



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

For Meeting Date: April 11, 2013

**Agenda Item No. 12: Presentation of 2012 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Ten 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-nine (49) individual surface mining operations, including operations located in three counties (Alpine County, El Dorado County and Yuba County), eight San Francisco Bay marine dredging operations, and eight cities that do not have SMGB certified mining ordinances. SMGB staff also conducts annual SMARA inspections at individual sites within other jurisdictions where it has been determined that a potential conflict of financial interest exists per California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 3504.5(c). SMARA inspection reports for ten surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

**MINE INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SMGB'S ACCEPTANCE CONSIDERATION:** The 2012 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's March 14, 2013 regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Western Aggregates (CA Mine ID #91-58-0001), County of Yuba.
- Cal Sierra Development (CA Mine ID #91-58-0003), County of Yuba.
- Sperbeck Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0004), County of Yuba.
- Teichert Hallwood (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006), County of Yuba.
- Wheatland Clay Pit (CA Mine ID #91-58-0007), County of Yuba.
- Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013), County of Yuba.
- Teichert Marysville (CA Mine ID #91-58-0019), County of Yuba.
- Blue Point Mine (CA Mine ID #91-58-0021), County of Yuba.
- SRI Stringer Pit 1 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0022), County of Yuba.
- SRI Stringer Pit 2 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0023), County of Yuba.

A summary of violations, corrective measures and inspector's recommendations noted in the annual inspection reports for the above surface mining operations are presented below.

Western Aggregates (CA Mine ID #91-58-0001), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on January 18, 2013.



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Cal Sierra Development (CA Mine ID #91-58-0003), County of Yuba:

One violation is noted at this time as the financial assurance cost estimate for the Cal Sierra surface mining operation has not been revised since 2008, and therefore the financial assurance is deemed inadequate.

The following recommendation is offered:

- Revised financial assurance cost estimates for both reclamation of disturbed lands and dredge salvage and removal should be prepared and submitted to the SMGB for review and approval per CCR Section 3804(c).

Sperbeck Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0004), County of Yuba:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on January 15, 2013. The following corrective measure is noted:

- The operator should submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

Teichert Hallwood (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted during the annual inspection process.

Wheatland Clay Pit (CA Mine ID #91-58-0007), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted during the 2012 annual inspection process.

Parks Bar Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-58-0013), County of Yuba:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on January 15, 2013. The following corrective measure is noted:

- The operator should provide a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB that addresses suggested revisions as provided by SMGB staff in July of 2012.

It is recommended that monitoring data for the existing ground cracks on the upper western overburden placement area be summarized and presented to the SMGB annually beginning with the operator's 2012 mining operation annual report that is due to OMR by July 1, 2013. Additionally, the operator should immediately report any slope movement exceeding 0.5 inches to the SMGB.

Teichert Marysville (CA Mine ID #91-58-0019), County of Yuba:

No violations were noted at time of inspection on January 11, 2013. The following corrective measure is noted:

- The operator should re-evaluate the amount of acreage currently disturbed by surface mining activities in order to provide accurate information on the 2012 Mining Operation Annual Report, which is due to OMR by July 1, 2013.

Blue Point Mine (CA Mine ID #91-58-0021), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted during the annual inspection process.

SRI Stringer Pit 1 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0022), County of Yuba:

No new violations were noted at time of inspection on January 14, 2013. One ongoing violation, which was originally noted in a Notice of Violation issued by the SMGB on April 30, 2010, was observed to be nearly completely mitigated at time of inspection. The violation involves encroachment of mined materials across a segment of the approved reclamation plan boundary in the northeastern portion of the site. It is expected that the areas still affected by this previous violation will be completely mitigated during 2013.

SRI Stringer Pit 2 (CA Mine ID #91-58-0023), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted during the 2012 annual inspection process.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the ten 2012 SMARA surface mining inspection reports as complete, and transmit the findings contained therein to the SMARA lead agencies and mine operators.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

To accept ten 2012 SMARA surface mine inspection reports as presented:

*Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the State Mining and Geology Board today, I move that the SMGB accept the ten 2012 SMARA mine inspection reports as presented, and direct the Executive Officer to transmit the findings to the respective SMARA lead agencies and mine operators.*

Respectfully submitted:



Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer