



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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### NOTICE

**January 31, 2006**

**TO: ALL LEAD AGENCIES, CONTRACTORS TO LEAD AGENCIES, MINE OPERATORS, AND INTERESTED PARTIES**

**SUBJECT: REVISED SURFACE MINING INSPECTION REPORT FORM (MRRC-1)**

This notice is to inform you that a revised version of the Surface Mining Inspection Report form (Inspection Report) is now available for immediate use by lead agency personnel and lead agency contractors conducting inspections of surface mining operations subject to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2774(b) states: "The lead agency shall conduct an inspection of a surface mining operation within six months of receipt by the lead agency of the surface mining operation's report submitted pursuant to Section 2207, solely to determine whether the surface mining operation is in compliance with this chapter. In no event shall a lead agency inspect a surface mining operation less than once in any calendar year." PRC Section 2773.1(a) further provides that the amount of financial assurances required of a surface mining operation for any one year shall be adjusted annually to account for new lands disturbed by surface mining operations, inflation, and reclamation of lands accomplished in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

Based upon recommendations submitted by the Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) and comments provided by interested parties at the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) meeting held in September 2005, the SMGB approved changes to the Inspection Report. For your reference, we have attached a copy of the revised Inspection Report with this notice and have highlighted, in grayscale, the revised portions. Please note that the most significant change to the Inspection Report is the incorporation of an additional page (see Page 2) for capturing financial assurance information. This page requires lead agencies to provide detailed information about financial assurance cost estimates and mechanisms for each mining operation. Including this information on the Inspection Report will help ensure that financial assurance amounts are adjusted annually as required by PRC Section 2773.1(a). Other changes on the Inspection Report include:

- Fields for the inspection date and mine ID number are now included at the top of all three pages of the Inspection Report.
- Fields are provided to supply optional email addresses (Page 1).
- Separate fields are provided for including the California Mining Claim Number and the U.S. Forest Service Identification Number, if applicable (Page 1).

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- A field is provided for inclusion of a previously omitted reclamation standard: Closure of Surface Openings (Page 3).

To assist you in completing the revised form, OMR has also updated the corresponding instructions located on the back of each page of the Inspection Report.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Effective immediately, all lead agencies and lead agency contractors must use the revised Inspection Report for all inspections performed in accordance with PRC Section 2774(b). OMR will not accept, and will return to the submitting lead agency, all obsolete versions of the Inspection Report prepared for inspections conducted after the date of this notice.

For your ease of access and use, the revised Inspection Report is now available electronically in a “print and fill” version (i.e., Adobe Acrobat PDF file format) on the Department of Conservation’s (Department) website at:

[http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/reporting\\_compliance/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/reporting_compliance/index.htm)

If you are unable to access the form via the Department’s website at the location listed above, please contact OMR at (916) 323-9198.

Because the Inspection Report is now available via the Department’s website, OMR will no longer be producing the multi-page/multi-colored version of the Inspection Report used in the past. Please note that lead agency distribution of original completed Inspection Reports, and all applicable copies, must be provided in accordance with the distribution outlined in the footer of the revised Inspection Report.

OMR believes that the revised Inspection Report will streamline the financial assurance review process for lead agencies and for OMR, assist lead agencies in their administration of SMARA, improve accuracy related to financial assurance cost estimates and mechanisms, and provide a standard format for timely reporting of critical financial assurance information.

Please share this notice with other interested parties that you feel may be impacted or need to be aware of this change. If you have any questions regarding the revised Inspection Report, please feel free to call this office at (916) 323-9198.

Enclosures