



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

For Meeting Date: October 11, 2012

### **Agenda Item No. 9: Presentation of 2012 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-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 eight 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 October 11, 2012, regular business meeting for acceptance consideration are as follows:

- Merrill Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0001), County of Alpine.
- Gansberg Sand (CA Mine ID #91-02-0002), County of Alpine.
- Diamond Valley Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0004), County of Alpine.
- Fredericksburg Gravel Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0005), County of Alpine.
- Bear Creek Aggregates (CA Mine ID #91-09-0001), County of El Dorado.
- Chile Bar Slate Mine (CA Mine ID #91-09-0004), County of El Dorado.
- Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005), County of El Dorado.
- Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0015), County of El Dorado.

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

#### **Merrill Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0001), County of Alpine:**

No violations or corrective measures were noted based on inspection of the Merrill Borrow Pit on September 25, 2012. However, the approved reclamation plan for the site is antiquated and provides very little specific information pertaining to required reclamation activities. The following recommendations are offered:



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1. It is recommended that the reclamation plan be updated to include a reclamation plan map, performance standards for slope stability, and a revegetation plan appropriate for the site.
2. It is recommended that the operator prepare a revised financial assurance cost estimate for submittal to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

Gansberg Sand (CA Mine ID #91-02-0002), County of Alpine:

The following violation is noted based on observations made at time of inspection on September 27, 2012, and based on review of pertinent documents:

1. The operation is in violation of Use Permit Condition No. 4, which requires revegetation activities to occur every five years, as it does not appear that any active revegetation efforts have been commenced by the operator.

Two corrective measures are noted:

1. In order to minimize the potential for future erosive surface water flows, the operator should install a rock check dam in the low area adjacent to the material stockpile along the northeastern border of the site near Foothill Road.
2. The operator should provide notification to the Alpine County Planning Director in order to comply with Use Permit Condition No. 10 which allows for expansion of the working area to 10 acres.

The following recommendation is offered:

1. 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 Alpine County Use Permit Conditions such that all revegetation activities would not be required to commence until mining activities are complete.

Diamond Valley Borrow Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0004), County of Alpine:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 27, 2012.



Fredericksburg Gravel Pit (CA Mine ID #91-02-0005), County of Alpine:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 27, 2012.

Bear Creek Aggregates (CA Mine ID #91-09-0001), County of El Dorado:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 26, 2012. The following recommendations are offered:

1. It is recommended that the operator regrade the mid-slope bench on the southern flank of the overburden stockpile in the south central portion of the site in order to prevent ponding of surface water at this location.
2. The operator should prepare a revised financial assurance cost estimate for submittal to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

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

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 20, 2012.

Cool Cave Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0005), County of El Dorado:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 28, 2012.

Marin Quarry (CA Mine ID #91-09-0015), County of El Dorado:

No violations or corrective measures were noted at time of inspection on September 20, 2012. It is recommended that the operator provide a revised financial assurance cost estimate to the SMGB per CCR Section 3804(c).

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Executive Officer recommends that the SMGB accept the eight 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 eight 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 eight 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.*

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Respectfully submitted:



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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer

