



**COLORADO**

**Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

August 13, 2021

Vernon P. Martinez  
P.O. Box 1464  
Leadville, CO 80461

**Re: Vernon P. Martinez, Reference No. M-2021-053, Division Response to “Is It Mining?”  
Questionnaire, Permit Required.**

Mr. Martinez:

Thank you for taking the time to discuss your proposed project with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division). The Division received your completed “Need for a Reclamation Permit” questionnaire on August 5, 2021. The Division has assigned file number M-2021-053 to the proposed project. Please display the file number on any correspondence regarding this specific project.

Based on the information you submitted the purpose of the project is to remove placer gold from a glacial bench in the Arkansas River. A pick, shovel and a high banker sluice box along with a centrifuge will be used to extract and process the material. The gold concentrate will be hauled off site and sold. The tailings will be stockpiled onsite and used for reclamation. The total projected disturbance would consist of approximately 1 acre.

The Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board) has requested the Division make preliminary determinations regarding the need for a mined land reclamation permit. Based on the information provided in your response, it is the Division’s opinion, based on previous Board determinations, the project is a mining operation. Pursuant to Colorado law, you are required to first obtain a mined land reclamation permit from the Board prior to initiating the mining operation.

If you have any concerns or disagree with this decision, you may petition the Board during a formal public hearing for a formal Declaratory Order concerning this matter. The request must be made in writing and received no later than 10 days prior to the next regular scheduled MLRB hearing. The next available MLRB hearing is September 22-23, 2021.

If you need additional information, please contact me at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Grand Junction Field Office, 101 S. 3rd St., Suite 301, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501, telephone no. 303.866.3567, ext. 8186, or by email at [travis.marshall@state.co.us](mailto:travis.marshall@state.co.us).

Sincerely,



Vernon P. Martinez  
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Grand Junction Field Office

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