UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

FEB 8 2016

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Governor's Office
State Capitol
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter of January 29, 2016 regarding the State of Nevada's position on listing the Anaconda Copper Mine (Site) on the Superfund National Priorities List ("NPL"). Nevada and EPA are in agreement that the Site needs a comprehensive clean-up solution and the major construction must begin by summer 2019 in order to avoid failure of the Site's existing heap leach fluid containment systems.

I appreciate your goal of identifying private sources of capital to fund the $32 million -$40 million clean-up. However, if a comprehensive solution is not forthcoming from private entities, I am convinced NPL designation is the only viable option for continued federal support. In light of the urgency of this situation and our efforts to secure non-federal funds for more than fifteen years, I am asking for the State's formal response by March 29, 2016. Your concurrence would allow us to proceed with the first step of the process for formally proposing the site for listing, followed by additional public comment and dialogue, before a final listing decision in March 2017.

I would like to personally meet with the Mason Valley farmers and agricultural interests in the beginning of March, 2016 to hear from them directly about how EPA can reduce the impacts of NPL listing on their businesses. I will coordinate with NDEP on this visit.

I commend the excellent work of your Division of Environmental Protection on this Site and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jared Blumenfeld

cc: Ray Fierro, Chairman, Lyon County Board of County Commissioners
George Dini, Mayor, City of Yerington
Jeffrey Page, County Manager, Lyon County
Dan Newell, City Manager, City of Yerington

Printed on Recycled Paper

Leo Drozdoff, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
David Emme, Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection
Laurie Thom, Chairman, Yerington Paiute Tribe
Bobby D. Sanchez, Chairman, Walker River Paiute Tribe
John Ruhs, Nevada State Director, Bureau of Land Management