



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: February 14, 2008

Agenda Item No. 8: Review and Establishment of the Board's Committees Pursuant to the Board's Bylaws (III Organization).

INTRODUCTION: The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) appoints committees to assist in its work. Currently, the SMGB has the following four committees, which were approved at the SMGB's regular business meeting on January 12, 2005:

- Geohazards
- Minerals & Geologic Resources
- Policy & Legislation
- Surface Mining Standards

Committees are created by a majority affirmative vote of the total authorized membership of the SMGB (i.e., 5 members). The SMGB's present list of committees and membership was formally adopted on January 16, 2003.

Committee members are appointed by the SMGB's Chairperson, and serve at the pleasure of the Chairperson. The Chairperson may also serve as an ex-officio member of each committee, and may vote on committee issues. The Bylaws do not limit the committee members' terms, define special requirements, or limit the size of the committees; however, a committee may not constitute a quorum of the SMGB (5 members) including the Chairman, when sitting as ex-officio member.

STATUTORY/ REGULATORY/ BYLAWS CONSIDERATIONS: Bylaws state:

"Committees: Committees may be created by a majority affirmative vote of the total authorized membership of the Board. Members of such committees shall be appointed by, and shall serve at the pleasure of, the Chairperson, who may serve as an ex-officio member of each committee. The Chairperson shall annually review the need for, and the function of, each committee and make recommendations to the Board for changes as appropriate."

DISCUSSION: The SMGB's Bylaws require the Chairperson annually to review the need for and functions of each committee and make recommendations to the SMGB for changes.



Executive Officer's Report

The Executive Officer has reviewed the activities and performances of the SMGB’s current committees, and suggests the following:

- Geohazards Committee: This current standing committee should remain. The committee’s responsibilities and activities will continue. Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps continue to be revised by the California Geological Survey and will require consideration by the committee, as will the production and publication of a series of Seismic Hazards Maps under the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. The Committee has also been the link between the SMGB and the Seismic Safety Commission, and currently oversees the Technical Advisory Committee on Evaluation of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. In 2008, this Committee can anticipate formulation of a Technical Advisory Committee and undertaking a re-evaluation of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. During 2008, revisions to the California Geological Survey’s Special Publication 117 (Guidelines for Evaluating and Mitigating Seismic Hazards in California, 1997) and Special Publication 118 (Recommended Criteria for Delineating Seismic Hazards Zones in California, May 1992; Revised July 1999) will also be finalized.
- Minerals & Geologic Resources Committee: This current standing committee should remain. As more and larger developments occur throughout the State, some of the State’s valuable mineral resource deposits designated by the Board as having regional significance are being threatened by incompatible land uses. The focus, funding, and direction of the classification and designation programs will require this Committee’s attention. In addition, a review and re-evaluation of mineral designation lands is currently in process, and this Committee will likely pursue designation of additional mineral lands based on the recommendations set forth by the State Geologist, and may need to develop suggestions for the mineral program in light of the State’s difficult budget problems.
- Policy & Legislation Committee: This current standing committee should remain. It is anticipated that the Committee will be reviewing new SMARA legislation, and developing additional, and modifying current regulations in SMARA, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, and possibly the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, during the coming year. In addition, the Committee will continue to review lead agency ordinances to determine if they are in compliance with SMARA, and update the SMGB’s Strategic Plan. This committee also reviews pending and proposed legislation and regulations.
- Surface Mining Standards Committee: This current standing committee should remain. The Committee has been active in the past year with SMARA



reclamation issues. The Committee’s functions have increased with the assumption by the SMGB of SMARA lead agency status for about 50 individual sites including two counties, ten cities and eleven dredging operations in the San Francisco Bay area. The Committee’s activities are expected to remain constant throughout the next year.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION: The above committee proposals present no conflicts with Statute or the SMGB’s Bylaws. Approval of these committees and appointment of their members, or the creation of additional committees, are discretionary acts by the SMGB and its Chairman. The Executive Officer makes no recommendations regarding appointments of members to committees.

CHAIRMAN’S ACTION:

At the SMGB’s Regular Business Meeting held on January 12, 2006, the SMGB established/re-affirmed the four committees described earlier. With the appointment by the Governor of new SMGB Members, the committees were modified by the Chair on May 23, 2007. The Chairman has discretion to appoint members to fill existing vacancies on committees, and to reassign members to serve on other committees.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer

