Reclaiming the Sierra Tonight Show
Sacramento, California | April 20, 2015
Presented by THE SIERRA FUND

Featuring:
- Greg Valerio, international fair trade gold advocate
- Marie Barry, Former Environmental Director of the Washoe Tribe
- Mark Nechodom, Director of California Department of Conservation
- Fran Spivy-Weber, State Water Resources Control Board

...and live music by the Sacramento State Jazz Quartet
Reclaiming the Sierra

Elizabeth “Izzy” Martin
CEO
The Sierra Fund
Miner and Mercury Flask
detail from brass seal on west side of Capitol
Mining left a lasting legacy from the Sierra to the Sea
Abandoned Mines in California

Map: California Department of Conservation, 2007
The mission of The Sierra Fund is to increase and organize investment in the natural resources and communities of the Sierra Nevada.

We do this through:

**Advocacy**
- Creation of Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- 2014 Water Bond

**Philanthropy**
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Special Projects: Tribute Trail/Bridge

**Strategic Campaigns**
- Addressing impacts of legacy mining: Reclaiming the Sierra
Our Top Priorities

1) Prevent Future Exposure
2) Remediate Legacy Mining Toxins
Our Strategy

Collaborative Science
- Prioritize Clean-up
- Identify Best Practices

Collaborative Policy
- Understand Benefits of Reclamation
- Incentivize Reclamation

North Bloomfield Tunnel, Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park
Summer 2012
Reclaiming the Sierra
An Initiative to Address Historic Mining Impacts

Nevada City Legacy Mine Land Acquisition Project
Malakoff Diggins Assessment and Cleanup Project
Combie Reservoir Mercury and Sediment Removal

www.sierrafund.org
Assessment of Land Prior to Public Acquisition:

Site of the former Champion Mine on Deer Creek, proposed for acquisition by Nevada City

Assessment Project Partners: Nevada City, CA Resources Agency
GET THE MERCURY OUT
Strategic Mercury Cleanup Targets

1. **UPLAND SOURCES** such as hydraulic and hard rock mines that are contaminated with mercury

2. **RESERVOIRS** where mercury-laden sediments accumulate

Conceptual drawing by Courtney Chatha, for The Sierra Fund - copyright 2013
Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park
Humbug Creek Watershed Assessment

A joint project of State Parks and The Sierra Fund
Discharge from Hiller Tunnel (from Malakoff Pit): The focus of collaborative project to assess and develop management plans to reduce sediment discharge
Reservoir Sedimentation:

Nevada Irrigation District pilot projects

Hydraulic Mining debris in the Bear River above Combie Reservoir
Explore potential for removal of mercury contaminated sediments while expanding water storage capacity

Combie Reservoir at low water, showing sedimentation - November 2013
Goals of Our Conference This Year

1) Prioritize remediation efforts

2) Identify best available techniques for remediation of mine-impacted lands

3) Incentivize mine reclamation

4) Identify multiple benefits of mine reclamation
Thank You!

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Guest:
Frances Spivy-Weber
State Water Resources Control Board Member
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