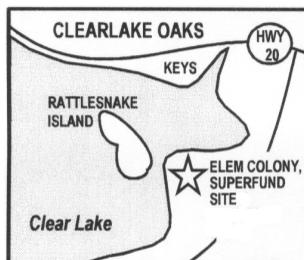


SUPERFUND SITE

The history of mining activity at Sulphur Bank dates back to the mid 1800s, when settlers began mining sulphur for gun powder but eventually found mercury which could be used to extract gold from ore.



The mine was closed in 1957, leaving a hole that began filling with water from creeks and geothermal springs. Dubbed the Herman Impoundment, the "lake" covers 23 acres amid 120 acres of mine tailings and waste rock. Because it sits higher than the level of Clear Lake, contaminated waters from the impoundment leach into the Lake.

During the 1970s and 1980s, it was discovered that catfish and bass in Clear Lake had elevated levels of mercury, and fish advisories were put into effect. In 1990 the property was designated an EPA Superfund Site, and it is currently the largest mercury Superfund site in the nation.

The EPA instituted emergency cleanup measures such as well closure and capping; removal of arsenic and mercury contaminated soil from the adjacent Elem Indian Colony; surface water diversion and erosion control/regrading.

The EPA is currently proposing remediation activities in two stages over the next 10 years in an effort to cleanup the property for future usage.



www.cleanlake.org

Clear Lake Environmental
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CLEAN BOARD MEMBERS:

Chuck Lamb (Chairperson)
Bill Rett (Vice Chairperson)
Colleen Beardsley
Judy Barnes
Holly Harris

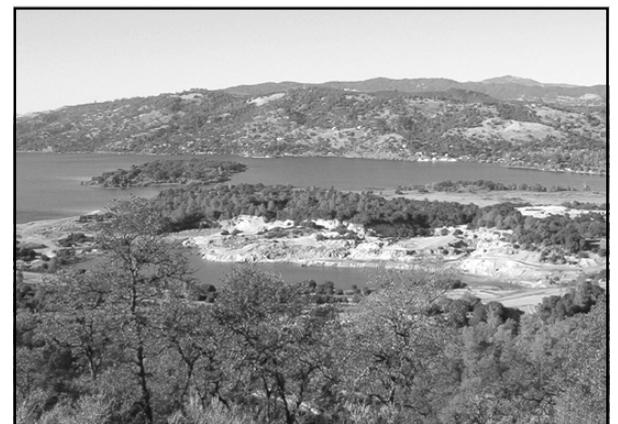
Technical Advisor:

McGinnis & Associates, LLC 775-853-0449

Credits - Front photo taken by Darrin McCosker.

Please note: This document has been funded partly or wholly through the use of USEPA Technical Assistance Grant funds. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the policies, actions, or positions of the US Environmental Protection Agency. CLEAN does not speak for nor represent the US Environmental Protection Agency.

CLEAR LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION NETWORK (C.L.E.A.N.)



Our Mission Statement:

- ❖ *To ensure that the community has a clear understanding of the EPA mitigation efforts at Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine (SBMM) in Clearlake Oaks, California;*
- ❖ *To provide a forum for concerned individuals to keep informed on activities, discuss their needs and concerns, and have input on the future reclamation/uses at the site;*
- ❖ *To provide ongoing education and information to the public on the remedial efforts, the associated health hazards to the community, and impact on the local ecology - particularly Clear Lake; and*
- ❖ *To streamline interaction with local government, the EPA and the Lake County community.*

WHAT IS CLEAN?



The Clear Lake Environmental Action Network (CLEAN) is a non-profit community group formed in July of 2003 to ensure concerned

individuals a full participation and understanding of the proposed EPA mitigation efforts at Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine in Clearlake Oaks, California.

The Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine (SBMM), located just off of Sulphur Bank Drive on the Clearlake Oaks shoreline, became an EPA Superfund Site in 1990. It is one of the major contributors to mercury contamination in Clear Lake. Yet despite becoming the largest mercury Superfund Site in the nation, many in Lake County remain unaware of the situation. The EPA has taken initial steps to remediate the problems, but it is a long and costly process.

CLEAN members consist of Lake County residents, property owners, concerned individuals and businesses. The focus of CLEAN is to involve the community of Lake County with the SBMM Superfund Site.

OUR PLANS

In March 2004, CLEAN received a \$50,000 Technical Advisor Grant from the EPA.

With the grant money, CLEAN has hired a technical advisor to represent the community interests to the EPA during the upcoming Superfund Clean-up Program. Our technical advisor is Dr. Dietrick McGinnis of McGinnis & Associates, LLC, of Reno, Nevada.

As an environmental scientist, Dr. McGinnis will help CLEAN to gather & disseminate information, monitor & publicize EPA remedial actions, and to provide a public forum where community representatives can discuss their interests & concerns with the EPA.

CLEAN will perform public outreach on the SBMM Superfund Site by publishing and distributing newsletters, maintaining a web-presence, quarterly public meetings, contact with local government, ongoing dialog with local media, presentations to interested parties and disseminating educational information at local events/fairs.



GET INVOLVED!

The EPA grant requires 20% matching funds, which can be in volunteered labor. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us - whether it be as simple as distributing information or being part of the governing board. Ways to participate include:

- ❖ Info Distribution at Fairs/Shows
- ❖ Putting up Posters
- ❖ Compiling Mailings
- ❖ Planning Community Events
- ❖ Community Outreach
- ❖ Meeting Preparations
- ❖ Website Maintenance
- ❖ Clerical Help
- ❖ Technical Support
- ❖ Distributing Newsletters

You don't need to be a resident of Clearlake Oaks, or even of Lake County, to get involved. Remember, the SBMM mercury contamination effects the entire lake!

To become a member of CLEAN - or to get on our mailing list - please contact us at:

CLEAN:
Box 926, Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423
707-998-0135
info@cleanlake.org