams across the country. About a quarter of these fish were found to contain mercury at levels exceeding the criterion for the protection of people who consume average amounts of fish, established by the EPA.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said the science sends a clear message that the U.S. must continue to confront pollution, restore the nation's waterways, and protect the public from potential health dangers.

Barbara Scudder, a USGS scientist, said the findings will help decision makers better manage mercury sources and better anticipate concentrations of mercury and methylmercury in unstudied streams in comparable environmental settings.

Welds was caught off guard because she knew the two mothers of the ailing kids ate well. Plus, she said, they weren't obese, didn't have diabetes, and seemed to have good nutrition habits.

One thing they had in common: They loved fish, especially trout. Welds had prepared it for both mothers on many occasions.

Since the diagnoses, the children and their mothers have gone on to live full lives, but haven't eaten many fish, Welds said.

And neither has she.

Health experts say avoiding fish is one way to dramatically reduce the risk of mercury contamination and poisoning.

Many elders in recent years have become aware of the dangers of mercury contamination as a result of younger family members' health issues, according to James Falcone, a wildlife expert from a Wisconsin-based conservation group.

"The message seems to get through to many older tribal members first. And they bring the message back to their kin and friends."

Some tribal leaders are being proactive about getting the word out. The leadership of the Bad River Reservation issued a warning to the tribe about mercury contamination in 2004.

It also sent a letter to the leaders of the EPA, laying out its concerns about pollution and proposals that would affect mercury regulation in nearby waters.

“It is definitely good that tribal elders and leaders are taking the lead on this important matter,” Falcone said, “especially in light of the new scientific information.”

While the latest Interior data suggests many regions are already contaminated, there are areas that are far worse than others. Some of the highest levels of mercury in fish were found in the tea-colored or “blackwater” streams in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana.

High levels of mercury in fish were also found in relatively undeveloped watersheds in the Northeast and the Upper Midwest. Elevated levels were also noted in areas of the West affected by mining.

Complete findings of the USGS report, as well as additional detailed studies in selected streams, are available online [at: <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/mercury/>].

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2) New gov't Study Shows Mercury in Fish Widespread

By DINA CAPPIELLO, Associated Press Writer – August 19, 2009

WASHINGTON – No fish can escape mercury pollution. That's the take-home message from a federal study of mercury contamination released Wednesday that tested fish from nearly 300 streams across the country.

The toxic substance was found in every fish sampled, a finding that underscores how widespread mercury pollution has become.

But while all fish had traces of contamination, only about a quarter had mercury levels exceeding what the Environmental Protection Agency says is safe for people eating average amounts of fish.

The study by the U.S. Geological Survey is the most comprehensive look to date at mercury in the nation's streams. From 1998 to 2005, scientists collected and tested more than a thousand fish, including bass, trout and catfish, from 291 streams nationwide.

"This science sends a clear message that our country must continue to confront pollution, restore our nation's waterways, and protect the public from potential health dangers," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said in a statement.

Mercury consumed by eating fish can damage the nervous system and cause learning disabilities in developing fetuses and young children. The main source of mercury to most of the streams tested, according to the researchers, is emissions from coal-fired power plants. The mercury released from smokestacks here and abroad rains down into waterways, where natural processes convert it into methylmercury — a form that allows the toxin to wind its way up the food chain into fish.

Some of the highest levels in fish were detected in the remote blackwater streams along the coasts of the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana, where bacteria in surrounding forests and wetlands help in the conversion. The second-highest concentration of mercury was detected in largemouth bass from the North Fork of the Edisto River near Fairview Crossroads, S.C.

"Unfortunately, it's the case that almost any fish you test will have mercury now," said Andrew Rypel, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Mississippi who has studied mercury contamination in fish throughout the

Southeast. He said other research has shown mercury in fish from isolated areas of Alaska and Canada, and species that live in the deep ocean.

Mercury was also found in high concentrations in western streams that drain areas mined for mercury and gold. The most contaminated sample came from smallmouth bass collected from the Carson River at Dayton, Nev., an area tainted with mercury from gold mining. At 58 other streams, mostly in the West, the acidic conditions created by mining could also be contributing to the mercury levels, the researchers said.

"Some ecosystems are more sensitive than others," said Barbara Scudder, the lead USGS scientist on the study.

All but two states — Alaska and Wyoming — have issued fish-consumption advisories because of mercury contamination. Some of the streams studied already had warnings.

"This is showing that the problem is much more widespread," said Sonya Lunder, a senior analyst for the Environmental Working Group, which has pushed for stronger advisories on consumption of mercury-laden fish and controls on the sources of mercury pollution. "If you are living in an area that doesn't have a mercury advisory, you should use caution."

Earlier this year, the Obama administration said it would begin crafting a new regulations to control mercury emissions from power plants after a federal appeals court threw out plans drafted by the Bush administration and favored by industry. The Bush rule would have allowed power plants to buy and sell pollution credits, instead of requiring each plant to install equipment to reduce mercury pollution.

The EPA also has also proposed a new regulation to clamp down on emissions of mercury from cement plants.

On the Net:

U.S. Geological Survey: <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/mercury/>

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090819/ap_on_go_ot/us_mercury_contamination

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3) Mercury In Stream Ecosystems

The NAWQA Program is studying mercury cycling in watersheds across the Nation to build an understanding of how natural features and human activities affect the transformation, transport, and bioaccumulation of mercury in stream ecosystems. As of August 2008, mercury was the second leading cause of stream impairment throughout the Nation (USEPA 303(d) list). Methylmercury is a neurotoxin that is biomagnified in aquatic food webs so that piscivorous fish and wildlife, and humans that consume fish, are potentially at greater risk of exposure to methylmercury. USGS data and research may aid in the development of more rigorous models that relate water quality to mercury bioaccumulation, thereby enhancing capabilities for predicting mercury contamination in fish.

<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/mercury/>

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4) Governor Signs Bill Banning In Stream Dredge Mining for Gold

P R E S S R E L E A S E - For Immediate Release: August 6, 2009

Klamath Riverkeeper * Karuk Tribe * Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations * Institute for Fisheries Resources * Center For Biological Diversity * Friends of the River * California Tribal Business Alliance * The Sierra Fund * California Trout * Environmental Law Foundation * Environmental Justice Coalition for Water * Friends of the North Fork American * California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

For more information:

Craig Tucker, Litigant and Spokesman, Karuk Tribe, cell 916-207-8294 Glen Spain, PCFFA, 541-521-8655 cell
Scott Harding, Klamath Riverkeeper, 541-488-3553

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL BANNING IN STREAM DREDGE MINING FOR GOLD Ban will remain in place until new dredge mining rules protective of fish are developed

Sacramento, CA - Today Governor Schwarzenegger signed a bill to temporarily ban the destructive form of recreational gold mining known as suction dredging. Other forms of mining are not affected. With its signing, the bill places an immediate moratorium on all suction dredge mining until the California Department of Fish and Game develops and implements new suction dredge regulations that are protective of fisheries and water quality. Introduced by North coast Senator Pat Wiggins (D-Santa Rosa), the bill attracted broad bi-partisan support and passed both houses of the legislature with a 2/3 majority.

The signing marked a major victory by a diverse coalition of Tribes, fishermen, and conservation groups from around the state. It comes a week after an Alameda County Superior Court ordered a moratorium on the issuance of new dredge permits pending resolution of a complaint charging that tax payer money is illegally subsidizing issuance of dredging permits by the California Department of Fish and Games (DFG).

"We've been working to protect our fisheries from destructive mining practices for 150 years," said Bob Goodwin, Karuk Self Governance Coordinator. "This law requires the state use the best available science in determining where and when hobby miners can operate their dredges without harming our fisheries. Until then, no dredging will be allowed in California."

According to California Trout's Tom Wesloh, "California's rivers and streams are suffering from increasing degradation, and the endangered and threatened fish species face ever more obstacles to survival. Suction dredging disturbs spawning beds of trout, steelhead and salmon. Healthy spawning beds are essential to the long-term survival of these species."

Groups hope that at the end of the rule making process, the size of dredges will be limited and critical habitats and spawning areas for threatened species will be off limits while allowing dredgers access to areas less vital for the survival of at-risk species.

This recent struggle over dredge mining started in 1997 when Coho salmon were added to the state and federal endangered species list. At that point California Fish and Game Department regulations required that mining rules be re-examined. They were not. In 2005, the Karuk Tribe sued the Department which admitted that a rule change was in order.

"In 2006 we actually proposed some modest restrictions limited to the Klamath Basin. The Department agreed, but the New 49ers and other local mining groups intervened and blocked implementation of the settlement," explains Goodwin.

The judge did order the Department to go through a public rule making process consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by June 2008. However, the Department failed to comply with the court order..

"We kept trying to get the money in the Department's budget, but the New 49ers kept lobbying against it. We had little recourse other than legislating the ban to protect our fishery," concluded Goodwin.

Now the moratorium is statewide and protects not just Northern California Coho, but at-risk species from coastal rivers to high Sierra streams to the few remaining natural waterways in southern California. "Our native fish, frogs, and other at-risk species are declining statewide," explains Steve Evans, Conservation Director of Friends of the River. "Banning dredge mining is not a silver bullet solution for protecting these species, but it's a good start."

Other groups see dredging as a public health issue because it remobilizes toxic mercury left behind by 19th century gold miners. According to Elizabeth (Izzy) Martin, Executive Director of the Sierra Fund, "Dredges suck up mercury buried in river sediment and remobilizes that mercury in our river and streams. This creates a significant health threat to subsistence fishermen, pregnant women and children as well as wildlife."

Fishermen have taken on miners to preserve jobs. According to Glen Sain, Northwest Regional Director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, a major trade organization representing commercial fishing families, "Commercial fishermen are out of work again this year due to the fishing ban put in place in response to salmon declines from habitat destruction and flow loss. Everyone whose activities harm salmon habitat must share the conservation burden, including the suction dredgers."

All the groups praised Governor Schwarzenegger for signing the bill. "We call on the Governor to seize every opportunity to protect and rebuild our great salmon fishery and the economies throughout California these fish have supported," concluded Spain .

Although the moratorium does spare rivers from dredges, other forms of mining are unaffected and miners will still have access to their claims. McCracken, President of the New 4 on his website, "the other types of prospecting or mining that we do are not being challenged. These include panning (<http://www.goldgold.com/goldpanning.html>), sniping & Vack-mining (<http://www.goldgold.com/crevicing.html>) sluicing & high-banking, booming (<http://www.goldgold.com/sluicing.html>) ,electronic prospecting (<http://www.goldgold.com/electronic.html>) and other types of prospecting (<http://www.goldgold.com/prospecting.html>) that do not use a suction nozzle within an active stream, river or creek. So SB 670 does not affect most of the activity which we do, including our group weekend projects (<http://www.goldgold.com/organizedgroup.html>)."
(<http://www.goldgold.com/newsletterlatest.htm>)

What is a Dredge?

Suction dredges are powered by gas or diesel engines that are mounted on floating pontoons in the river. Attached to the engine is a powerful vacuum hose which the dredger uses to suction up the gravel and sand (sediment) from the bottom of the river. The material passes through a sluice box where heavier gold particles can settle into a series of riffles. The rest of the gravel is simply dumped back into the river.

Often this reintroduces mercury left over from historic mining operations to the water column, threatening communities downstream and getting into the human food chain. Depending on size, location and density of these machines they can turn a clear running mountain stream into a murky watercourse unfit for swimming.

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Also see a dredge in action on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11qwdzQ4fzI>

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5) KCMO City Council Says No to Fed Mercury Storage Plan

Web Staff - [WDAF-TV Fox4KC.com](http://www.fox4kc.com) - July 9, 2009

KANSAS CITY, MO - The Kansas City, Missouri, City Council has come out against a federal proposal to create a long-term elemental mercury storage facility at the Bannister Federal Complex on Thursday.

The resolution, which passed unanimously, opposed the U.S. Department of Energy's consideration of the site in south Kansas City. Council members John Sharp and Cathy Jolly from the 6th District sponsored the resolution.

The department had chosen the Bannister Complex as one of seven potential sites for the material.

According to the city, the resolution states that the City does not believe the criteria for federal identification of host locations for mercury storage are in place at the Bannister Road complex, specifically citing these requirements:

- The candidate host location has an existing facility or facilities suitable for mercury storage with the capability and flexibility for operational expansion, if necessary.
- The facility or facilities is, or potentially will be, capable of complying with federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permitting requirements, including siting requirements.
- Storage of elemental mercury at the facility or facilities is compatible with local and regional land use plans.

"One major concern we have is that the Bannister Road Plant closely adjoins residential areas on two sides," Jolly said in a statement. "It isn't consistent with good public safety practices to store toxic metals close to neighborhoods."

The Council and Environmental Quality Office, a division of the City Manager's Office, says that they believe the site fails as a candidate on many fronts.

"Along with concerns about the proximity to homes, we are also concerned that the area sits in a floodplain and requires manual closing of floodgates to prevent flooding, which could compromise safe storage if the system does not function properly," Sharp said in a statement.

According to the city in a statement, the resolution will be sent to the Department of Energy, all members of the area Congressional delegation, Governor Jay Nixon and the director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Elemental mercury is created through manufacturing, gold mining and recycling activities. A new federal law requires the department to find one or more locations to store the mercury by 2013.

The Department of Energy estimates government and private users have generated more than 15,000 metric tons, storing it in numerous places.

Other potential locations are in Colorado, Washington state, Nevada, Idaho, South Carolina and Texas. The Department of Energy will hold a public hearing in Kansas City on July 23. from 5:30-9:30 p.m., at the Embassy Suites on the Country Club Plaza.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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6) Lawmakers Want GJ Out of Mercury Storage Consideration

By MIKE WIGGINS/The Grand Junction Daily Sentinel - Wednesday, August 05, 2009

Mesa County's three elected state representatives have asked U.S. Rep. John Salazar, D-Colo., to take action to block a "misguided" federal proposal to potentially store thousands of tons of mercury near Grand Junction.

In a letter sent this week, Sen. Josh Penry and Reps. Steve King and Laura Bradford asked Salazar to attach language to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill preventing any funding in the legislation from being used to further consider Grand Junction as a disposal site. The 2010 bill funds the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers and several other agencies.

Salazar spokesman Edward Stern said Salazar had not yet received the letter but said the congressman has “serious concerns” about the prospect of storing mercury near Grand Junction.

“He looks forward to working with (elected officials) to do what’s best to protect the community, the citizens of Grand Junction,” Stern said.

Grand Junction is one of seven cities the federal government is contemplating as a location to store as much as 17,000 tons of mercury over the next 40 years. Plans call for the construction of a building of about 150,000 square feet that would hold thousands of 76-pound steel flasks, each containing 2.5 liters of the liquid, silvery metal, which is more than 10 times heavier than water.

Local elected leaders and Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter have come out in opposition to any effort to use the Grand Junction Disposal Site, which is 18 miles south of the city, as a dumping ground. Many have claimed it would violate the DOE’s promise to use the site strictly for a uranium mill-tailings disposal cell.

The DOE has until January to designate a storage site and until 2013 to have a center in operation.

The search for a place to put the federal government’s stores of mercury began when Congress passed the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, legislation that was introduced by then-Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.

The law was enacted largely to prevent the United States from shipping the hazardous material to developing nations with lax environmental and public health protections.

“If Congress and President Obama believe that mercury is too dangerous to ship to Third World countries, then we believe it is most certainly too dangerous to ship to Grand Junction,” Bradford, King and Penry wrote.

King said the letter represents just one more effort to prevent mercury from being stored here.

“I’m hoping that what we do is just take the option of using the Grand Junction (Disposal) Site as the location for this mercury out of the hands of the Department of Energy,” King said.

Check out the Valley Watch website at: <http://valleywatch.net>

http://www.gjsentinel.com/search/content/news/stories/2009/08/05/080609_1a_Mercury_letter.html

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7) Federal Judge Considers Protecting Pregnant Women from Mercury-preserved Flu Shots

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release August 25, 2009

CONTACTS

CoMeD President [Rev. Lisa K. Sykes (Richmond, VA) 804-740-7128 ext. 113; E-mail: syklone5@juno.com]

CoMeD Sci. Advisor [Dr. King (Lake Hiawatha, NJ) 973-997-1321; E-mail: drking@gti.net]

Washington, DC – In their lawsuit against the defendants, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) and Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Court has granted the Coalition for Mercury-free Drugs (CoMeD, Inc.) plaintiffs a hearing on their motion for a preliminary injunction to stop pregnant women from being given mercury-preserved flu shots. The Women’s Division of the United Methodist Church, Mothering Magazine and individual people, from as far away as India, have submitted sworn declarations in support of CoMeD plaintiffs’ lawsuit.

Thimerosal (49.6-wt% mercury) is used as a preservative in most flu shot doses (mercury-preserved flu shots). It has been confirmed as the preservative component for “preserved” or “multi-dose” “swine flu” vaccine formulations. Currently, Thimerosal-preserved flu shots may legally be given to pregnant women in most States. Pregnant women are presently one of the primary targets for the upcoming “swine-flu” campaign. In response to the CoMeD plaintiffs’ legal challenge, the FDA has, as of August 17, 2009, failed to produce the vaccine maker’s clinical and/or toxicological proofs that the level of mercury contained in their Thimerosal-preserved flu vaccine

is safe to the required standard, “sufficiently nontoxic so that the amount present in the recommended dose of the product will not be toxic to the recipient.”¹

Based on statements by the producers of Thimerosal, exposure in utero can produce fetal death, mild to severe mental retardation, and impaired fertility. According to the package inserts for all inactivated-flu shots, the vaccines producers have not proved their safety to pregnant women and their unborn children. One government study reviewed more than 50,000 pregnancy-outcome instances and found links between both low-level topical and single-vaccine-dose Thimerosal exposures during pregnancy and significant increased risks for serious birth defects (e.g., cleft palate and microcephaly) in the child. Many published toxicological papers and several recent multi-case studies in children have linked low-level Thimerosal exposure to adverse developmental outcomes in children.

The Court has granted the CoMeD plaintiffs a hearing on their motion for a preliminary injunction to prevent these injuries to the next generation of our children. This injunction asks the Court to stop:

- The vaccination of pregnant women with any mercury-preserved flu vaccine, and
- The Secretary and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from recommending the vaccination of pregnant women with mercury-preserved flu shots.

The Court has scheduled a hearing on the CoMeD plaintiffs’ motion on August 26, 2009.

¹ This prerequisite is a **minimum** safety requirement in the current good manufacturing practice (CGMP) set forth in 21 CFR § 610.15(a) for preserved biological drug products that the vaccine makers of are required to: **a)** meet, and **b)** submit proof of safety to this CGMP **minimum** in their Application (BLA) (by 21 CFR § 601.2(a)) **before** the FDA can legally approve the vaccine maker’s CFR § 601.4, governing the FDA’s conduct with respect to proof of safety and BLA approval).

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8) Sulphur Creek Beneficial Uses – Amendment to WQCP for Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins

Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins to Determine Certain Beneficial Uses Are Not Applicable and Establish Water Quality Objectives in Sulphur Creek, Colusa County

[A new] amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins regarding beneficial uses for Sulphur Creek in Colusa County is now in effect. The Basin Plan will be updated to include the new language and a notification will be sent when the updated basin plan is available.

Load allocations, including a margin of safety, and the implementation plan to achieve the TMDL targets for Sulphur Creek are described in the Cache Creek Watershed Basin Plan amendment staff report and the Sulphur Creek TMDL for Mercury staff report.

For more information visit the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board’s website at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/basin_plans/ or contact Betty Yee, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer CA Regional Water Quality Control Board 916-464-4643, byee@waterboards.ca.gov

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