

Reps. Tauscher, Miller & McNerney Announces Initial Funding Approval for Contra Costa Mine Cleanup

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kevin Lawlor, 202/225-1880

July 17, 2007

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REPS. TAUSCHER, MILLER & MCNERNEY ANNOUNCE INITIAL FUNDING APPROVAL FOR CONTRA COSTA MINE CLEANUP

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman George Miller (CA-7), Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (CA-10), and Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) announced that \$525,000 for the cleanup of the Mount Diablo Mercury Mine in eastern Contra Costa County was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives today, based on requests made by the three Members. Project funding was included in the 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

“The mercury pollution in Mine Creek doesn’t just stay in one place, and that’s why we’ve made it a regional priority to get it cleaned up. We need to ensure our region remains a great place to live, work and raise our families,” said Rep. Ellen Tauscher. “Congressmen Miller and McNerney and I will continue working together to secure federal funding for local priorities like these.”

“By working together with my colleagues from the region, we were able to secure funding for this important project which will contribute to the health of our community and our environment,” said Rep. McNerney.

“This is an important project for public health and the environment of the Bay-Delta region,” Rep. Miller said. “It is our hope that the Senate and President Bush will also support this funding as the appropriations process moves forward.”

The project was Contra Costa County’s number one priority funding request for 2008.

A description of the project appears below:

\$525,000 for Abandoned Mine Cleanup at Mount Diablo

Funding will be used to complete the preliminary design and planning studies for cleaning up the Mount Diablo Mercury Mine in the Marsh Creek watershed in eastern Contra Costa County. Currently, due to the condition of the facility, mercury from the abandoned mine is washed into the Marsh Creek Watershed, near the eastern Contra Costa cities of Oakley and Brentwood, and ultimately downstream into San Francisco Bay.

Funding for these projects is subject to approval by the Senate and then President Bush. The appropriations process is expected to be complete by the start of the next fiscal year on October 1, 2007.