



# STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

A CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM THE  
PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS  
PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
AND THE  
SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION ACT  
FOR VARIOUS SURFACE MINE SITES

ON BEHALF OF THE  
STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

July 5, 2011

### **GENERAL BACKGROUND:**

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA, Public Resources Code [PRC] §2710 et seq.) prohibits conduct of surface mining operations by any person without first their obtaining approval by the lead agency of a reclamation plan and a financial assurance in an amount sufficient to reclaim the site according to the approved reclamation plan. Lead agencies are defined in SMARA as cities, counties, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB).

A reclamation plan may be reviewed and approved by the SMGB when: (1) a local lead agency has no surface mining ordinance certified by the SMGB; (2) an operator appeals an action on the part of its local lead agency to deny the reclamation plan application or fails to act to process the application; or, (3) the SMGB is serving as the SMARA lead agency under PRC §2774.4 or other specific agreement.

A reclamation plan approved by the SMGB remains in effect for the duration of the surface mining operation and any additional period until reclamation is completed in accordance with the plan.

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*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 of Geologic and Seismic Hazard Information; and to Provide a Forum for Public Redress*

Reclamation of a surface mine site is considered a discretionary project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Preparation of a reclamation plan under SMARA requires that environmental impact assessments be performed pursuant to CEQA.

### **SPECIFIC BACKGROUND:**

The SMGB has full SMARA lead agency authority for three counties and seven cities that include approximately 39 surface mines and all marine dredging operations in the San Francisco Bay and Delta areas. These numbers may fluctuate depending on circumstances. Currently, three mines within these jurisdictions have submitted new or amended reclamation plans to the SMGB for evaluation. The sites are located in Yuba County, the City of Richmond and the City of Desert Hot Springs. Environmental reviews under CEQA will be required for each of these sites prior to final reclamation plan approval. Additional mine sites may also require environmental reviews to address new or substantially modified reclamation plans during the contract term.

### **SCOPE OF WORK:**

#### **Preparation of Initial Study and Appropriate CEQA Review Documents**

This ongoing program will require development for each mine site (project) of an Initial Study, followed by preparation of appropriate CEQA review documents (Negative Declaration; Mitigated Negative Declaration; Environmental Impact Report; Mitigation Monitoring Program) that addresses the environmental impacts of reclaiming a specific mine site. The successful applicant will manage the initial development, physical preparation, public dissemination, and completion of final products, subject to direct oversight from the SMGB (usually through its Executive Officer or designated staff). This process will include: (1) site visits to the project site; (2) review and evaluation of the project's proposed or amended reclamation plan, and related information; (3) preparation of recommendations to the SMGB's Executive Officer regarding mitigation solutions and environmental issues; (4) answering questions and preparing responses to comments in regards to environmental reports; and other tasks as may be necessary to ensure a successful outcome.

In preparation of an Initial Study, the review of any existing surface mine documentation may need to be performed in Sacramento at the SMGB office.

#### **Attendance at Meetings**

Included in the scope of work to be performed will be requirements to attend regularly scheduled SMGB meetings (held in different locations throughout the State), as well as local community meetings in or near the jurisdiction of the specific mine site, to address environmental study issues. Participation in working sessions with SMGB staff and technical staff from the Office of Mine Reclamation (generally in Sacramento), and attendance at any other meetings deemed appropriate to facilitate successful and timely completion of the project may be required. Close consultation with SMGB staff is an essential element of the program.

### **Other Contractor Responsibilities**

1. Monthly Status Reports for each calendar month (due by the 10<sup>th</sup> calendar day of the following month) with a summary of work accomplished by project (project being defined as the mine site under consideration).
2. Detailed monthly invoices for labor and other billable costs segregated by project.

### **SOLICITATIONS INSTRUCTIONS:**

Applicants must provide professional qualification details for key staff members, including education and experience in mine reclamation planning, listing of professional licenses and certifications, knowledge of surface mining operations, familiarity with the requirements of SMARA and the SMGB's Reclamation Standards as contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR §3500 et seq. and §3700 et seq.). Demonstration of specific experience with the preparation of environmental documents as required by CEQA is also required.

Any potential conflicts of interest must be identified. A potential conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to, any work performed as an employee or consultant in any capacity of any potential project mines within the previous 12 months.

Applicants shall include generalized itemized costs (cost sheet or fee schedule showing labor costs, benefits, overhead, travel expenses, etc.) for reviewing information in Sacramento, field work, evaluating and analyzing data collected, attending meetings, and preparing and circulating necessary documents.

### **PROPOSAL EVALUATION, APPLICATION DEADLINE, AND NOTIFICATION:**

Responses to this Request for Qualifications will be evaluated by the Executive Officer and staff of the SMGB, the Chairman of the SMGB, and possibly by selected SMGB members. Criteria for selection shall be such factors as professional excellence, demonstrated competence, specialized experience of the applicant, education and experience of key personnel, staff compatibility, workload, ability to meet schedules, nature and quality of completed work, reliability and continuity of the applicant or firm, location, and other considerations deemed relevant.

Applications should be addressed to the attention of the Executive Officer and must be received at the office of the State Mining and Geology Board, 801 K Street, MS 20-15, Sacramento, California 95814, not later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, August 5, 2011. Applications will be processed and reviewed in the order received. The SMGB intends to complete the selection of the successful candidate not later than August 31, 2011. For additional information please contact: Mr. Will Arcand, Senior Engineering Geologist with the SMGB, at 916-322-1082.