



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

2015 - 2016 STRATEGIC PLAN

**Department of Conservation
Resources Agency**

March 2015

STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

The latest revision of the State Mining and Geology Board's Strategic Plan reflects the combined interests and energies of the entire Board. The Board contains a group of dedicated volunteer members representing a diverse cross-section of geologic, local government, engineering and land-use expertise, appointed by the Governor to advise the Department of Conservation and advocate sound earth science and regulatory policy in regular public meetings.

This Strategic Plan is consistent with the Governor's policies and with State mandates. It is intended to provide overall policy direction for the Board and its Staff for Years 2015 and 2016 through a set of specific Goals, Strategies and Objectives. The Board looks forward to cooperative participation to meet these Goals, Strategies and Objectives by all stakeholders including members of the public, industry, academic institutions and professional organizations, environmental organizations, elected officials, Lead Agencies, as well as the Department of Conservation and its Divisions.

Sincerely,



Gideon Kracov
Chair, State Mining and Geology Board
March 2015

STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN

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STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Presented herein is the latest revision to the State Mining and Geology Board's (Board's) Strategic Plan. Development of this Strategic Plan (Plan) is the charge of the Board. The Board conducts public meetings specifically for the purpose of receiving comments and ideas for incorporation into the Strategic Plan. The Board continues to periodically review and revise the Strategic Plan to reflect task accomplishments, and to incorporate new challenges to be addressed. The Strategic Plan was last adopted in July 2013.

The Strategic Plan presents a Mission Statement, supported by four Goals. Each of the Goals is sustained by a list of Strategies and Objectives for achieving those Goals. Then, a list of priority Objectives with a timeline is presented for Years 2015 and 2016.

The Board intends this Plan to be a working document, by which the Board's decisions will be guided. In the process of preparing and implementing the Board's Strategic Plan, public input was available to all stakeholders. It is in the spirit of this cooperative effort that this Strategic Plan is presented.

2. PROGRAM OVERVIEWS

STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

The State Mining and Geology Board was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees. Its purpose was to oversee the activities of the State Mineralogist and the California Division of Mines and Geology (now the California Geological Survey (CGS)). Today's Board has nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, for four-year terms. The Board operates within the Department of Conservation, and is granted certain responsibilities and obligations under several statutes. The Board's general authority is granted under Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 660-678. The Board serves as a regulatory, policy and hearing body representing the State's interests in geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, conservation of mineral resources and reclamation of mining lands.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the State Mining and Geology Board is to represent the State's interest in the development, utilization and conservation of mineral resources; reclamation of mined lands; development and dissemination of geologic and seismic hazard information; and to provide a forum for public participation.

2.1 SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1975

The overall management of mineral resources in a thoughtful and responsible manner is essential to the continued economic well-being of the State and to the needs of society, and the thoughtful reclamation of mined lands is necessary to prevent or minimize adverse effects on the environment and public health and safety. Similarly, known mineral resources that are not currently being mined require protection from irreversible land uses that will preclude their future use.

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) Public Resources Code Sections 2710 et seq. and its regulations at 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 3500 et seq., provide a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the State's mineral resources. Under these statutes, the Board represents the State's interests in the development, use and conservation of the State's mineral resources, and the reclamation of mined lands as authorized by law.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Encourage the production and conservation of the State's mineral resources through the mineral designation process.
2. Establish mining and reclamation regulations and policies for Lead Agencies, mine operators, the California Geological Survey and the Office of Mine Reclamation.
3. Serve as Lead Agency for certain jurisdictions where the Board has assumed Lead Agency responsibility.
4. Consider appeals, determinations or petitions made to the Board in compliance with SMARA.

2.2 ALQUIST-PRIOLO EARTHQUAKE FAULT ZONING ACT

Under this Act, the Board is authorized to represent the State's interests in establishing guidelines and standards for geological and geophysical investigations and reports produced by the California Geological Survey, public sector agencies, and private practitioners. The Board also is authorized to develop specific criteria through regulations to be used by Lead Agencies in complying with the provisions of the Act so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

This Act, Public Resources Code Section 2621 through Section 2630, and its regulations at 14 California Code Regulations Section 3600 et seq. provide policies and criteria to assist cities, counties and State agencies in the exercise of responsibilities to prohibit the location of structures for human occupancy across the trace of active faults. Further, it is the intent of the Act to minimize the loss of life during and immediately following earthquakes by facilitating seismic retrofitting to strengthen buildings, and all public works facilities, including historical buildings, against ground shaking.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide policies and criteria governing the exercise of city, county and State agency responsibilities to prohibit the location of developments and structures for human occupancy across the trace of active faults.
2. Provide specific guidelines for evaluating the hazards of surface fault rupture.
3. Provide for the public review and consideration of new and revised Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps produced by the State Geologist pursuant to the Act.

2.3 SEISMIC HAZARDS MAPPING ACT

Under this Act, the Board is authorized to provide policy and guidance through regulations for a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program to assist cities, counties, and State agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction or other ground failure, landslides and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes, including tsunami and seiche threats.

The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, Public Resources Code Section 2690 through Section 2699.6 and its regulations at 10 California Code of Regulations Section 3720 et seq. provide programs to identify and map seismic hazard zones in the State in order for cities and counties to adequately prepare the safety element of their general plans and to encourage land use management policies and regulations to reduce and mitigate those hazards to protect public health and safety.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide policies and criteria governing the exercise of city, county and State agency responsibilities for protecting the public's health and safety from seismic hazards through informed land use decisions.
2. Provide guidelines for the prioritized preparation of maps of seismic hazard zones in the State.
3. Provide guidelines and standards through regulation for evaluating seismic hazards and recommending mitigation measures.
4. Provide for the public review and consideration of new and revised seismic Hazard Maps produced by the State Geologist pursuant to the Act.

3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals represent what the Board aims to accomplish. They provide the basis for decisions about the nature, scope, and priority activities that the Board undertakes. Incorporating its statutory mandates, and external and internal stakeholder comments, the Board has developed the following four Goals.

GOAL I ACT TO CONSERVE THE STATE’S MINERAL RESOURCES AND RECLAMATION OF MINED LANDS

GOAL II PERFORM LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SMARA WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION

GOAL III ADVANCE GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARD INFORMATION MAPPING AND POLICIES

GOAL IV STRENGTHEN BOARD MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS

On the following pages each Goal is listed separately, along with the general Strategies and specific Objectives that will assist the Board to achieve the respective Goals. *Objectives* are observable and tangible targets measured in terms of time, quality, or quantity. Finally, a list of priority Objectives with a timeline is presented for Years 2015 and 2016.

GOAL I. ACT TO CONSERVE THE STATE'S MINERAL RESOURCES, AND RECLAMATION OF MINED LANDS

The State Mining and Geology Board seeks to ensure the prudent and sensible development, use and conservation of the State's mineral resources. Acting pursuant to SMARA, the State Mining and Geology Board seeks to encourage the preservation, development and use of those resources throughout California, as well as the subsequent beneficial use of mined and reclaimed lands and the elimination of hazards to public health.

STRATEGIES

- 1.1 Identify and continuously improve the knowledge of the location and amount of the State's mineral resources.
- 1.2 Encourage the wise and sustainable use of mineral resources under SMARA in anticipation of the State's future needs.
- 1.3 Consider ways to assess and improve Lead Agency performance, and provide technical assistance.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.A Identify new geographic areas that meet the criteria for designation as having regionally significant mineral resources, and designate such lands pursuant to SMARA Section 2790 et seq. Update currently designated areas to account for land use changes.
- 1.B Complete review and consideration of all pending 45-Day Notice of Lead Agencies pursuant to SMARA Section 2774.4.
- 1.C Determine the number of MRMP (Mineral Resource and Management Policies) Lead Agencies and obtain copies of their current MRMPs and Mining Ordinances to be updated on the Board's website.
- 1.D Review and determine ways to improve the Board's communication with local planning agencies and the Office of Planning and Research on the role and importance of the designation process, MRMPs and the protection of mineral resources, including but not limited to greenhouse gas emissions and AB32 impacts.
- 1.E Review the MRMP and Mining Ordinance from each Lead Agency pursuant to SMARA Sections 2762, 2774.3 and 2774.5. Provide comments to the Lead Agency, and compile into a permanent reference set.

- 1.F Work with the Department of Justice to clarify and comply with the Board’s California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) responsibilities for mineral land designations.
- 1.G In collaboration with the Department of Conservation and all stakeholders, review fee schedules for mine operations including the Surface Mining Reclamation Fund and annual administration mine fees.
- 1.H Update the “Model SMARA Ordinance” and develop a “Model Guideline Mineral Resource Management Policy” for local governments to reflect minimum regional requirements.
- 1.I Work with the Department of Conservation and all stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of SMARA. This is an objective requiring identification and prioritization of issues, which may include but is not limited to improving the Department of Conservation’s SMARA database and assessing the role of SMARA on federal and tribal lands.
- 1.J Work collaboratively with Department of Conservation and California EPA Cal Recycle to assess how Construction and Debris recycling programs can be beneficial to the mineral land classification and designation process.
- 1.K Consider appeals, determinations and petitions made to the Board in compliance with SMARA.

GOAL II. PERFORM LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SMARA WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION

The State Mining and Geology Board, since March 2002, has assumed Lead Agency authority under SMARA for two counties, ten cities and ten marine-sand dredging operations. With a current total of 47 surface mine sites statewide, the State Mining and Geology Board serves as one of the larger SMARA Lead Agencies in the state. At each of these surface mining operations, the State Mining and Geology Board conducts annual inspections, reviews and approves financial assurance cost estimates, and undertakes compliance and enforcement actions when deemed necessary.

STRATEGIES

- 2.1 Acting as Lead Agency, achieve full compliance with SMARA.
- 2.2 Ensure financial stability of Lead Agency activities.
- 2.3 Ensure best practices when acting in the Lead Agency role.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.A Inspect all mines within the Board's Lead Agency jurisdiction at least once each calendar year.
- 2.B Review financial assurances for all mines within the Board's Lead Agency jurisdiction once a year.
- 2.C Evaluate the Board's performance as Lead Agency. The Board shall establish a process to conduct the evaluation.
- 2.D Review whether fees paid to the Board, when acting as the Lead Agency, are appropriate and sufficient to cover administrative costs.
- 2.E Perform all other applicable Lead Agency SMARA responsibilities.
- 2.F Review conditions under which Lead Agency authority is returned to local jurisdictions pursuant to SMARA Section 2774.4(b), and identify whether such Lead Agency authority can be appropriately returned to any local jurisdictions.

GOAL III. ADVANCE GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC HAZARD INFORMATION MAPPING AND POLICIES

California is the most geologically diverse and seismically active state in the United States. The State Mining and Geology Board seeks to reduce the impacts of geologic and seismic hazards by promoting the implementation of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act through the regulatory process and by encouraging public awareness of these and other geologic hazards.

STRATEGIES

- 3.1 Evaluate and promote the application of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.
- 3.2 Evaluate and promote the application of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act.
- 3.3 Assist the State Geologist in programs relating to seismic hazards mapping, Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zoning, and landslide mapping.
- 3.4 Promote stable funding sources for programs relating to seismic hazards mapping, Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zoning, and landslide mapping.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.A Timely review and consideration of all preliminary Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act maps pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 2622.
- 3.B Timely review and consideration of all preliminary Seismic Hazards Mapping Program maps pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 2695.
- 3.C Work with the Department of Conservation and all stakeholders, on ways to improve the effectiveness of the Acts. This is an objective requiring identification and prioritization of issues, which can occur through efforts including, but not limited to, the Board's Alquist-Priolo Technical Advisory Committee Report.

GOAL IV. STRENGTHEN BOARD MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The State Mining and Geology Board should have effective, well-informed and active membership, regular public meetings, be well-managed, and have strong and accessible communications with all stakeholders.

STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Ensure consistent and equitable application of the laws under the Board's jurisdiction.
- 4.2 Ensure the Board has sound budgeting and other administrative processes.
- 4.3 Promote increased communications with the Department of Conservation.
- 4.4 Work cooperatively with local agencies, businesses and the public on matters within the Board's jurisdiction, including outreach programs for Lead Agencies, focusing on their obligations under SMARA.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.A Review and approve the Board's annual budget, as well as evaluate programs for the Board's budget and staffing needs, including assessment of the increasing litigation burden on the Board's budget and fees to cover appropriate administrative costs.
- 4.B Perform Board orientation and training for all Board members on procedural and substantive responsibilities, as well as the Board budget.
- 4.C Evaluate the Board website to promote public access to policy and pending actions, and increase the usefulness of the Board website for Lead Agencies and the public.
- 4.D Timely review and discussion of Board agendas, agenda packets, proposed regulations and other significant Board actions before they are finalized with the Department of Conservation, including the Office of Mine Reclamation, and the Department of Justice, and ensure the Executive Officer and the Department of Conservation, including Office of Mine Reclamation, engage in communications about programs and priorities at least twice per month.
- 4.E Evaluate the Board's Executive Officer performance once per year, including compensation. The Board shall develop a performance review process.

- 4.F Evaluate the Board's compliance with this Strategic Plan once per year with quarterly reports to the Board by the Executive Officer, and with preparation of a revised strategic plan for 2017-2018.
- 4.G Ensure all Board activities are consistent with governing laws and regulations, and determine whether any by-law revisions are necessary.
- 4.H Develop and publish topical educational and technical support materials for public distribution in cooperation with the Department of Conservation, especially on mine reclamation best practices for Lead Agencies.
- 4.I Issue Report to Legislature by December 1 of each year pursuant to SMARA PRC Section 2717.
- 4.J Assemble, for reference purposes, a compendium of relevant prior Board resolutions, Department of Justice guidance, Board quasi-judicial decisions and court decisions.

4. PRIORITY OBJECTIVES/TIMELINE FOR YEARS 2015-2016

During the remainder of 2015, and 2016, the following Objectives are deemed Board Priorities and anticipated to be completed, starting in the Second Quarter of 2015:

- 1.A Complete regionally significant mineral resource designation reports for: San Bernardino P-C Region, Palm Springs P-C Region, San Luis Obispo P-C Region, Stockton Lodi P-C Region, North San Francisco Bay P-C Region, Temescal Valley South San Francisco Bay P-C Region (and Western San Diego County P-C Region and San Fernando Valley-Saugus-Newhall-Palmdale P-C Region depending on Geological Survey classifications). *(Start Q2 2015 and complete Q4 2016).*
- 3.A Timely review and consideration of preliminary Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act maps, depending on Geological Survey draft map release, for: San Andreas Fault FER (Indio and Thermal Canyon quads), Whittier FER (Whittier Quad), San Andreas Fault FER (Mescal Canyon and Mt. San Antonio quads) West Tahoe Fault FER (Emerald Bay and Echo Lake quads), West Napa FER (Napa quad), Hollywood-Santa Monica-Newport Inglewood FER (Beverly Hills and Topanga quads), Hollywood-Raymond Faults FER (Los Angeles Quad) and Helendale FER (six quads). *(Start Q2 2015 and complete Q4 2016).*
- 3.B Timely review and consideration of all preliminary Seismic Hazards Mapping Act maps, depending on Geological Survey preliminary map release, for quadrangles in Riverside County. *(Start Q4 2015 and complete Q2 2016).*
- 1.B Complete review and consideration of pending 45-Day Notice to Riverside County. *(Q2 2015).*
- 4.A Review and approve the Board's annual budget, as well as evaluate programs for the Board's budget and staffing needs, including assessment of the increasing litigation burden on the Board's budget, and fees to cover appropriate administrative costs. *(Q2 2015).*
- 3.C Complete the Board's Alquist-Priolo Technical Advisory Committee review and provide written Report to the Board. *(Q3 2015).*
- 2.D Review whether fees paid to the Board, when acting as the Lead Agency, are appropriate and sufficient to cover administrative costs. *(Q2 2015).*
- 1.C Determine the number of MRMP (Mineral Resource and Management Plan) Lead Agencies and obtain copies of their current MRMPs and Mining Ordinances to be updated on the Board's website. *(Start Q2 2015 and complete Q3 2015).*
- 1.D Review and determine ways to improve the Board's communication with local planning agencies and the Office of Planning and Research on the role and importance of the designation process, MRMPs and the protection of mineral resources, including but not limited to greenhouse gas emissions and AB32 impacts. *(Start Q2 2015 and complete Q2 2016).*

- 1.E Review the MRMP and Mining Ordinance from each Lead Agency pursuant to SMARA Sections 2762, 2774.3 and 2774.5. Provide comments to the Lead Agency, and compile into a permanent reference set. *(Start Q2 2015 and complete Q4 2016).*
- 1.F Work with the Department of Justice to clarify and comply with the Board's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) responsibilities for mineral land designations. *(Q2 2015).*
- 1.G In collaboration with Department of Conservation and all stakeholders, review fee schedules for mine operations including the Surface Mining Reclamation Fund and annual administration fee. *(Q3 2015).*
- 1.H Update the "Model SMARA Ordinance" and develop a "Model Guideline Mineral Resource Management Policy" for local governments to reflect minimum regional requirements. *(Start Q2 2015 and complete Q4 2015).*
- 4.B Perform Board orientation and training for all Board members on procedural and substantive responsibilities, as well as the Board's budget. *(Q2 2015).*
- 4.C Evaluate website to promote public access to policy and pending actions, and increase the usefulness of the Board website for Lead Agencies and the public. *(Start Q2 2015 and complete Q1 2016).*
- 4.D Timely review and discussion of Board agendas, agenda packets, proposed regulations and other significant Board actions before they are finalized with the Department of Conservation, including the Office of Mine Reclamation, and the Department of Justice, and ensure the Executive Officer and the Department of Conservation, including Office of Mine Reclamation, engage in communications about programs and priorities at least twice per month. *(Q2 2015).*
- 2.A Inspect all mines within the Board's Lead Agency jurisdiction once a year. *(Start Q2 2015 and complete by Q4 2015).*
- 2.B Review financial assurances for all mines within the Board's Lead Agency jurisdiction once a year. *(Start Q2 2015 and complete Q4 2015).*
- 2.C Evaluate the Board's performance as Lead Agency. The Board shall establish a process to conduct the evaluation, using the existing Lead Agency Review Team process as a potential model. *(Start Q3 2015 and complete Q2 2016).*
- 4.E Evaluate the Board's Executive Director performance once per year, including compensation. The Board shall develop a performance review process. *(Q4 2015).*
- 4.F Evaluate the Board's compliance with this Strategic Plan once per year with quarterly reports to the Board by the Executive Officer, and with preparation of a revised strategic plan for 2017-2018. *(Q2 2016).*
- 4.I Issue Report to Legislature by December 1 of each year pursuant to SMARA Section 2717. *(Q4 2015).*

- 4.J Assemble, for reference purposes, a compendium of relevant, prior Board resolutions, Department of Justice guidance, Board quasi-judicial decisions and court decisions. *(Q3 2015).*

- 1.J Work collaboratively with Department of Conservation and California EPA Cal Recycle to assess how Construction and Debris recycling programs can be beneficial to the mineral land classification and designation process. *(Begin Q2 2015 and complete Q2 2016.)*

ATTACHMENT A

STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD ORGANIZATION CHART

**ATTACHMENT A
STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD
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