

When recorded, mail to:
Homestake Mining Company
650 California Street, 9th fl.
San Francisco, CA 94108
Attn: Land Administrator

**SHORT FORM OF EXPLORATION AGREEMENT
WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE**

Short Form of Exploration Agreement with Option to Purchase dated as of July 2, 1997 ("Effective Date") between TED DASKAS, an unmarried man, whose address is P.O. Box 98, Pioche, Nevada 89043 ("Owner") and HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA, a California corporation having its principal place of business at 650 California Street, 11th Floor, San Francisco, California 94108-2788 ("Homestake").

1. Grant, Use and Term. (a) Owner granted to Homestake the sole and exclusive possession, occupancy and the quiet enjoyment of those certain unpatented mining claims as more particularly described on Exhibit A hereto ("Mining Property"), and the exclusive rights to carry out such geological, geochemical, and geophysical tests and investigations as are useful or necessary to determine whether mineralization and ore reserves exist on the Mining Property along with the right to enter, occupy and use the Mining Property for the purposes set forth above.

(b) This agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and continue for an initial term of five years.

2. Option to Purchase. Homestake shall have the exclusive and irrevocable Option to purchase the Mining Property at any time while this Agreement is in effect.

3. Exclusive Possession. Homestake shall have exclusive possession and quiet enjoyment of the Mining Property while this Agreement is in effect.

4. Additional Terms. Additional Terms and conditions are contained in the full agreement between the parties. This Short Form shall not modify said agreement.

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY
OF CALIFORNIA

OWNER

By: Dennis B. Galsbryn
Print Name: DENNIS B GALSBRYN
Its: ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Ted Daskas
Ted Daskas

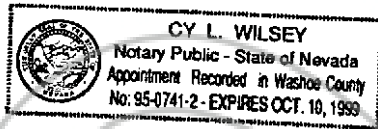
Approved by
Legal Dept.

JDG
date: 7/9/97

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LINCOLN)

On July 2, 1997, before me, C. L. Wilsey, a duly
commissioned Notary Public for said State, personally appeared, Ted Daskas, personally
known to me to be the person who executed the within instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed my name and affixed my official seal.



[SEAL]

C. L. Wilsey
Notary Public in and for said State
Residing at: Reno, NV

My Commission Expires: 10-10-99

STATE OF _____)
) ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

On _____, 19____, before me, _____, a duly
commissioned Notary Public for said State, personally appeared, _____
_____, personally known to me to be the _____
_____ of Homestake Mining Company of California, a California corporation,
and personally known to me to be the person who executed the within instrument and on
said oath stated that he was authorized to do so on behalf of said corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed my name and affixed my official seal.

[SEAL]

Notary Public in and for said State
Residing at: _____

My Commission Expires: _____

CALIFORNIA ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

No. 9007

State of California
County of San Francisco
On July 11, 1997 before me, Valerie D. Flynn-Wallace Notary Public
personally appeared Dennis B. Goldstein

personally known to me -OR- proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.



WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Valerie D. Flynn-Wallace
SIGNATURE OF NOTARY

OPTIONAL

Though the data below is not required by law, it may prove valuable to persons relying on the document and could prevent fraudulent reattachment of this form.

CAPACITY CLAIMED BY SIGNER

- INDIVIDUAL
- CORPORATE OFFICER
Assistant Secretary
- PARTNER(S)
- LIMITED
- GENERAL
- ATTORNEY-IN-FACT
- TRUSTEE(S)
- GUARDIAN/CONSERVATOR
- OTHER:

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Short Form of Exploration Agreement With Option to Purchase
TITLE OR TYPE OF DOCUMENT

4 (including this page)
NUMBER OF PAGES

July 2, 1997
DATE OF DOCUMENT

Ted Daskas
SIGNER(S) OTHER THAN NAMED ABOVE

SIGNER IS REPRESENTING:
NAME OF PERSON(S) OR ENTITY(ES)
Honestake Mining Company
of California

EXHIBIT A

The Mining Property consists of those certain unpatented mining claims located generally in Sections 16, 21 and 22, Township 1 North, Range 67 East, Lincoln County, Nevada, and more particularly described as:

Claim Name	Location Date	Book/Page	BLM NMC #
Foothill	8/29/1903	P/45	28189
Belmont	9/15/1915	H-1/27	28190
Louise	11/1/1907	Y/153	28191
Rain Mine	4/18/1919	F-1/295	28192
Jinglebell	8/29/1903	P/45-46	28193
Cloudy Mine	4/10/1919	F-1/311-312	28194
Snow Mine	4/18/1919	F-1294/295	28195
Menominee	3/30/1894	F/8	28196

NO. **109455**
 Filed And Recorded At Request Of
 HOMESTAKE
 JULY 28, 1997
 At 01 Minutes Past 1 O'Clock
PM In Book 129 Of Official Records
 Page 340 Lincoln County Nevada.

YURIKO SETZER
 County Recorder
 BY Leslie Boucher, DEPUTY