



# Klau / Buena Vista Mine Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$ Region 9 \$ San Francisco, CA \$ May 2007

## EPA COMPLETES EMERGENCY REMOVAL

### Introduction

This emergency removal of mercury contamination at the Klau Buena Vista Mine was successfully completed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This fact sheet is to update community members and stakeholders of what removal actions were taken and provide the next steps in the cleanup of the site.



*Mercury at Klau/Buena Vista Superfund Site*

### History of Klau/Buena Vista Mines & EPA's involvement

The Klau/Buena Vista Mine is located in San Luis Obispo County, approximately 12 miles west of Paso Robles, California. The Klau/Buena Vista Mine consists of two abandoned mercury mine sites (Klau and Buena Vista) that are located on adjacent properties on a northwest-southeast ridge of the Santa Lucia Range in the California coastal mountains. Mercury mining and ore processing operations occurred at the Buena Vista Mine and adjacent Klau Mine between 1868 and 1970. Buena Vista Mines, Inc. has owned the Buena Vista Mine at least since 1957 and the Klau Mine since at least 1964. The most significant contaminant of concern is mercury, a metal that can be harmful to the human nervous system.

### Recent Activity

In June 2006, EPA initiated a removal action during which the mine mercury processing buildings and condensers were removed along with the associated contaminated soils. The mercury processing area was excavated down to five feet; a geotextile liner was installed and the area was backfilled with clean fill and regraded and hydroseeded. In addition to the 900 tons of mercury contaminated building debris and contaminated soil, over 100 pounds of free elemental mercury was recovered and recycled. The processing building's concrete foundation has been decontaminated and remains on site. All disturbed areas were also regraded and hydroseeded. **EPA installed several monitoring probes this year in streams to measure the effects of acid mine drainage on pH levels.**

### Next Steps

An assessment will begin this spring to identify any endangered, threatened or sensitive plants or animals who may be impacted by site contamination. A database of historic data from previous sampling events and a model of the site are being created by EPA contractors to better understand the location and movement of contaminants and their potential impacts to the local environment. EPA anticipates that a sampling plan for collecting soil samples and surface water samples will be completed by late summer. A community meeting to discuss the start of the Remedial Investigation will also be held in late summer.



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## Do you want to become involved in the site cleanup decisions?

Come and learn how Community Advisory Groups can make a difference!

**Monday, May 14, 2007  
7 pm to 9 pm**

**Heritage Ranch Community  
Services District Building  
4870 Heritage Road  
Paso Robles, CA**

Topics will include:

- \$ Introduction to Community Advisory Groups (CAG)
- \$ CAG vision and structure
- \$ Future topics

## Directions to Herritage Ranch Community Services District Building

*From Paso Robles,*

Leaving Paso Robles travel west on highway G-14./Lake Nacimiento Drive.

Slight **right** at **Nacimiento Lake Dr**

Turn **left** at **Gateway Dr**

Turn **right** at **Heritage Rd**

*From Templeton,*

Head **west** on **Las Tablas Rd** toward **Florence St**

Turn **right** to merge onto **US-101 N**

Take the **Spring St** exit

Turn **left** at **Niblick Rd**

Turn **right** at **Spring St**

Turn **left** at **24th St**

Slight **right** at **Nacimiento Lake Dr**

Turn **left** at **Gateway Dr**

Turn **right** at **Heritage Rd**

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United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
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Attn: Lauren Berkman (K/BVM 5/07)

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