



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1325 J STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, 95814-2922

Environmental Resources Branch

JUL 13 2012

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
Virginia City and Gold Hill Wastewater Systems Improvements  
Storey County, Nevada

I have reviewed and evaluated the information presented in this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Virginia City and Gold Hill Wastewater Systems Improvements, Storey County, Nevada. The project would involve (1) upgrading the existing wastewater treatment plant in Virginia City, (2) replacing Virginia City's sewer collection system, (3) constructing sewer lift stations in Gold Hill, and (4) replacing and extending the Gold Hill sewer collection system. The work would reduce potential surface and groundwater contamination, ensure public and environmental health, and meet Virginia City and Gold Hill wastewater treatment demands. This project is authorized by Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53).

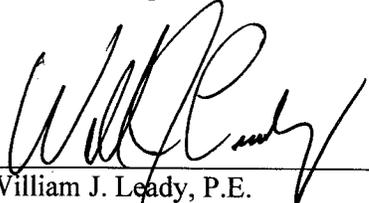
During this review, the possible consequences of the work described in the EA have been studied with consideration given to environmental, social, economic, and cultural feasibility. In evaluating the effects of the project, specific attention has been given to environmental conditions, including cultural resources and hazardous waste, which could potentially be affected. I have also considered the views of other government agencies, organizations, and individuals concerning the proposed project.

The project area is located entirely within the boundaries of the Virginia City Historic District (VCHD), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Numerous historic archaeological sites, features, and buildings have been identified that contribute to the integrity of the VCHD and NHL. Stipulations to determine the type and degree of any adverse effects of the project on these historic properties, as well as mitigation measures, are included in the Programmatic Agreement (PA) accompanying this EA. Implementing the stipulations in the PA would mitigate any adverse effects to less than significant.

Mercury contamination from past mining activities has been found in the soils and groundwater in Virginia City, Gold Hill, and surrounding areas. As a result, the project could disturb mercury-contaminated soils during surface clearing, grading, and excavation activities. To ensure public health, implementation of best management practices and measures required by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection would reduce any effects on mercury sources or exposure to less than significant.

Based on my review of the EA and my knowledge of the project area, I am convinced that the proposed project is a logical and desirable alternative. Furthermore, I have determined that the project would have no significant effects on the environment. All construction will be implemented in compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and requirements. Based on the results of the environmental evaluation and completion of agency coordination, I have determined that the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact provide adequate documentation and that no further environmental document is required.

12 July 2012  
Date

  
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William J. Leady, P.E.  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer