



# STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



ARNOLD  
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For Meeting Date: May 14, 2009

### **Agenda Item No.11: Discussion of State Mining and Geology Board's Strategic Plan.**

**INTRODUCTION:** At its March 8, 2007, regular business meeting, the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) approved an updated Strategic Plan (Plan). The SMGB generally reviews its Plan annually.

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY:** The SMGB's enabling statutes pertaining to the general role of the SMGB and Department of Conservation is provided in Division 1, Public Resources Code Sections 660-678.

In regards to representation of state interests, Division 1 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) Chapter 2, Section 672 states:

*"The board shall represent the state's interest in the development, utilization, and conservation of the mineral resources of the state and the reclamation of mined lands, as provided by law, and federal matters pertaining to mining, and shall determine, establish, and maintain an adequate surface mining and reclamation policy. The board shall also represent the state's interest in the development of geological information necessary to the understanding and utilization of the state's terrain, and seismological and geological information pertaining to earthquake and other geological hazards. General policies for the division shall be determined by the board."*

In regards to technical research programs, Division 1 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) Chapter 2, Section 675 states:

*"The board may provide for a statewide program of research regarding the technical phases of reclaiming mined lands which may be delegated to it by law and may accept funds from the United States or from any person to aid in carrying out the provisions of this section. The board may conduct such a program independently or by contract or in cooperation with any person, public or private organization, federal agency, or state agency, including any political subdivision of the state."*



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In regards to public information programs, Division 1 of PRC Chapter 2, Section 676 states:

*“The board shall provide for a public information program on matters involving the state’s terrain, mineral resources, mining, the reclamation of mined lands, and the seismological and geological aspects of earthquakes and other geological hazards.”*

In regards to administrative activities, Division 1 of PRC Chapter 2, Section 673 states:

*“The board shall also serve as a policy and appeals board for the purposes of Chapter 7.5 (commencing with Section 2621) of Division 2.”*

In regards to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, Article 4 of PRC Section 2757, also provides some guidance when the SMGB considers adopting state policy, which has some influence in considering goals and objectives for the Plan. PRC Section 2757 states:

*“The state policy adopted by the board shall be based upon a study of the factors that significantly affect the present and future condition of mined lands, and shall be used as standards by lead agencies in preparing specific and general plans, including the conservation and land use elements of the general plan and zoning ordinances. The state policy shall not include aspects of regulating surface mining operations which are solely of local concern, and not of statewide or regional concern, and as determined by the board, such as, but not limited to, hours of operation, noise, dust, fencing, and purely aesthetic considerations.”*

**BACKGROUND:** At its November 12, 2005, regular business meeting, the SMGB requested that a copy of the current Plan be disseminated among the SMGB members for discussion of goals and objectives to be docketed for the January 2006, SMGB regular business meeting. Initially adopted on March 13, 1997, the Plan was re-adopted on November 8, 2000. The Plan presents a Mission Statement supported by six Goals. Each of the Goals is sustained by a list of Strategies for achieving those Goals. The Strategies in turn require specific Objectives (tasks) to be performed.

At the SMGB regular business meeting held on January 12, 2006, topics for possible discussion were requested from SMGB members. A preliminary summary of comments and topics were provided to the SMGB and discussed at its public hearing held on February 8, 2006. Based on these discussions and per the request of the SMGB Chairman, recommended revisions to the Strategic Plan were incorporated into a working draft document. The Plan was approved by the SMGB at their March 8, 2007, regular business meeting. Updates to the Plan included:



- Revision and incorporation of additional strategies and objectives to Goal Numbers I through VI to reflect presentations made to the SMGB by its staff pertaining to the State’s Mineral Resources Management program, and SMARA Lead Agency Performance Evaluation;
- Addition of new sections addressing budget and staffing perspective, and targets for the upcoming year;
- An organization chart; and
- Tables that provide an overview of the SMGB’s Plan, strategies and objectives, and specific ownership per goals.

**STATUS:** The various goals and objectives set forth in the SMGB’s strategic plan are accomplished through the SMGB and its committees and staff, or through partnerships with the Department of Conservation (DOC), California Geological Survey (CGS), Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR), professional organizations and societies, among other stakeholders and groups. The overall status per objective since revision of the Plan in 2007 is contained in the SMGB’s packet.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATIONS:** The SMGB’s Strategic Plan is for general discussion. The Executive Officer offers no recommendations at this time.

Respectfully submitted:

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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer

