



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**For Meeting Date: September 13, 2012**

**Agenda Item No. 3: Department of Conservation and State Mining and Geology Board Recognition of Excellence in Reclamation Award for the Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest, Inc. Quarry Creek Reclamation Plan, Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest, Inc. (Operator), Marvin Howell (Agent), City of Carlsbad and City of Oceanside.**

**INTRODUCTION:** In 2010, the Department of Conservation commenced a program to recognize excellence in reclamation. The criteria for such recognition are summarized below:

- The reclamation plan has been approved by the SMARA lead agency within the last 15 years. If the plan includes federal lands, it must also have been approved by the appropriate federal agency.
- Reclamation must have been initiated on more than one acre within the last 5 years to be eligible.
- Extent to which the project meets and exceeds regulatory requirements with minimal oversight.
- Extent to which reclamation practices employed best management practices to reduce and mitigate the environmental impacts of mining, prevent erosion and maintain water quality.
- Extent to which the reclamation practices establish native plant communities and create wildlife habitat.
- Extent to which reclamation has effectively converted (or will effectively convert) the land to some beneficial end use after the completion of mining.
- Innovative techniques or studies carried out to advance the science of mine reclamation and environmental restoration.
- Degree to which the public has been involved in the project or will benefit from the end use of the reclaimed project site.
- Any other outstanding achievements that make this reclamation project special.
- The mine must be in good standing with no recorded violations.

Previous recipients included:

- 2010: Richmond Canal Quarry located in the City of Richmond, County of Contra Costa, and operated by the Bottoms Family Trust, and Oro



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Grande Facility located in the County of San Bernardino, and operated by Vulcan Materials.

- 2011: Rank Island located in the County of Fresno, and operated by Vulcan Materials.

This year, excellence in reclamation is being jointly recognized by the Department of Conservation and the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB).

**2012 RECIPIENT:** This year's award for "Excellence in Reclamation" is being presented to Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest, Inc., for their reclamation of Quarry Creek, also known as the former South Coast Materials Quarry. The site is located on 104 acres in San Diego County, crossing the jurisdictions of the cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad. Mining began at the site in 1961. It was taken over by Hanson in 1991 and mined until 1995, when the resources were depleted. Concrete and asphalt batching operations continued until recently.

The operation's reclamation plan was revised a couple of times, and as recently as 2010 was amended to retain the natural alignment of Buena Vista Creek and enhance the wetland and riparian habitats. Due to increased flows from urbanization of the watershed, a number of steps had to be instituted for stormwater management. The creek corridor has been replanted with native riparian species and climate-appropriate shrubs were planted on the slopes to help prevent erosion. A conservation easement was put in place to create and manage an Open Space Preserve along the creek and preserve access to El Salto Falls, a sacred site to the local Native Americans. Numerous mitigation measures were also adopted to deal with the site's biological resources, sensitive species and habitats.

An additional 58 acres of the former quarry was reclaimed and developed into a shopping center in 2001, and a portion of the site remains to be developed for housing. This example of a successful multi-use reclamation project involved the participation from a variety of stakeholders including federal, state, and local government agencies, environmental groups, Native Americans, and concerned citizens.



**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**

To recognize recipient of Excellence in Reclamation Award:

*Mr. Chairman, I move that the SMGB along with the Department of Conservation, in light of the information presented before the Board today and contained in the Executive Officer's Report, recognize with Resolution 2012-4, Hanson Aggregates - Pacific Southwest for their reclamation of Quarry Creek, also known as the former South Coast Materials Quarry, and recipient of the 2012 Excellence in Reclamation Award.*

Respectfully submitted:



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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer