



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**



ARNOLD  
SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: October 8, 2009

### **Agenda Item No. 7: Presentation of Select 2009 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Eight Surface Mining Operations for Acceptance Consideration by the State Mining and Geology Board.**

**INTRODUCTION:** The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) serves as the lead agency under SMARA for forty-eight (48) individual mining operations located in two counties (El Dorado County and Yuba County), nine (9) San Francisco Bay dredging operations, and ten (10) cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for eight surface mining operations within the County of Yuba are being presented for acceptance consideration.

### **MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:**

The 2009 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's October 8, 2009, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Knife River Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0002), Yuba County.
- Wheatland Clay Mine (CA Mine ID #91-58-0007), Yuba County.
- Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013), Yuba County.
- Blue Point Clark Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0015), Yuba County.
- Blue Point Mine (CA Mine ID #91-58-0021), Yuba County.
- SRI Stringer Pit #1 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0022), Yuba County.
- SRI Stringer Pit #2 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0023), Yuba County.
- Simpson Lane (CA Mine ID #91-58-0025), Yuba County.

A summary of violations and corrective measures per surface mining operation is presented below.

**Knife River Hallwood Plant (CA Mine ID #91-58-0002), Yuba County:** No violations were noted at time of inspection on September 16, 2009.

One corrective measure was noted regarding the apparent discrepancy between the amount of disturbed acreage currently reported versus the amount of disturbed acreage observed at time of inspection.

It is recommended that the operator re-evaluate the amount of total disturbed acreage at the Knife River Hallwood site prior to submitting their 2009 Mining Operator Annual Report.



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**Wheatland Clay Mine (CA Mine ID #91-58-0007), Yuba County:** No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on August 27, 2009.

On September 15, 2009 the SMGB received a proposed Interim Management Plan (IMP) from the operator for the Wheatland Clay Pit. This proposed IMP is currently under review by SMGB staff.

**Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013), Yuba County:** No violations were noted at time of inspection on September 16, 2009.

One corrective measure was noted regarding the need for the operator to submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate per CCR Section 3804(c).

It is recommended that the operator closely monitor the existing ground crack on the upper western overburden placement area for signs of expansion or movement. Further, it is recommended that the subject ground crack be evaluated by a certified engineering geologist, or other similarly qualified professional, in order to determine if further slope mitigation measures are necessary on this portion of the overburden placement area.

**Blue Point Clark Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0015), Yuba County:** No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on August 27, 2009.

**Blue Point Mine (CA Mine ID #91-58-0021), Yuba County:** No violations were noted at time of inspection on August 27, 2009.

One corrective measure, regarding the need for a revised financial assurance cost estimate to be submitted to the SMGB for review and approval as required per CCR Section 3804(c), was noted at time of inspection.

**SRI Stringer Pit #1 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0022), Yuba County:** No violations were noted at time of inspection on September 16, 2009.

One corrective measure was noted regarding the amount of disturbed acreage reported by the operator, which continues to be significantly understated. The amount of disturbed acreage needs to be re-evaluated and correctly stated in future mining operation annual reports.

**SRI Stringer Pit #2 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0023), Yuba County:** No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 16, 2009.



**Simpson Lane (CA Mine ID #91-58-0025), El Dorado County:** No violations were noted at time of inspection on August 25, 2009.

One corrective measure, regarding the need for a revised financial assurance cost estimate to be submitted to the SMGB for review and approval as required per CCR Section 3804(c), was noted at time of inspection.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the eight 2009 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained herewith to their respective local lead agency and each surface mine operator.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

To accept eight 2009 SMARA surface mine inspection reports:

*Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the eight 2009 SMARA mine inspection reports, and transmit the findings to the respective local lead agencies and each surface mine operator. These surface mining operations are the Knife River Hallwood Plant, Wheatland Clay Mine, Parks Bar Quarry, Blue Point Clark Quarry, Blue Point Mine, SRI Stringer Pit #1, SRI Stringer Pit #2, and the Simpson Lane Agricultural Reclamation Project.*

Respectfully submitted:

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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer