Publication Date: Friday, September 5th, 2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

Will Conduct a Regular Business Meeting on:

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

California Natural Resources Headquarters
715 P Street, Second Floor RM 2-302B
Sacramento, California 95814

This meeting will be held in-person and via video conference and will be recorded.

To avoid any background noises while the meeting is in session, we ask that you mute your device. To join the meeting, please download the latest version of MS Teams by visiting their website at https://aka.ms/getteams or install the MS Teams app on your phone. After installing MS Teams on your device click on the Microsoft Teams Meeting link to join the meeting **Meeting ID: 296 701 671 935 9** and **Passcode: eA9zw6ch.** You may also join us by phone by dialing (916) 318-8892 and entering the **Phone Conference ID: 775 779 244#**

For questions or comments regarding this Agenda, please contact the Board by email at smgb@conservation.ca.gov. This Notice, the agenda, and all associated staff reports can be accessed at the SMGB's website at: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb.


CALIFORNIA STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD
EUREKA
EST. 1885

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

1. **Call to Order (Sheingold)**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum**

4. **Review of the Agenda (Sheingold)**

5. **Department Reports**
   A. Department of Conservation Report (Tiffany)
   B. Division of Mine Reclamation Report (Whalin)
   C. California Geological Survey Report (Lancaster)

6. **Chair Report (Sheingold)**

7. **Executive Officer Report (Schmidt)**

8. **Geologist Report (Fry, Jones)**

9. **Board Committee Reports**

   A. Critical Minerals (Chair Kenline)

10. **Ex-Parte Communication Disclosure**
    Board Members will identify any discussions they may have had requiring disclosure pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 663.1 and 663.2.

11. **Public Comment Period**
    This time is scheduled to provide the public with an opportunity to address non-agenda items. Those wishing to speak should do so at this time. Speaker testimony is limited to three minutes except by special consent of the Chair.

12. **Consent Items**
    All the items appearing under this section will be acted upon by the Board by one motion and without discussion; however, any Board member wishing to discuss any item may request the Chair to remove the item from the consent calendar and consider it separately.

    A. Consideration and approval of minutes for the Regular Business Meeting held on:
    May 15, 2025

13. **Regular Business Items**
    A. Review of staff compliance activities at Pyrite Quarry, summary of Draft Stipulated Order to Comply negotiated with Riverside Mining Ltd., and recommendation for Board to delegate to the Executive Officer, Jeffrey Schmidt, authority to finalize and execute the Stipulated Order to Comply.
    B. Review of initial definition of “critical minerals,” with possible action by the Board.
    C. Proposal of plan for updating the Board’s Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines to reflect the inclusion of conserving critical minerals with possible action by the Board.

D. Election of the Board's Vice-Chair

14. Presentations, Reports, and Informational Items

A. *Acknowledgment of Greg Tenorio (DOC Legal) and Rick Wilson* (CGS) (DOC, CGS, and SMGB staff)
B. *Report on Board Staff's Mountain Pass Mine Site Visit* (SMGB Staff)

15. Executive Session (Closed to the Public)

The Board will discuss information from its legal counsel on potential litigation and may take appropriate actions based on this information. This session is being held under Government Code, Section 11126.

16. Announcements and Future Meetings

17. Adjournment

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

THE BOARD

The State Mining and Geology Board (Board) serves as a regulatory, policy, and appeals body representing the State's interests in the reclamation of mined lands, geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, and the conservation of mineral resources.

The Board was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees to oversee the activities of the Sate Mineralogist and the California Division of Mines and Geology (now the California Geological Survey). It is second oldest Board in California. Today's Board has nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, for four-year terms. By statute, Board members must have specific professional backgrounds in geology, mining engineering, environmental protection, groundwater hydrology and rock chemistry, urban planning, landscape architecture, mineral resource conservation, and seismology, with one member representing the general public.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Board is to provide professional expertise and guidance, and to represent the State's interest in the development, utilization, and conservation of mineral resources, the reclamation of mined lands and the development and dissemination of geologic and seismic hazard information to protect the health and welfare of the people of California.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Board is an independent entity within the Department of Conservation under the Natural Resources Agency and is granted responsibilities and obligations under the following acts:

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Sections 2710 et seq. and its regulations at 14 California Code of Regulations Section 3500 et seq., the Board provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized, and mined lands are reclaimed. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the State's mineral resources.

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Section 2621 through Section 2630, and its regulations at 14 California Code Regulations Section 3600 et seq., the Board is authorized to represent the State's interests in establishing guidelines and standards for geological and geophysical investigations and reports produced by the California Geological Survey, public sector agencies, and private practitioners. The Board is also authorized to develop specific criteria through regulations to be used by Lead Agencies in complying with the provisions of the Act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Section 2690 through Section 2699.6 and its regulations at 14 California Code of Regulations Section 3720 et seq. the Board is authorized to provide policy and guidance through regulations for a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program to assist cities, counties, and State agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction or other ground failure, landslides and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes, including tsunami and seiche threats.

GENERAL PROCEDURAL INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board is governed by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act that requires the Board to:

1) Publish an Agenda at least ten days in advance of any meeting
2) Describe in the Agenda specific items to be transacted or discussed
3) Refuse to add an item no later than ten days prior to any meeting and republishing of the agenda
4) Call a closed session by the Chair to discuss litigation and other matters
5) Make all testimony, files, and documents part of the administrative record

Other Agenda material and reports will be available approximately one week prior to the scheduled Board meeting. All Board related information is available at https://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb.

The Board encourages the submittal of comments, written material, or technical reports thirty days prior to the applicable Board meeting. All such material concerning any matters on the agenda can be submitted to: smgb@conservation.ca.gov or addressed to:

State Mining and Geology Board
715 P Street, MS 1909
Sacramento, CA 95814

Following the Board meetings, links to presentations and meeting recordings will be available upon request: smgb@conservation.ca.gov

Agenda Item No. 12A

September 18, 2025

Consideration and Approval of Minutes for the May 15, 2025, Regular Business Meeting

INTRODUCTION:
Approve the Conformed Minutes for the State Mining and Geology Board's May 15, 2025, Regular Business Meeting.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Board Chair and Members, in light of the information before the State Mining and Geology Board today, I move that the Board approve the Conformed Minutes for the May 15th, Regular Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey Schmidt,
Executive Officer

Publication Date: Friday, May 2nd, 2025

DRAFT
CONFORMED MINUTES

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

Will Conduct a Regular Business Meeting on:

Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

California Natural Resources Headquarters
715 P Street, First Floor Auditorium RM 1-302
Sacramento, California 95814

This meeting will be held in-person and via video conference and will be recorded.

To avoid any background noises while the meeting is in session, we ask that you mute your device. To join the meeting, please download the latest version of MS Teams by visiting their website at https://aka.ms/getteams or install the MS Teams app on your phone. After installing MS Teams on your device click on the Microsoft Teams Meeting link to join the meeting **Meeting ID: 269 627 687 741** and **Passcode: hT6W6mJ6.** You may also join us by phone by dialing (916) 318-8892 and entering the **Phone Conference ID: 481 665 909#**

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CALIFORNIA STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD
EUREKA
EST. 1885

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order (Sheingold)
Meeting was called to order by Chair Sheingold at 10:00 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
Executive Officer Jeffrey Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum
Regulatory Analyst Natalie Decio called roll, and a Quorum was declared with all nine members present including the newly appointed board member, Dyan Whyte**.**

4. Review of the Agenda (Sheingold)
Chair Sheingold began by introducing new board member Dyan Whyte and invited her to share her background, followed by introductions from other members. Member Whyte described her early exposure to mining at age 20 during a mapping project in Northern Quebec, which led her to pursue a regulatory career in California. She joined the California Water Quality Control Board at 25 as one of the first engineering geologists and focused her career on understanding and mitigating the impacts of mining on water quality. Her graduate research focused on mercury transport in rivers. Now retired for seven years, she expressed enthusiasm about joining the board, calling it a full-circle moment in her career.

Following the introductions, Chair Sheingold previewed Agenda Items 12 and 13, which focus on the emerging issue of critical minerals. Sheingold explained that interest in this topic began with a presentation by Martin Stratte at the December board meeting, who argued that California's backfill regulations hinder metallic mining. In response, Item 13B will present an alternative perspective. To better understand the full scope of critical minerals issues, Sheingold proposed creating a Critical Minerals Committee under Item 12B. Lastly, he noted State Geologist Jeremy Lancaster will give a critical minerals overview during Item 13A to set the stage for the Board’s discussion and future agenda planning.

5. Department Reports

A. Department of Conservation Report (DOC) (Tiffany)
Chief Deputy Director, Gabe Tiffany, began by welcoming new board member Whyte. Tiffany shared that Director Jennifer Lucchesi was recently confirmed by the Senate with unanimous support and has been actively engaging with the department's divisions, learning about their work. He also highlighted the department's interest in the board's work, particularly the new Critical Minerals Committee.

Additionally, he noted that it’s a busy time in the legislature, with the governor’s May budget revision recently released and negotiations underway. He mentioned two relevant bills: Assembly Bill (AB) 982, which proposes a new idle mine reserve status, and AB 580, which would extend Metropolitan Water District’s master reclamation plan through 2051. The department has not taken official positions on these bills but is engaged with stakeholders on technical aspects. Tiffany closed by expressing his ongoing interest in collaboration with the Board and support for its work.

B. Division of Mine Reclamation Report (DMR) (Whalin)
DMR Supervisor, Lindsay Whalin, welcomed new board member Dyan Whyte, noting their past work together at the Regional Water Quality Control Board and expressed confidence in her contributions to the board.

Whalin then provided a SMARA program update, noting that courtesy letters for annual reports and fees (due July 1) were sent out on April 30, and a new annual report form is available online. One administrative penalty was issued for 2023, but while the report and fee were received, the penalty payment has not. She also reminded lead agencies to submit final documents through MODS. Additionally, Whalin reported on recent SMARA site inspections—two mines in Mendocino County and six in Kern County—and outreach to new landowners unaware of their mining-related responsibilities.

Regarding the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program, Whalin expressed concern over federal staffing shortages affecting mine remediation efforts. Some federal partners have paused environmental reviews and remediation work, putting projects—especially in Death Valley and the Mojave—at risk. She also mentioned a new Department of Interior initiative (announced April 23) to expedite permitting for domestic energy and critical mineral projects on federal lands, which could increase exploration activity. While DMR doesn't permit such projects, the Division is starting to receive inquiries from concerned groups like the National Parks Conservation Association.

Finally, in response to Member Zafir's question regarding the state's plan considering the federal cuts, Whalin clarified that the state budget isn't directly impacted because AML work is reimbursed by federal partners. However, delays at the federal level are creating uncertainty for both current and long-term project planning.

C. California Geological Survey Report (CGS) (Lancaster)
State Geologist, Jeremy Lancaster, announced that the CGS will release 13 new earthquake zones of required investigation maps on May 22nd, covering areas in Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Sonoma counties. These maps are part of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. Lancaster also noted a change in CGS's mapping cycle—moving to a consistent annual schedule with preliminary map releases in May and final versions after public review in November.

In response to questions from the Board, he explained that public comments regarding these maps are reviewed for relevance and incorporated if they present new, valid data. Outdated or already-considered information is acknowledged but not used to revise maps. Lancaster also clarified that of the 13 maps: eight are fault zone maps (Alquist-Priolo) related to the Sierra Madre and San Gregorio fault zones, and five address liquefaction and landslide hazards (Seismic Hazard Zones).

6. Chair Report (Sheingold)
Chair Sheingold thanked Vice Chair Jung for leading the previous meeting in his absence. Since the last Regular Business Meeting, the Chair reported participating in public hearings for the 2714(f) exemption and Sacramento area mineral designation and has maintained ongoing collaboration with board staff and DOC. Additionally, he noted his involvement in DMR's Coordinated Outreach to Lead Agencies Committee.

7. Executive Officer Report (Schmidt)
Executive Officer Jeffrey Schmidt reported that Governor Newsom's executive order N-22-25 requires all state employees to return to the office at least four days per week starting July 1, 2025. Although board staff currently lack permanent office space and utilize a conference room to work at the office, there is potential for dedicated space to be assigned soon.

Schmidt noted that rulemaking continues as the Board will vote today on the final phase of the mineral designation for the Greater Sacramento region, with seven other designations underway. Work has also begun on regulations for lithium brine operation fees (PRC 2207) while regulations for SMARA exemptions (PRC 2714(f)) are under review by the Office of Administrative Law.

Additionally, he highlighted Assembly Bill 580, which would extend the Board's lead agency authority over the Metropolitan Water District to 2051. The bill has passed two committees unanimously and is now in the Appropriations Committee, awaiting a hearing.

Finally, in response to questions from the Board, Schmidt noted DOC has been supportive in efforts to secure permanent office space, and he confirmed no additional funds are included in AB 580 for assuming duties from noncompliant lead agencies, but costs are recovered through direct billing and annual fees.

8. Geologist Report (Fry, Jones)

Senior Geologist Paul Fry provided an update on Board staff activities, noting that public hearings were held on March 27, 2025, for the Sacramento P-C region mineral designation and the PRC 2714(f) exemption rulemaking packages. Staff are currently reviewing the numerous comments received on 2714(f), and a vote to move forward with the Sacramento designation is scheduled for later in the meeting.

In terms of lead agency responsibilities, staff are finalizing a few remaining 2024 mine inspections and financial assurance reviews. They are also preparing a stipulated order to comply for the Pyrite Quarry in Jurupa Valley due to unresolved violations. Invoices for 2023 inspections and 2024 administrative fees are being processed, and inspections for the 2025 cycle have already begun.

Fry also highlighted staff participation in a rare earth elements forum and continued work on the mining ordinance update project, including recent interactions with Group 1 counties (Merced, Humboldt, and San Diego), whose ordinance updates are expected to begin in August.

Closing out the report, Member Zafir asked how many mines the Board serves as the lead agency for, and Fry responded that they directly regulate 40 surface mining operations, primarily in Yuba, El Dorado, and Riverside Counties, as well as in cities like Richmond and Marina. Fry added that they also oversee borrow pits operated by the Metropolitan Water District. Member Zafir then asked how many staff are available to conduct inspections, and Fry explained that he and one other staff member, Mallory Jones, handle all 40 operations, including annual inspections and financial assurance reviews. Zafir noted the workload seemed substantial, and Fry shared that inspections are concentrated between August and November, often grouping sites to minimize travel and avoid high summer temperatures.

9. Ex-Parte Communication Disclosure

Board Members will identify any discussions they may have had requiring disclosure pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 663.1 and 663.2.

Nothing to report.

10. Public Comment Period

This time is scheduled to provide the public with an opportunity to address non-agenda items. Those wishing to speak should do so at this time. Speaker testimony is limited to three minutes except by special consent of the Chair.

Adam Harper, representing the California Construction and Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA), welcomed new board member Dyan Whyte and expressed appreciation for the Board's depth of expertise in governance and environmental policy—especially relevant given ongoing discussions around critical minerals. He also updated the board on AB 982, a bill CalCIMA is supporting with Assemblymember Juan Carrillo. The bill seeks to allow up to a 10-year extension of Interim Management Plans (IMPs) for idle construction aggregate operations on private land. Harper explained that the statutory definition of "idle"—a 90% drop in production—poses challenges for aggregate mines, which often experience market-driven fluctuations. The goal of the legislation is to help these mines legally maintain operations during periods of reduced demand.

11. Consent Items

All the items appearing under this section will be acted upon by the Board by one motion and without discussion; however, any Board member wishing to discuss any item may request the Chair to remove the item from the consent calendar and consider it separately.

A. Consideration and approval of minutes for the Regular Business Meeting held on:
March 20, 2025

Vice Chair Jung motioned to approve the March 20, 2025, conformed minutes, and Member Landregan seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting yes except for Member Los Huertos and Chair Sheingold who abstained as they were not present at the March Regular Business meeting.

12. Regular Business Items

A. Consideration and approval of proposed final rulemaking package for the Board's designation of mineral lands in the greater Sacramento area production-consumption region.

Senior Geologist Paul Fry presented agenda item 12A, requesting the Board's approval to submit the final rulemaking package for the designation of regionally significant mineral lands in the Greater Sacramento Production-Consumption Region. The designation, authorized under Public Resources Code Sections 2755 and 2790, stems from two CGS reports—Special Report 245, which classified mineral lands in the region, and Special Report 255, which reclassified certain lands based on a petition by Teichert Materials. The State Geologist identified 84 sectors across seven counties, totaling about 44,000 acres and 4.3 million tons of concrete aggregate, as regionally significant.

The purpose of the designation is to protect these resources from incompatible land uses, which could otherwise result in increased construction costs, longer transport distances, road degradation, traffic congestion, and greater greenhouse gas emissions. Board staff conducted pre-rulemaking workshops, prepared the proposed regulatory language with help from DOC, and initiated the formal rulemaking process in January 2025. A hybrid public hearing was held in March, and one comment was received, which did not warrant changes to the proposed text. Fry concluded by recommending the Board approve submission of the final rulemaking package to the Office of Administrative Law for final review and adoption.

Following the presentation, board members asked clarifying questions about the designation process, and Fry addressed these questions. Firstly, he explained there was no significant pushback from agencies during pre-rulemaking workshops. He clarified that mineral designation does not prohibit development but requires local agencies to consider resources in planning. Designations focus on areas zoned for mining, not

developed or incompatible zones like R1 or parkland, which are handled by local agencies. The focus on concrete aggregate was based on the existing studies, though other minerals could be considered in the future. Buffer zones are encouraged in local plans, and land ownership—public or federal—does not affect designation. Fry noted this process supports the Board's mineral conservation mission and could serve as a model for future designations. Fry concluded that the rulemaking may return to the Board if the Office of Administrative Law requests changes.

With the various questions addressed, and CalCIMA expressing support for the agenda item, Member Landregan motioned to direct Board staff to proceed with the rulemaking process for the designation of mineral lands in the greater Sacramento area production-consumption-region. Member Kenline seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Consideration and approval of the Board's new Critical Minerals Committee
Member Kenline discussed forming a Critical Minerals Committee to address California's increasing need for critical minerals amid its transition to clean energy. Member Kenline emphasized the importance of identifying and managing these mineral resources, especially given California's economic scale and dependence on imports. He noted that while known deposits exist, they're not always accessible or practical to mine due to environmental or cultural sensitivities. The proposed committee would work with the State Geologist and consider actions such as updating definitions under SMARA, revising classification guidelines, developing land use policies, and coordinating with other agencies. Chair Sheingold added that board committees allow for deeper discussions before full board consideration. Questions were raised about potential overlap with other state agencies, but Chair Sheingold clarified that none have engaged the Board directly yet. Member Kenline proceeded with a motion to establish the committee, seconded by Member Zafir. The motion to adopt the new Board committee and roster passed unanimously.

13. Presentations, Reports, and Informational Items

A. *An Overview of Critical Minerals Assessments by the California Geological Survey* (Jeremy Lancaster, State Geologist, CGS)
State Geologist Jeremy Lancaster provided a comprehensive update on the agency's work in the area of critical minerals. Lancaster defined critical minerals per the Energy Act of 2020 as elements essential to national security and the economy, with vulnerable supply chains. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a list of 50 such minerals, most of which are metals or rare earth elements.

Lancaster emphasized that the transition to clean energy is fundamentally a transition in materials, noting that technologies like electric vehicles (EVs), wind turbines, and solar panels require significantly more critical minerals than their conventional counterparts. Similarly, wind turbines and solar panels require substantial amounts of copper and rare earths. He noted that California is home to the only active rare earth mine in the U.S.—Mountain Pass in San Bernardino County—and has historically produced 32 of the 50 critical minerals, though only two are currently mined today.

Lancaster discussed various sources of critical minerals, including traditional hard rock mining, emerging seabed mining, and nontraditional sources like coal ash, mine waste, and geothermal brines. He also addressed the increasing vulnerability of global supply

chains, with China controlling a significant portion of global critical mineral production and recently imposing export restrictions on materials such as germanium and graphite.

Finally, Lancaster highlighted California's significant role in the clean energy transition, estimating that the state alone will require large portions of global critical mineral production to meet goals like carbon neutrality by 2045 and 100% zero-emission vehicle sales by 2035. He presented a map of mineral-rich regions across the state and emphasized the need to strategically assess and develop these resources to ensure energy security, reduce foreign dependence, and meet ambitious climate goals.

Lancaster concluded his report by summarizing the CGS' recent efforts to map and assess critical minerals, shifting focus from traditional construction aggregates due to new federal funding from the USGS Earth MRI program. Over the past five years, CGS has launched projects in regions like the Salton Sea, Barstow, and the Plumas Copper Belt, targeting minerals such as lithium, tungsten, cobalt, and copper. These efforts include geologic mapping, geochemical sampling, mine waste evaluation, and use of advanced tools like LIBS analyzers for in-field mineral detection.

CGS has also partnered in multi-state surveys and begun a statewide geochemical assessment to identify priority areas for further study. Lancaster emphasized the broad societal value of geologic mapping, noting a 10-to-1 benefit-cost ratio, and expressed hope that federal support for critical mineral mapping will continue beyond the Earth MRI program's planned sunset. He encouraged the public to consult CGS Note 58 for an overview of California's critical minerals.

Following the presentation there were several technical, policy, and implementation questions and comments from the Board. Member Holst asked about the methods and benefits of geochemical reconnaissance compared to other approaches. Lancaster explained it's a foundational step involving rock sampling and analysis to guide more detailed mapping and machine-learning-supported exploration. Holst then highlighted the lack of a state-level equivalent to the federal Earth MRI program and brought up the fragility of federal support, noting potential political volatility. Lancaster confirmed reliance on federal funding and acknowledged some programs like seismic hazard work have already faced cuts.

Further questions explored the potential reclassification of mineral resources, updates to mineral classification guidelines, and the accessibility of known deposits that may be constrained by land use conflicts (e.g., near national parks). Lancaster agreed that data from their mapping could support future resource classification and emphasized the need for further discussion within the upcoming Critical Minerals Committee. Member Landregan asked about the maps' currency and whether the mapping includes new mineral data; Lancaster confirmed many maps are newly produced and directly support critical mineral assessments. Finally, Member Driscoll inquired whether increased federal interest was matched by private sector activity; Lancaster responded that exploration funding appears focused on gold, not critical minerals.

B. *California's Metallic Mining Backfill Regulations Ensure Robust Reclamation of Mining Projects to Protect Landscape Values, Environmental and Cultural Resources* (Wendy Park, Senior Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity and Joseph Miller, Indigenous Community Relations Coordinator, Friends of the Inyo)

In her presentation, Wendy Park, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, strongly advocated for maintaining California's metallic mining backfill regulations. She explained that these regulations, adopted in the early 2000s, require open pit mines to be restored to their original topography after mining operations end, ensuring the land is safe, stable, and usable for other purposes. Park highlighted that prior to these rules, mining operations often left behind dangerous and environmentally damaging pits, leading to issues such as water contamination, air pollution, habitat destruction, and public safety risks. Studies showed severe environmental failures at most sites where backfill was not required. She emphasized that backfilled sites support habitat recovery, stabilize soil, protect water resources, and reduce long-term public costs. These restored lands are more ecologically functional and adaptable for future use, meeting the intent of state law.

Park also noted that relying solely on environmental review processes like CEQA has proven ineffective, and that local governments often lack the resources or incentives to enforce proper reclamation. Additionally, Park expressed concern about federal efforts to deregulate and fast-track mining approvals without adequate environmental safeguards, particularly during the Trump administration. She concluded that strong, consistent state regulations are essential to protect California's water, wildlife, and communities, and that the state must not backtrack on these protections.

Following Park's portion of the presentation, Joseph Miller, Indigenous Communities Relations Coordinator for Friends of the Inyo, spoke in strong support of California's existing mining backfill and reclamation requirements. Drawing from his experience working with tribal environmental programs and land defense efforts in the Eastern Sierra, Miller emphasized the destructive legacy of mining over the past 150 years, particularly the environmental and public safety threats posed by abandoned open-pit mines. He described how mining operations historically depleted land and left it damaged, prompting the need for regulations like SMARA and the 2003 metallic mine backfill rule to ensure land is restored and usable after mining.

Miller cited positive examples of land reclamation and reuse and described the dangers of inadequate reclamation, such as water contamination, air pollution, and land subsidence—often resulting in Superfund-level disasters, as he witnessed firsthand in Yerington, Nevada. He also pointed to the cultural and ecological importance of Eastern Sierra landscapes, particularly to Indigenous communities, where mining threatens sacred sites and biodiversity.

Miller emphasized widespread public opposition to mining in California, noting that although community members may not fully grasp the technical complexities of reclamation laws, they overwhelmingly want disturbed land restored. He highlighted the grassroots resistance to mining projects like those at Conglomerate Mesa and Hot Creek, where tribal alliances and local governments have united to pursue long-term protections for threatened lands. Miller concluded by stressing the importance of upholding current regulations, arguing that California must continue to lead on environmental stewardship and ensure that mining laws are fair, effective, and protective of both people and nature.

Following the backfill presentation, Nicole Rinke, the Board's legal counsel from the Attorney General's Office, provided clarifying comments based on both the current and previous meetings. She emphasized that the primary reason the Glamis Gold project was halted was due to the 2001 federal denial of its mining permit, rather than the state's backfill regulations adopted later in 2002. She also stressed that the backfill requirement

is rooted in state statute, not just regulation, meaning any substantive changes would require legislative action. Rinke further explained that the statute applies narrowly, specifically to areas near Native American sacred sites and designated areas of special concern. She cited the CR Briggs mine as an example of a project not affected by the statute, reinforcing its limited applicability. Additionally, she mentioned that pits left unfilled often turn into Superfund sites, suggesting environmental and public health risks that warrant consideration.

Members Landregan and Holst inquired as to whether any formal proposal had been made to revise the backfill requirements. Chair Sheingold clarified that the recent and previous presentations were intended to be informational only, and that no formal proposal to amend the backfill rules is currently under consideration. The discussion concluded with general agreement on the narrow scope of the current law, the importance of understanding the legal context, and the need for thorough consideration before pursuing any potential changes.

C. *Mining Ordinance Update Project Status* (SMGB Staff)
Geologist Mallory Jones provided an update on the Mining Ordinance Update Project. She explained that California law requires local lead agencies to have certified mining ordinances, but most haven't been updated since the 1990s. In response, the Board created new model ordinance guidance in 2023, and Board staff began a phased implementation project, now in its outreach phase.

Since March, staff have held workshops with key groups, including the California County Planning Directors Association (70 attendees), CalCIMA (28 industry participants), and the Rural County Representatives of California (32 attendees). These workshops helped raise awareness, gather feedback, and address common concerns about timelines, CEQA requirements, funding, and the ordinance review process. During these workshops, staff clarified the process and emphasized support for local agencies, including through direct meetings with counties that expressed early concerns.

To date, around 80% of California's lead agencies have been contacted. Board staff are organizing agencies into small groups to provide targeted guidance and encourage collaboration. Public engagement and transparency are being prioritized, with ongoing communication via newsletters, board meetings, and website updates. Draft ordinance submissions for the first group in the review order are expected to begin in late 2025 or early 2026.

Following Mallory Jones' presentation, board members raised a number of questions. Member Landregan inquired whether tribes and environmental groups were being included in the outreach process. Jones clarified that those groups had not been involved yet because lead agencies are still in the drafting phase, and tribal or environmental input would be more relevant once specific ordinance drafts are available for review.

Member Whyte asked whether the ordinance updates would impact existing mines or just new ones. Jones explained that they are intended to bring local ordinances into alignment with current state laws that all operations should already be following. Jones added that in some cases, ordinances may already be up to date but lack formal certification by the Board, which still places them out of compliance. Member Kenline noted that in old ordinances there is a provision that states when state law changes, state law shall prevail.

However, many older ordinances contain outdated timelines and provisions, even if they defer to state law in theory.

Member Los Huertos praised the project's rollout and asked about concerns raised by counties regarding timelines. Jones said many counties were worried about being called to update their ordinances before they had secured funding or resources. She noted that while the review process has taken a year or more in some cases, she expects it to become more efficient over time as best practices and certified examples become available.

On the topic of support and staffing, Jones acknowledged the limitations of their small team but emphasized their commitment to being available for regular guidance. She said that consistent communication helps reduce anxiety among lead agencies and supports the project's success.

Member Zafir asked if there was a firm deadline for ordinance updates. Jones responded that no hard deadlines had been set yet, and the timeline remains flexible. However, she recognized the risk of indefinite delays and indicated that stricter deadlines might need to be considered in the future. However, the goal is to avoid lead agency takeovers.

Finally, Chair Sheingold emphasized the importance of building cooperative relationships with lead agencies, rather than enforcing updates punitively. Jones agreed, noting that fostering trust could help avoid the need for formal enforcement actions.

14. Executive Session (Closed to the Public)

The Board will discuss information from its legal counsel on potential litigation and may take appropriate actions based on this information. This session is being held under Government Code, Section 11126.

No executive session was held.

15. Announcements and Future Meetings

The next Regular Business Meeting will be held on June 19, 2025.

16. Adjournment

Member Landregan motioned to adjourn, and Member Zafir seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, Chair Sheingold adjourned the May 15, 2025, Regular Business Meeting at 1:03 P.M.

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

THE BOARD

The State Mining and Geology Board (Board) serves as a regulatory, policy, and appeals body representing the State's interests in the reclamation of mined lands, geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, and the conservation of mineral resources.

The Board was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees to oversee the activities of the Sate Mineralogist and the California Division of Mines and Geology (now the California Geological Survey). It is second oldest Board in California. Today's Board has nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, for four-year terms. By statute, Board members must have specific professional backgrounds in geology, mining engineering, environmental protection, groundwater hydrology and rock chemistry, urban planning, landscape architecture, mineral resource conservation, and seismology, with one member representing the general public.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Board is to provide professional expertise and guidance, and to represent the State's interest in the development, utilization, and conservation of mineral resources, the reclamation of mined lands and the development and dissemination of geologic and seismic hazard information to protect the health and welfare of the people of California.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Board is an independent entity within the Department of Conservation under the Natural Resources Agency and is granted responsibilities and obligations under the following acts:

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Sections 2710 et seq. and its regulations at 14 California Code of Regulations Section 3500 et seq., the Board provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized, and mined lands are reclaimed. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the State's mineral resources.

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Section 2621 through Section 2630, and its regulations at 14 California Code Regulations Section 3600 et seq., the Board is authorized to represent the State's interests in establishing guidelines and standards for geological and geophysical investigations and reports produced by the California Geological Survey, public sector agencies, and private practitioners. The Board is also authorized to develop specific criteria through regulations to be used by Lead Agencies in complying with the provisions of the Act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Section 2690 through Section 2699.6 and its regulations at 14 California Code of Regulations Section 3720 et seq. the Board is authorized to provide policy and guidance through regulations for a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program to assist cities, counties, and State agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction or other ground failure, landslides and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes, including tsunami and seiche threats.

GENERAL PROCEDURAL INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board is governed by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act that requires the Board to:

1) Publish an Agenda at least ten days in advance of any meeting
2) Describe in the Agenda specific items to be transacted or discussed
3) Refuse to add an item no later than ten days prior to any meeting and republishing of the agenda
4) Call a closed session by the Chair to discuss litigation and other matters
5) Make all testimony, files, and documents part of the administrative record

Other Agenda material and reports will be available approximately one week prior to the scheduled Board meeting. All Board related information is available at https://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb.

The Board encourages the submittal of comments, written material, or technical reports thirty days prior to the applicable Board meeting. All such material concerning any matters on the agenda can be submitted to: smgb@conservation.ca.gov or addressed to:

State Mining and Geology Board
715 P Street, MS 1909
Sacramento, CA 95814

Following the Board meetings, links to presentations and meeting recordings will be available upon request: smgb@conservation.ca.gov

Agenda Item No.13A September 18, 2025

Review of staff compliance activities at Pyrite Quarry, summary of Draft Stipulated Order to Comply negotiated with Riverside Mining Ltd., and recommendation for Board to delegate to the Executive Officer, Jeffrey Schmidt, authority to finalize and execute the Stipulated Order to Comply.

INTRODUCTION:

Board staff will provide an update to the State Mining and Geology Board (Board) on compliance actions pursued at the Pyrite Quarry. Board staff will also summarize the terms and conditions of the Draft Stipulated Order to Comply (SOTC) negotiated with the operator of Pyrite Quarry and recommend the Board delegates authority to the Executive Officer (EO) to finalize and execute the SOTC.

Pyrite Quarry

The Board currently serves as the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) lead agency for 36 surface mining operations, one of which is the Pyrite Quarry **(**CA Mine ID#91-33-0062**),** located in the City of Jurupa Valley (City), California. Riverside Mining Ltd. (Operator) owns the property and operates the Pyrite Quarry, which is a hard rock mine that has been in operation since the 1950's and produces construction aggregates.

The City incorporated in 2011, and it assumed local land use control from Riverside County. However, because the City does not have a local mining ordinance, the Board is the SMARA lead agency. In this capacity, the Board is responsible for approving reclamation plans, financial assurances, and annually inspecting the mining operation for compliance with SMARA. The Board acknowledges that the City retains its land use authority regarding the site and for insuring conformity with the City's municipal codes. Surface mining operations at, and reclamation of, the Pyrite Quarry are authorized under Reclamation Plan RP#123, which was approved by Riverside County in 1990, and a subsequent reclamation plan amendment approved by the Board in 2018.

Delegation of Certain SMARA Administrative Authority to the Board's EO

The Board has historically delegated some authorities under SMARA to the EO as the chief administrative officer for the Board who is responsible for ensuring that the Board's decisions and policies are efficiently and completely implemented. (A more detailed discussion on delegated authority follows later in the staff report). The table below summarizes some of the recent Board delegations:

Year	Delegations of Authority to the EO
2002	Issue Notices of Violation (NOV)
2017	Accept Inspection Reports (IR)
2019	Accept and approve Financial Assurance Cost Estimates (FACE)

In the 2017 delegation of authority to the Board's EO, it was recognized that staff will highlight any compliance issues that arise through its inspections and will agendize discussion of significant compliance issues at a particular site. Board staff have provided updates to the Board several times over the last several years on compliance activities at the Pyrite Quarry.

PYRITE QUARRY COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES:

During the time of the compliance activities described below, there has been ongoing legal disputes related to the Pyrite Quarry, which has required additional coordination to resolve some reclamation plan compliance issues. Starting in April 2017, the Operator engaged Quality Aggregates (QA) to perform certain mining activities consistent with the Operator's rights and approvals at the Pyrite Quarry. On June 10, 2021, QA commenced litigation against the Operator, followed by additional litigation in 2023. On May 30, 2025, the Operator and QA entered into a settlement agreement resolving all disputes, pursuant to which QA will vacate the Pyrite Quarry site by December 31, 2025.

2023 Inspection

Representatives from the City and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) attended the annual SMARA inspection of the Pyrite Quarry conducted by Board staff on December 5, 2023. Following the inspection, Board staff issued an Inspection Report and the Notice of Completion of Inspection (dated June 10, 2024). Staff observed that surface mining operations at the Pyrite Quarry likely exceeded the reclamation boundary in several areas. At least four areas of concern were noted:

1. surficial disturbance above the northern highwall,
2. a cut slope along the western boundary,
3. an access road, and a graded parking area in the northeastern corner, and,
4. a storm water control pond that may exceed the maximum allowed depth.

Additionally, the inspector noted the placement of imported fill covering most of the entire southern portion of the reclamation plan area, at a thickness of approximately two to ten feet, is an activity not associated with mining or reclamation. Although this issue was not noted as a violation under SMARA, Board staff were aware that the City filed a lawsuit naming both the Operator and QA as defendants and alleging several issues, including the importation of fill onto the Pyrite Quarry.

2024 Notice of Violation

As a result of the 2023 annual inspection, Board staff concluded that the Pyrite Quarry was not in compliance with the approved reclamation plan and issued a Notice of Violation (NOV), dated July 2, 2024, for mining activities outside of the approved reclamation boundary. The NOV directed the Operator to consult with the Board and the owners of the property affected by the encroachment of surface mining operations outside of the approved reclamation plan boundary. The NOV also directed the Operator:

1. to engage a licensed professional land surveyor to place field monuments to delineate the reclamation plan boundary;
2. to determine the depth of the area described as a storm water control pond; and
3. to submit an updated topographic survey of the surface mining operation.

The NOV indicated that the Operator may seek to amend the approved reclamation plan to include the reclamation of mined lands that remain located outside of the approved reclamation plan boundaries. In addition to identifying the violations listed above, the NOV stated that the final disposition of the imported fill on the southern portion of the reclamation plan area will require coordination with the

City due to the pending litigation filed by the City related to the fill. The NOV further states that the Operator shall consult with the Board regarding the final disposition of the imported fill, and that the Operator may seek an amendment to the reclamation plan to address fill issues that remain inconsistent with the current approved reclamation plan.

Within 30 days of issuance of the 2024 NOV, the Operator submitted a letter to the Board committing to enter a SOTC pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) 2774.1(a)(3)(A) because correction of the violations would exceed 30 days. Board staff and representatives for the Operator thereafter met in Sacramento to commence negotiations of the terms of the Draft SOTC.

2024 Inspection

Representatives from the City and DTSC attended the annual SMARA inspection of the Pyrite Quarry conducted by Board staff on December 11, 2024. Following the inspection, Board staff issued an Inspection Report and the Notice of Completion of Inspection on May 16, 2025.

The inspector noted that a portion of an access road used for active surface mining activities located in the northeast corner was realigned to address a violation noted during the previous inspection. The area on the adjacent parcel owned by DTSC that was encroached on by the access road was graded and hydroseeded consistent with existing reclamation performance standards.

At the time of the inspection, the Operator indicated that some of the corners of the approved reclamation boundary were physically staked by a licensed professional surveyor. The inspector did observe PVC piping inserted over fence posts (boundary stakes) that appeared to be corners of the reclamation boundary. Existing grades and elevations were not staked. The Operator submitted a Topographic Survey (Survey) of the site dated January 24, 2025, by Brandon Allen, CA PLS# 9093.

Based both on relative surface features, boundary stakes, and the topographic survey, staff noted there appears to be surface mining operations conducted outside of the approved reclamation plan boundary with respect to both depth and areal extent. The exact extent of boundary exceedance is an issue pending evaluation consistent with the terms of the Draft SOTC.

Please see attached map, that illustrates the approximate locations of reclamation plan boundary exceedance.

Summary of Terms and Conditions of the Draft Stipulated Order to Comply

Following issuance of the 2024 NOV, Board staff began diligently working with the Operator on the terms and timelines to address the violations identified during 2023 and 2024 inspection. Based on these negotiations between Board staff and the Operator, Board staff developed the Draft SOTC. Board staff consider the Draft SOTC to adequately address the remaining SMARA violations in a reasonable timeframe. Additionally, the Draft SOTC provides flexibility to consider future amendments to the reclamation plan, including with respect to the non-surface mining activities (fill on southern portion of the site) that are the subject of City enforcement actions.

The table below summarizes the Terms and Conditions of the Draft SOTC.

SUMMARY OF SOTC TERMS AND CONDITIONS	
1. Stop Unauthorized Activities	Operator must stop all mining and related activities outside the approved Reclamation Plan area, unless legally permitted or required for reclamation.

2. Submit Survey	Operator submitted a Topographic Survey to the Board in December 2024.
3. Identify Out-of-Bounds Activities	Within 60 days, a licensed land surveyor must: • Identity all areas where activities occurred beyond approved boundaries. • Walk the site with Board staff to verify these areas.
4. List Affected Property Owners	Within 60 days, Operator must: • Provide a list of adjacent property owners affected by boundary violations. • Include consultation status and steps taken to resolve encroachments (e.g., access negotiations, remediation, inspections).
5. Address Storm Water Control Pond	By June 31, 2026, Operator must: • Either fill the pond area per the Reclamation Plan, • Or amend the plan to reflect current conditions.
6. Submit Interim Financial Estimate	Within 90 days, Operator must submit an interim FACE to cover reclamation costs and update the Financial Assurance Mechanism (FAM). This will supersede previous FACE submissions.
7. Coordinate on Imported Fill Issues	Operator must continue working with the City to resolve issues related to imported fill and code compliance, based on mutual agreement.
8. Notify Board of Fill Agreement	Within 7 days of reaching agreement with the City about imported fill, Operator must inform the Board.
9. Possible Reclamation Plan Amendment	If Operator and the Board agree that changes to the Reclamation Plan are needed to fix violations or better reflect current site conditions, Operator will submit an updated plan for Board approval.
10. Comply with All Laws	Operator must follow all local, state, and federal laws, and obtain required permits. If there's a conflict between the law and the SOTC, Operator must notify the Board within 60 days and pause conflicting activity until resolved.
11. Status Updates Every 90 Days	Within 90 days of this Order and every 90 days after, Operator must submit written updates to Board on compliance progress.
12. Request Extensions if Needed	If Operator can't meet a deadline, they may request an extension in writing before the deadline, explaining the reason and showing good faith efforts to comply. The Board EO can grant the extension if there's a valid reason—especially if delays are caused by other agencies or third parties.
13. Noncompliance Consequences	If Operator fails to comply, the Board can issue enforcement orders and impose civil penalties. Good faith efforts, especially those involving third-party coordination, will be considered.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY BACKGROUND:

Board delegation to the EO to finalize and execute the Draft SOTC is consistent with previous Board delegations to the EO.

In 2002, the Board recognized the EO authority to issue a NOV pursuant to the provisions of PRC Section 2774.1. The purpose of that action was (1) to avoid delays in initiation of preliminary

enforcement actions for existing SMARA violations caused by the Board's meeting schedule, and (2) to allow execution of the ministerial action of issuing a NOV in a more timely and efficient manner.

In 2017, the Board recognized the EO's authority to accept inspection reports as performed and completed pursuant to PRC Section 2774 for surface mining operations where the Board serves as the SMARA lead agency. The purpose of that action was: (1) to ensure completion and transmittal of annual inspection reports in accordance with statutory timelines; (2) to allow for greater flexibility in workload management by the Board's inspector while streamlining conduct and completion of the annual surface mine inspection process; and (3) to facilitate the Board's timely recovery of the costs associated with completion of the annual inspection process.

Most recently in 2019, the Board recognized the EO's authority to accept and approve FACEs. The purpose of this action was: (1) to address the ongoing concern of excessive delays between an operator submittal and ultimate approval of an annual FACE; (2) to allow execution of the ministerial action of approving annual FACEs in a more timely and efficient manner; and (3) allow for greater flexibility in workload management by the Board's lead agency staff resulting in the streamlining of the annual FACE review and approval processes.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Board staff consider the term and conditions of the Draft SOTC ready for any Board input and direction. Based on Board direction, there may be some modifications to the terms and conditions prior to final execution of the SOTC. To avoid delay in finalizing the SOTC, to ensure efficient use of time during future Board meetings, and to account for the limited size of Board staff, staff recommends the Board delegate authority to the EO to finalize and execute the SOTC in accordance with Board direction. This approach is consistent with prior delegations of authority granted to the EO for matters such as NOVs, inspections, and FACEs executed to facilitate timely and efficient completion of Board responsibilities.

Suggested Motion Language

Board Chair and Members, in light of the information before the Board, I move to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to finalize and execute the Stipulated Order to Comply drafted for the Pyrite Quarry consistent with Board direction.

Respectfully submitted:

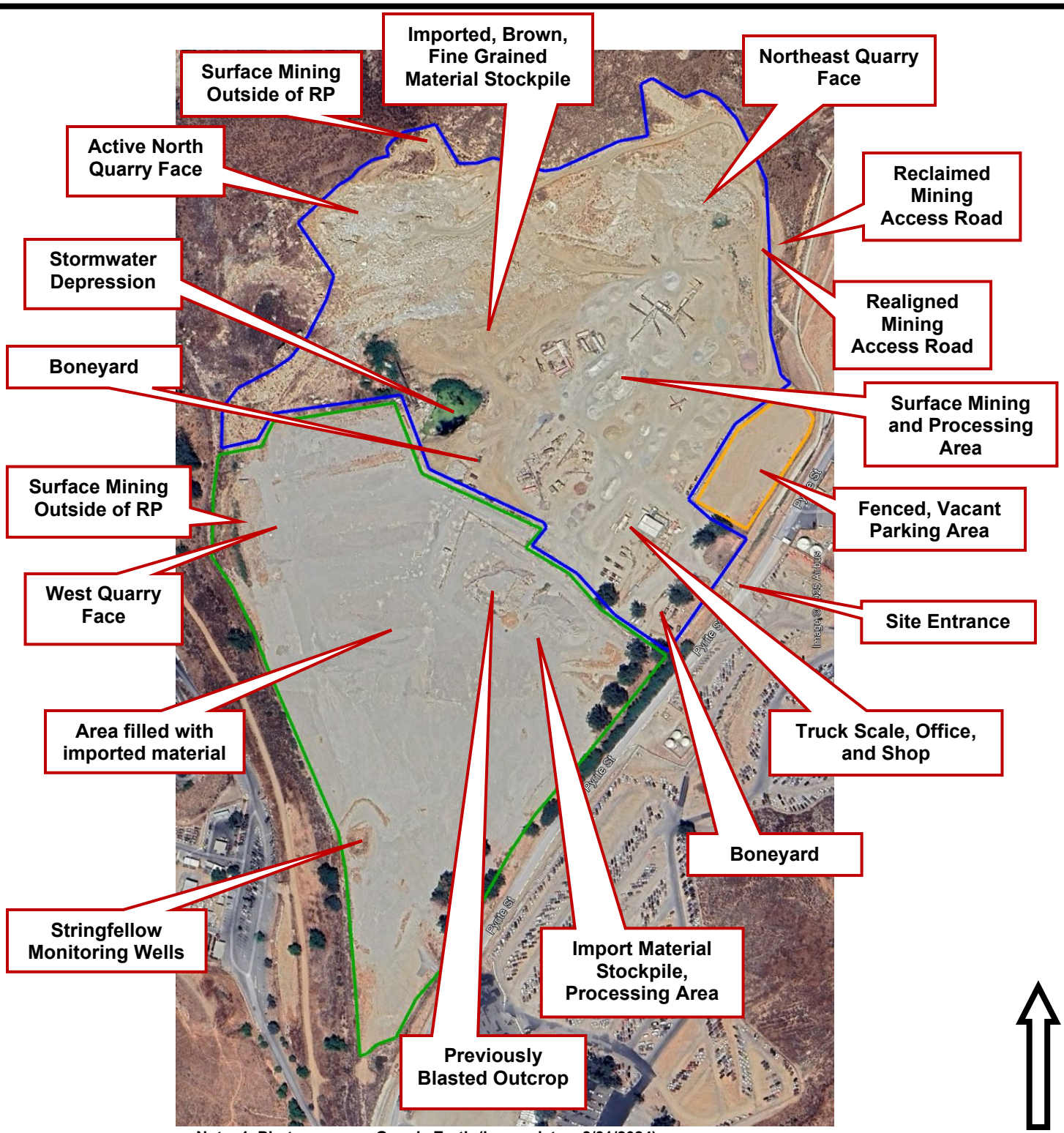


Jeffrey Schmidt
Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2024 Inspection Map

ATTACHMENT: 2024 Inspection Map



Note: 1. Photo source = Google Earth (image date = 8/31/2024).
2. Not to scale
3. Some features visible on air photo are not reflective of current site conditions.

FIGURE 2
SITE LAYOUT MAP

PYRITE QUARRY
CA MINE ID No. 91-33-0062
JURUPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

2024 ANNUAL INSPECTION

ALL AREAS SHOWN ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY

- Eastern Parking Areas
- Imported Material Stockpile, Process, and Filling Area
- Active Surface Mining Operations Area

Agenda Item No. 13B September 18, 2025

Review of initial definition of "critical minerals," with possible action by the Board.

INTRODUCTION:
At its recent meeting, the Critical Minerals Committee (CMC) reviewed and discussed Board staff's draft definition of "critical minerals." Should the CMC concur on a preliminary definition of "critical minerals", then an update of CMC Agenda Item 8A will be provided to the Board.

DISCUSSION:
The Board will review and consider a draft definition of "critical minerals".

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
Recommend that the Board direct the initiation of pre-rulemaking activities to formally define "critical minerals".

SUGGESTED MOTION:

> *Board Chair and Members, considering the information before the Board today, I move to direct staff to initiate pre-rulemaking activities to formally define "critical minerals".*

OR

> *Board Chair and Members, considering the information before the Board today, I move to direct staff to revise the draft definition of "critical minerals" and return the revised draft to the CMC for further consideration.*

Respectfully submitted:



_____
Jeffrey Schmidt,
Executive Officer

REFERENCES:

- Critical Minerals Committee Meeting (9/18/2025): 8A EO Report

Agenda Item No. 13C September 18, 2025

Proposal of plan for updating the Board's Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines to reflect the inclusion of conserving critical minerals with possible action by the Board.

INTRODUCTION:
At its recent meeting, the Critical Minerals Committee (CMC) reviewed and discussed Board staff's proposed plan of action for updating the Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines. Should the Committee concur with the proposed approach, the outcome of CMC Agenda Item 8B is presented here for the Board's consideration.

DISCUSSION:
The Board will review Board staff's plan of action for updating the Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
Recommend that the Board direct the initiation of the plan of action for updating the Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Board Chair and Members, considering the information before the Board today, I move to direct staff to proceed with implementation of the proposed plan of action for updating the Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines.

OR

Board Chair and Members, considering the information before the Board today, I move to direct staff to revise the plan of action and return the revision to the CMC for further consideration.

Respectfully submitted:



_____
Jeffrey Schmidt,
Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

- Plan of Action Flow Chart

REFERENCES:

- Guidelines For Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands
- Critical Minerals Committee Meeting (9/18/2025): 8B EO Report

Attachment: Flowchart

Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines Update

COLLABORATION





- **Interested Parties**

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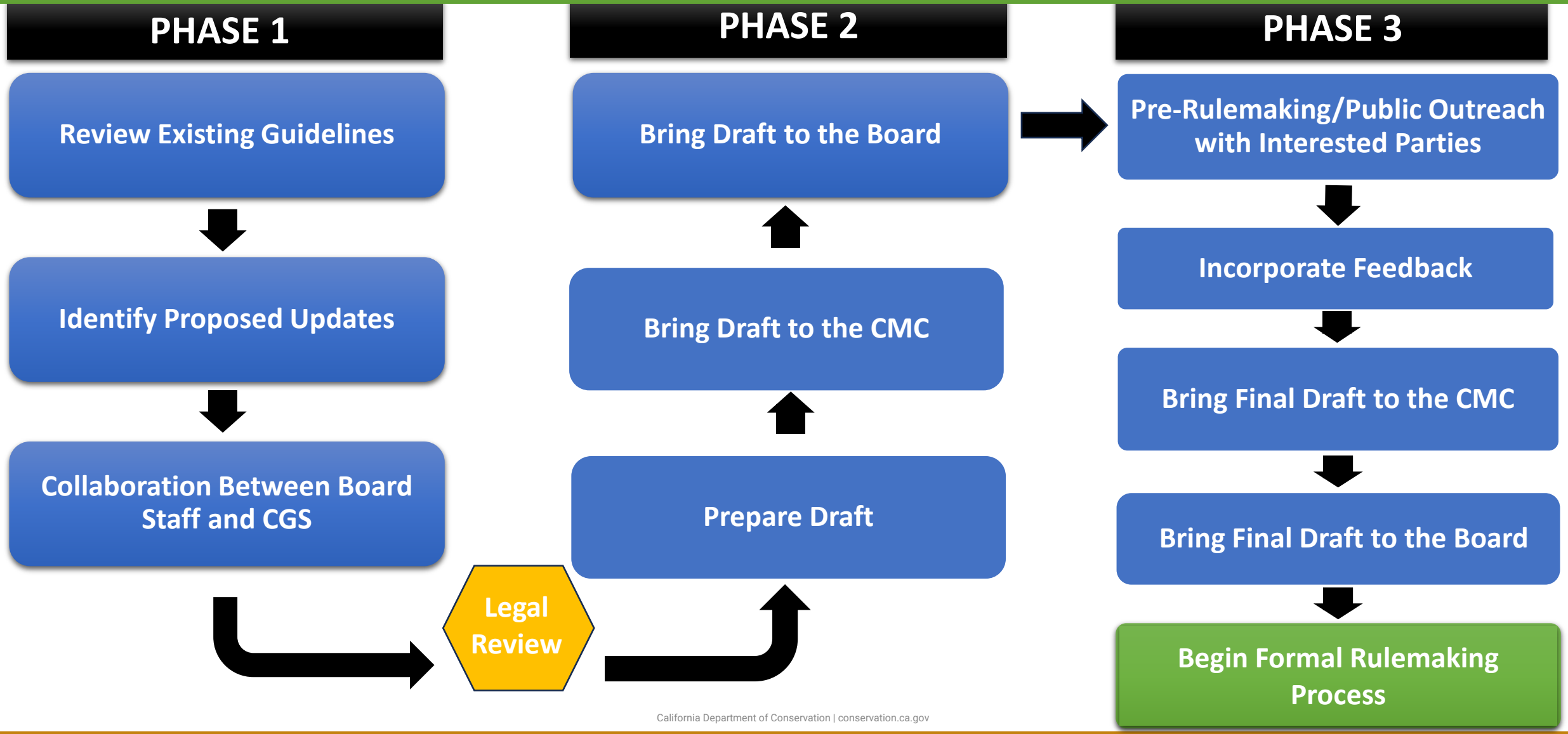
- **Board Staff**
- **Critical Minerals Committee (CMC)**
- **State Mining and Geology Board (Board)**

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- **California Geological Survey (CGS)**

Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines Update: Plan of Action



Agenda Item No. 13D

September 18, 2025

Election of the Board's Vice-chair

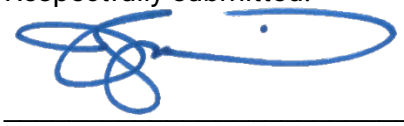
INTRODUCTION:

Pursuant to Public Resource Code (PRC) 669, which states, "the board shall annually elect a vice chair from among its members," the State Mining and Geology Board will nominate and elect a vice chair that will succeed this position currently held by Member Fred Jung. This appointment will be effective immediately following the conclusion of the September 18, 2025, regular board meeting.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Board Chair and Members, pursuant to PRC 669, I move that the Board nominate and elect a vice-chair of the State Mining and Geology Board.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey Schmidt,
Executive Officer

Agenda Item No. 14A

September 18, 2025

Presentation: ***Acknowledgment of Greg Tenorio (DOC Legal)***
by: SMGB staff

INFORMATION:

Board staff will recognize Greg Tenorio (DOC Legal) with an acknowledgment of his service.

Agenda Item No. 14B

September 18, 2025

Presentation: ***Report on Board Staff's Mountain Pass Mine Site Visit***
by: SMGB staff

INFORMATION:

Board staff will provide a brief background and historical overview of the Mountain Pass Rare Earth Element Mine, located in Mountain Pass, California. In addition, staff will present a summary of the site visit conducted on July 1, 2025.