



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

For Meeting Date: June 14, 2012

### **Agenda Item No. 9: Presentation of 2011 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Nine 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-six (46) individual surface mining operations, including operations located in three counties (Alpine County, El Dorado County and Yuba County), nine San Francisco Bay marine dredging operations, and seven cities that do not have mining ordinances. SMARA inspection reports for nine surface mining operations are being presented for acceptance consideration.

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

The 2011 SMARA mine inspection reports to be presented at the SMGB's June 14, 2012, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Weber Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0002), County of El Dorado.
- Diamond Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0003), County of El Dorado.
- Chile Bar Slate Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0004), County of El Dorado.
- Lawyer Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0010), County of El Dorado.
- Snows Road Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0012), County of El Dorado.
- Teichert Hallwood (CA Mine ID #91-58-0006), County of Yuba.
- Dantoni Pit (CA Mine ID #91-58-0011), County of Yuba.
- Teichert Marysville (CA Mine ID #91-58-0019), County of Yuba.
- Simpson Lane (CA Mine ID #91-58-0025), County of Yuba.

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

#### **Weber Creek Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0002), County of El Dorado:**

The following on-going violations were noted at time of inspection on November 8, 2011:

- Over-excavation of the highwall has occurred in at least two locations.
- Encroachment upon the established property line setback of 30 feet has occurred.



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- The main ½-inch minus material stockpile exceeds the maximum height of 50 feet and lacks erosion control measures.
- No re-vegetation test plot program is currently established.
- No topsoil management program is currently established.
- Reclamation of the Greenstone Country Development parcel has not been completed.

The following required corrective measures were noted:

- Implement grade controls for the highwall and revise quarry cutslope configuration in an amended reclamation plan.
- Improve sediment erosion control and winterizing measures for all product stockpiles.
- Continue with soil erosion control efforts throughout the quarry.
- Lower the main ½”-minus stockpile to a height no greater than 50 feet per criteria set forth in the 1997 Reclamation Plan and provide for material erosion preventive measures around the perimeter of this stockpile, or propose alternatives (e.g., construction of an intervening bench and adequate soil erosion and drainage control measures).
- Establish topsoil management program.
- Initiate a revegetation test plot program.
- Reclaim the Greenstone Country Development parcel.
- Develop an amended reclamation plan that meets CVRWQCB and DFG requirements.

Diamond Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0003), County of El Dorado:

The following two violations were noted at time of inspection on November 10, 2011:

1. Monitoring and reporting requirements of the revegetation test plot program included within the 2007 Reclamation Plan have not been completed.
2. The operator is in violation of PRC Section 2207(a), which requires the owner or operator of a mining operation to submit annual reports to the Department of Conservation on forms approved by the SMGB. CCR Section 3697(a) further provides that such annual reports and associated annual reporting fees are due and payable to the Department of Conservation not later than July 1<sup>st</sup> for the prior reporting (calendar) year. Review of files for this operation show that no annual reports or annual fees have been submitted for the Diamond Quarry since 2007.



One corrective measure is noted as it has been over one year since a revised financial assurance cost estimate has been provided by the operator to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

The following recommendations are offered:

1. A revised financial assurance cost estimate for the Gansberg Sand surface mining operation should be provided to the SMGB as soon as possible per CCR Section 3804(c).
2. The operator should commence revegetation activities on portions of the Gansberg Sand site that will no longer be disturbed by mining activities in order to comply with Use Permit Condition No. 4. Alternatively, the operator may wish to amend the Reclamation Plan and Use Permit Conditions such that all revegetation activities would not be required to commence until mining activities are complete.

Chile Bar Slate Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0004), County of El Dorado:

Two violations were noted at time of inspection on November 10, 2011:

- A current financial assurance cost estimate is lacking for the site.
- The site is considered idle as defined by PRC Section 2727.1, and may be considered abandoned per PRC Section 2770(h)(6), as no Interim Management Plan (IMP) has been provided to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per PRC Section 2770(h).

The following recommendations are offered:

- A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be provided to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per CCR Section 3804(c).
- An IMP should be completed and provided to the SMGB for review and approval consideration per PRC Section 2770(h) and new PRC Section 2777.5, as applicable.

Lawyer Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0010), County of El Dorado:

One violation of SMARA was noted at time of inspection on November 9, 2011, as it has been well over one year since a revised financial assurance cost estimate has been provided to the SMGB by the operator.

It is recommended that the operator submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR 3804(c).

Snows Road Pit (CA Mine ID #91-09-0012), County of El Dorado:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on November 9, 2011.

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

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on December 2, 2011.

Dantoni Pit (CA Mine ID #91-58-0011), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on December 9, 2011.

It is recommended that the operator submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR 3804(c).

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

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on December 2, 2011.

It is recommended that the operator submit a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

Simpson Lane (CA Mine ID #91-58-0025), County of Yuba:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on December 2, 2011.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the nine 2011 SMARA surface mining inspection reports, and transmit the findings contained therein to the SMARA lead agencies and mine operators.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

To accept nine 2011 SMARA surface mine inspection reports as presented:

*Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the SMGB accept the nine 2011 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:



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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer