



**BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**In the Matter of:** )  
 )  
 ) **ACCESS ORDER**  
Sino Vantage Group, Inc. )  
Senator Mine )  
Yavapai County )  
Parcel No.: 205-14-246P )  
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The Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has determined that Sino Vantage Group, Inc. owns Yavapai County Parcel No. 205-14-246P (the “Property”). The Senator Mine historical adit (also known as the 570 adit) and waste rock/tailings pile is located on or near the Property. This Order requires Sino Vantage Group, Inc. to immediately provide the access described below to ADEQ and its employees, agents, contractors, and consultants.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 49-282.02 and 287, ADEQ has determined that site conditions at or near the Property have created imminent and substantial risk of harm to human population and to the Hassayampa River watershed downstream from the Site. ADEQ believes that the recent installation of a concrete plug in the Senator adit has likely rerouted the flow of the adit mine drainage from the adit towards the adjacent tailings pile. ADEQ is concerned that with further saturation, the tailings may become unstable and slough into the nearby Hassayampa River drainage, contaminating the water and damaging downstream wildlife.

ADEQ sent a written request to Sino Vantage Group, Inc. on June 17, 2024 and posted the same written request on the Property on June 18, 2024 requesting access to the Property to conduct the emergency remedial actions described below. Sino Vantage Group, Inc. did not respond to ADEQ’s request or otherwise consent to grant ADEQ access. Given the emergency circumstances, ADEQ has afforded Sino Vantage Group, Inc. a reasonably appropriate opportunity for consultation regarding ADEQ’s request, and now issues this Order requiring that Sino Vantage Group, Inc. grant ADEQ the access described below.

**I. AUTHORITY**

ADEQ, through the Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (“WQARF”), is authorized to take reasonable, necessary, and cost effective remedial actions in response to the release or threat of a release of a hazardous substance or pollutant that presents an imminent and substantial danger to the environment. *See* A.R.S §§ 49-282.02, -287. ADEQ is authorized pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 49-288 (A) to take any action to determine the need for, to select or to undertake any remedial action pursuant to this article.

A.R.S. § 49-288 (E) authorizes ADEQ to issue this order requiring compliance with the request within a specified time period that the director determines is appropriate under the circumstances.

## **II. REQUIRED ACCESS**

ADEQ has determined that the following remedial actions are necessary response to the threatened release of hazardous substances or pollutants described above:

- 1) ADEQ and its consultants will reroute seepage water into the existing sediment ponds to eliminate ponding along the edge of the tailings pile. To do so, ADEQ will either construct a lined, shallow (approximately two foot deep) V-ditch or install and bury a 4”-6” pipe or similar conveyance along the eastern and western side of the adit dirt pile.
- 2) ADEQ and its consultants will protect the Hassayampa River from the tailings pile sloughing by constructing an approximately 800-foot pipeline to reroute the Hassayampa River. ADEQ and its consultants will construct a headwall and beginning of the pipeline approximately 100 feet upgradient of the existing culvert undercrossing. Shrubbery and trees may need to be removed, along with existing berms. The remaining 700 feet of the pipeline will be installed in the vicinity of the existing historical road. Some grading and excavation will be required on the historical road as well, with the potential for removal of shrubbery. The pipeline will then reconnect with the existing river channel downstream. ADEQ or its consultants will obtain any necessary permits.
- 3) ADEQ or its consultants may erect and maintain a temporary fence to limit access to the site while the Remedial Actions are being conducted. ADEQ will provide Sino Vantage Group, Inc. with a copy of the key or combination to the lock upon request. ADEQ or its consultants will remove the temporary fence when the Remedial Actions are completed.

## **III. COMPLIANCE REQUIRED**

**IT IS ORDERED** that Sino Vantage Group, Inc. grant access to ADEQ, and its employees, agents, contractors, and consultants, to the Property to conduct the remedial actions described above. As part of access, ADEQ will remove any lock needed to access the Property and will

replace the lock to ensure the Property is secure. Sino Vantage Group, Inc. shall contact ADEQ if it wishes a copy of the key or combination lock to access the Property.

Nothing in this Order prohibits Sino Vantage Group, Inc. from accessing the property or observing the remedial actions, provided that Sino Vantage Group, Inc. does not interfere with the remedial actions.

Nothing in this Order should be interpreted to conflict with any judgment or order issued in Maricopa County Superior Court case CV2019-005385.

#### **IV. NO RIGHT TO APPEAL THIS ACCESS ORDER**

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 49-298, this Access Order is not an appealable agency action as defined in A.R.S. § 41-1092.

#### **V. ENFORCEMENT OF ORDER**

To ensure prompt access to conduct the remedial actions necessary to address the imminent and substantial danger to the environment, this Order is immediately effective and enforceable.

#### **VI. VIOLATION OF ORDER**

If Sino Vantage Group, Inc. fails to comply with this Order, Sino Vantage Group, Inc. can be liable for other administrative or judicial sanctions, including civil penalties under A.R.S. § 49-288 (G) of up to five thousand (\$5,000.00) for each day of non-compliance. The attorney general, at the request of the director, may commence an action in superior court to recover civil penalties provided for in this subsection.

#### **VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Any correspondence from Sino Vantage Group, Inc. to ADEQ as part of this Compliance Order shall be directed to:

Remedial Projects Section Manager  
Tina LePage  
(520) 770-3127

and, if in writing, to:

Attention: Tina LePage, Remedial Projects Section Manager  
ADEQ – REMEDIAL PROJECTS SECTION  
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 127  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-9973

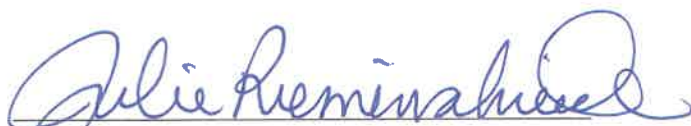
**VIII. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

By issuing this Order, ADEQ reserves the right to seek appropriate penalties or injunctive relief in superior court for violations of the Arizona Revised Statutes, any rule, permit, or order promulgated or issued, or any other applicable environmental statute or legal authority.

**IX. TERMINATION**

This Order shall terminate in one hundred and eighty (180) days, unless ADEQ notifies Sino Vantage Group, Inc. in writing that access is no longer necessary because the remedial actions described above are completed or should be discontinued.

Signed this 25 day of June, 2024



Julie Riemenschneider, Director  
Waste Programs Division  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, the ORIGINAL was filed in the facility file located at:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
1110 W Washington St  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2935

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, a true and correct copy was mailed via USPS by Certified Mail to:

*Sino Vantage Group, Inc., c/o:  
Songqiang Chen, or  
Gang Chen, or  
Honglin Zhang*

204 West Spear Street #3597, Carson City, NV, 89703  
1660 S. Amphlett Blvd, Ste 104, San Mateo, CA 94402  
1846 E. Innovation Park Dr., Oro Valley, AZ 85755-1963  
1065 E. Hillside Blvd Ste 318, Foster City, CA 9404  
255 E. Aspen Rd., Paulden, AZ 86334-3905  
710 5<sup>th</sup> St., Prescott, AZ 86301-2008

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, a true and accurate copy of this Order will be posted on or at the point of access to Yavapai County Parcel No. 205-14-246P.

*Alicia Chacon  
Alicia Chacon*

*Executive Staff Admin / Waste Programs Division ADEQ*  
[NAME], [TITLE]

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