



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

For Meeting Date: September 13, 2012

### **Agenda Item No. 8: Presentation of 2012 SMARA Surface Mine Inspection Reports for Two 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), nine 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 two 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 September 13, 2012, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Sonora Pit (CA Mine ID #91-26-0037), County of Mono.
- Priest Grade Pit (CA Mine ID #91-55-0008), County of El Tuolumne.

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

#### **Sonora Pit (CA Mine ID #91-26-0037), County of Mono:**

The SMARA inspection was conducted on August 10, 2012. One violation of the approved Reclamation Plan is noted:

1. The revegetation test plot program has not been implemented as required by the approved Reclamation Plan.

One corrective measure is noted:

1. The current site access road should be included within the area encompassed by the approved Reclamation Plan boundary.



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The following recommendations are offered:

1. A revised financial assurance cost estimate should be prepared by the operator and reviewed for adequacy by the SMARA lead agency (County of Mono) and OMR per CCR Sections 3804 and 3805.5.
2. A revised Reclamation Plan map should be prepared to more accurately show what areas will receive reclamation treatment(s), and what areas are considered reclaimed by the SMARA lead agency (County of Mono).

Priest Grade Pit (CA Mine ID #91-55-0008), County of Tuolumne:

The SMARA inspection was conducted on August 10, 2012. No violations or corrective measures were noted by the inspector. The following recommendation is offered:

1. The recently revised financial assurance cost estimate (dated December 14, 2011) should be reviewed for adequacy by the SMARA lead agency (County of Tuolumne) and OMR per CCR Sections 3804 and 3805.5.

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

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

To accept two 2012 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 two 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:



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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer