



# Argonaut Mine Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Pacific Southwest Region • December 2021

## EPA to Start Soil Cleanup at a Portion of the Argonaut Mine

### Overview

The 90-acre Argonaut Mine Superfund site's tailings area is where mine tailings were historically disposed. Years of mining increased risk by contaminating the site's soil with arsenic, lead and mercury. EPA is cleaning up a large portion of the tailings area to minimize contact to high levels of metal contaminants.

### Upcoming Tailings Clean-up

EPA will clean up a large area of contamination next to Argonaut Lane between Pioneer Street and Westview Drive. Much of this area is east of Argonaut Lane and is marked by orange and white soil surrounded by a chain link fence. Some of the contamination is also found on the west side of Argonaut Lane.

- **January and February 2022:** Tree removal starts around Tailings Areas 3 and 4, a small part of the mining process area and next to the Tailings Area 1 near Hoffman Avenue (see map below). Tree removal is needed to access the area for cleanup.
- **April through Summer 2022:** The project will pause after tree removal and resume in April 2022 to remove contaminated soil and replace it with clean soil. Work will continue through the summer.
- **2023 and beyond:** Additional cleanup and work to build a drainage channel will continue.

### Work to Date

EPA has investigated and cleaned up the Argonaut Mine since 2013 in areas bordered by Argonaut Lane, Hoffman Avenue and Highway 49 (see map). This work has mostly involved soil and water sampling to understand where contamination is. EPA has also done a series of small cleanups at the mine's headframe, residential areas and the junior high school.

### Coming Up

## Public Presentation: Jan. 10, 2022 Jackson City Council Meeting

On January 10, 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will present and answer questions at the Jackson (Calif.) City Council meeting about an upcoming two-year cleanup project and tree removal at the Argonaut Mine Superfund site's tailings area.

To participate, please see the meeting agenda on the City of Jackson's website or contact EPA's project manager, John Hillenbrand (contact info below).

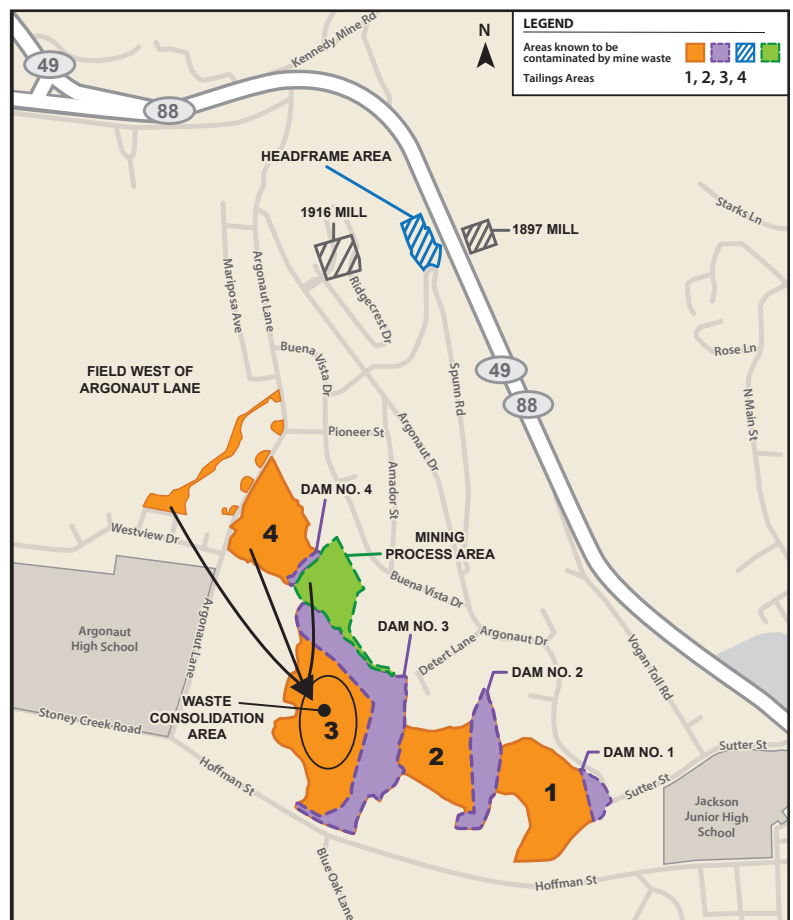


Figure 1: Argonaut Site Map

### For more information

For More Information Visit / Contact:

John Hillenbrand  
EPA Project Manager  
(415) 972-3494  
hillenbrand.john@epa.gov



Argonaut Mine EPA website:  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/argonautmine](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/argonautmine)