



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CORONA AND TWIN PEAKS MINES

The Corona and Twin Peaks Mines are inactive mercury mines located in the northwest corner of Napa County, in the East Mayacmas Mercury District. Recent investigations by Tuleyome's project team documented that these mines continue to release iron, sulfate, nickel, and mercury downstream to James Creek and beyond.

This mining legacy contributes to the listing of the following waterbodies as impaired: James Creek (nickel and mercury), Lake Berryessa (mercury), and lower Putah Creek (mercury and boron). James Creek has been identified as prime trout habitat. Lower Putah Creek is a wild trout stream that drains into the Yolo Bypass, a nationally recognized fish rearing, wildlife habitat, farming, and flood control area with some of the highest mercury concentrations in the Bay-Delta. Fish consumption advisories are posted for Lake Berryessa and for lower Putah Creek because of fish mercury contamination.

The Corona and Twin Peaks Mine Drainage Treatment Project began in 2012 with a grant from the State of California's Ecosystem Restoration Program. In 2013, the project was put on hold for two reasons:

- The landowner died and the property title passed into a trust before the public benefit component was finalized.
- Our monitoring indicated that the mine tunnel's drainage was more significant than anticipated and an in-situ treatment method should be attempted.

Since that time Tuleyome's project team worked largely *pro bono* to:

- Finalize the environmental compliance work with the Central Valley Water Board
- Obtain external peer review of the in-situ treatment methodology
- Revise the project scope and budget based on knowledge gained and to address peer review comments
- Finalize a land transfer options agreement between the current landowner and the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District to complete the public land donation component of the project.
- Coordinate with concerned neighboring land owners.

This project could serve as an example site cleanup to promote similar work planned through a Brownfields Assessment Project funded by US EPA. We are also pursuing matching funding through Napa County's Measure A (Napa Flood Protection and Watershed Improvement Expenditure Plan). This project is particularly important for demonstrating how non-profit organizations can work with private landowners and regional, state, and federal agencies to address our legacy of abandon mine sites. Furthermore, this project will document the use of semi-passive biogeochemical technologies to address mine drainage. It will significantly improve the quality of receiving waters, and reduce or eliminate their toxicity effects.