

# HISTORY OF THE SMGB

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## INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the SMGB celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The SMGB has evolved over time, with its history divided into three major eras emphasizing the nature of its work: Board of Trustees during the Administrative Era (1885-1913), State Mining Board during the Mineral Resources Development Era (1929-1965), and SMGB during the Mineral Conservation, Reclamation and Geologic Hazards Era (1965- Present). The SMGB was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees. Its original purpose was to oversee the activities of the State Mineralogist and the Bureau of Mines, now the CGS, which was created by the Legislature five years earlier. The Board of Trustees was abolished in 1913, and reestablished as the State Mining Board in 1929. During these early years, the State Mining Board provided general policy and guidance to the Governor and the Division of Mines (now CGS), and served an advisory role for the Department of Natural Resources (now Department of Conservation) which was established in 1927. The State Mining Board was renamed the State Mining and Geology Board in 1965. Its focus was primarily on development of the State's mineral resources. In the 1960s, the emphasis on mineral resource development would shift to geologic hazards and addressing the environmental impacts of mining. By 1975, the SMGB was granted additional powers and duties, and became involved with the implementation of policy pertaining to geologic hazards and surface mining and reclamation. These responsibilities recognized the impacts that California's complex geology, large amounts of federally managed lands, high mineralization, and potential for geologic hazards, had on the State's economy, land use, and public safety.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (1885 – 1913)

The predecessor of today's CGS was created by the Legislature in 1880 under "*An Act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Mining Bureau.*" Its chief officer was designated as the State Mineralogist. Soon after the establishment of the State Mining Bureau in 1885, it was quickly noted that the responsibility of the rapidly growing Bureau was too much for one individual to assume (Hanks, 1885). California's first appointed State Mineralogist, Henry G. Hanks, repeatedly asked the Legislature for the appointment of a Board of Trustees who would be vested with the financial and general management of the Bureau, leaving Hanks free to pursue the work of the Bureau. The State Mining and Geology Board was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees. Its purpose was to oversee the activities of the State Mineralogist and the State Mining Bureau, which was created five years earlier.

Assembly Bill No. 78 was passed by the Assembly on February 11, 1885, and the Senate on March 5, 1885. The bill was titled:

*"An Act supplementary to an Act entitled 'An Act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Mining Board'", approved April 16, 1880. The bill read as follows:*

*The people of the State of California, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact the following:*

*SECTION 1. All property of this State pertaining to said Mining Bureau, and the money and financial affairs thereof, shall be vested in and be under the direction and control of a Board of Trustees of said Bureau.*

*SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the Governor of the State to appoint five (5) citizens and residents of this State to be such Trustees.*

*SECTION 3. The appointees herein mentioned, when assembled, shall constitute the Board of Trustees of the State Mining Bureau, three of whom shall constitute a quorum. The Board shall have power by said name, to sue and defend. They shall keep a record of all their proceedings, and they shall elect one of those so appointed to be President of the Board, and shall have the right to appoint a custodian of the Museum and other employees. The State Mineralogist shall be the director of the Museum, and shall have the right to appoint a custodian of the Museum, and other employees, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, and it shall be his duty to consult the Board in all matters of importance.*

*SECTION 4. Said Board shall make rules for its own government, for regulating the custody and disbursement of funds, and the mode of drawing the same from the State Treasury.*

*SECTION 5. The Board of Trustees shall, annually, report to the Governor of the State the condition of the Bureau, with a statement of the receipts and expenditures in detail, which report shall be published in the annual report of the State Mineralogist, provided for in the Act to which this is supplementary.*

*SECTION 6. The Trustees are hereby empowered to pay out of any moneys coming into their hands, the amount advanced by Wells, Fargo & Company, shown in the financial statement of the State Mineralogist, and published in his reports.*

*SECTION 7. The Board of Trustees shall be empowered to receive, on behalf of the State, bequests or gifts, legacies and devises, real estate and other property, and to use the same in accordance with the wishes of the donors; and if no instructions are given, to use their discretion for the best interests of the State Museum.*

*SECTION 8. The Board of Trustees may, with the assistance of the State Mineralogist, prepare a special collection of ores and minerals of California, to be sent to any World's Fair or Exposition, at which they may deem it desirable to display the mineral wealth of the State.*

*SECTION 9. All Acts or laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.*

*SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect immediately.*

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Governor appointed the following "gentlemen" Trustees:

Chairman: William Irelan, Jr. (Figure 1)  
Vice Chairman: S. Heydenfeldt, Jr.  
J. Z. Davis  
Walter E. Dean  
George Hearst (Figure 2)



Figure 1. Board of Trustees Chairman William Irelan, Jr., who from 1886 to 1892 would become the second State Mineralogist.

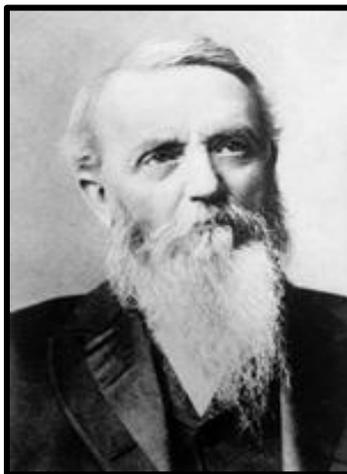


Figure 2. Founding Board of Trustees member George Hearst.

The Board was organized on April 18, 1885. All financial matters from such date would be managed by the Board of Trustees, who would also report yearly to the Governor.

The early reports of the Board of Trustees focused on the condition of the State Mining Bureau, its increase in minerals for the museum, books, etc., and a statement of its receipts and expenditures. The Board would be persistent and relentless in their recommendations and pursuit of increases in the appropriations for the State Mining Bureau.

On May 13, 1886, William Irelan, Jr., was appointed State Mineralogist following the resignation of Henry G. Hanks, Esq. Irelan's replacement on the Board of Trustees was W. S. Keyes, Esq. Walter Dean was absent from California when the report was prepared, and thus was not listed as a Board member. Noteworthy in their 1886 report:

*“It is deplored that our Legislature have, for a successive number of years, seemingly ignored the importance of our mineral deposits.*

*Our Geological Survey failed for want of appropriations in 1873-74, and has been discontinued ever since; the Mining Bureau was not established until 1880, and has never received the financial assistance needed.*

*The smallest of the Colonies of Great Britain give more attention and encouragement to their mining interests than the State of California.”*

After summarizing the monies devoted to building roads and prospecting in New Zealand over the past four years, that being on the order of \$1,185,567, they would go on to state:

*“In view of these facts, the Trustees of the State Mining Bureau earnestly appeal to the Legislature, to give the aid so greatly needed, which will contribute materially to the wealth and progress of the State, and to the prosperity of her people.*

*The sum of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) for the two coming fiscal years, is respectfully suggested, as a moderate appropriation for the support and maintenance of the Mining Bureau”*

The Board of Trustees aim during these early years was to make the Mining Bureau “*most practical, uniting scientific as well as educational features.*”

In 1891, the Board of Trustees would publish “Preliminary Mineralogical and Geological Map of the State of California” (Figure 3). The map was prepared and published in four sections as a scale of 1:750,000; 12 miles equals one inch. Beginning with this map, the responsibility for succeeding editions of relatively large-scale geologic maps of California has remained with the State. Only eight geologic units were depicted with special emphasis given to mineral resources, including auriferous gravel, auriferous slate and limestone, and the locations of known mineral deposits are shown. The map was issued by the State Mineralogist, William Ireland, Jr. and executed by Mr. Julius Henkenius with aid from the Field Assistants.

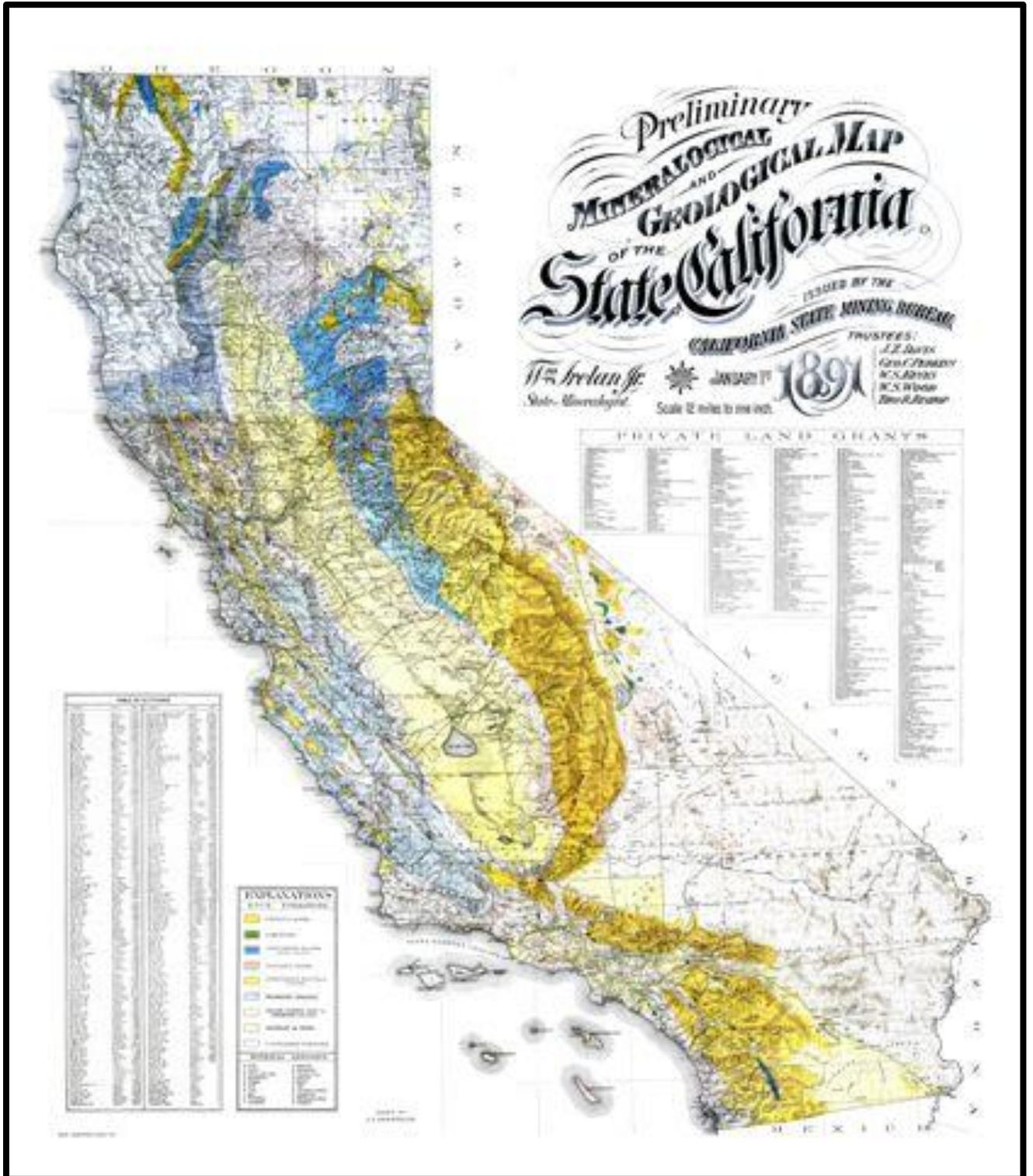


Figure 3. Geologic map of the State of California, published in 1891 by the State Mining Bureau, and noting the members of the Board of Trustees.

What did California gain from their efforts?

*“We deem it safe to affirm that the money voted by the Legislature for the support of our institution has already induced cash investments in this State aggregating over one million of dollars; in a word, more than tenfold the sum total of the whole appropriation.”*

The State Mining Bureau Act of 1893 would further clarify the roles of the Board of Trustees and the State Mineralogist.

By 1896, the Board makeup was;

J. Z. Davis  
W. S. Keyes (Figure 4a)  
Thomas B. Bishop (Figure 4b)  
W. S. Lyle  
J. E. Doolittle (Figure 4c)



Figure 4. 1896 Board of Trustees members Keyes (a), Bishop (b) and Doolittle (c).

The last report of the makeup of the Board of Trustees was noted in a mine register published by El Dorado County in 1902. The 1902 publication noted the Board of Trustees being comprised of:

W. C. Ralston, President  
Thomas B. Bishop, Vice President  
Frank G. Drum  
F. H. Harvey  
Frank Monaghan (Figure 5)  
J. F. Armstrong, Field Assistant

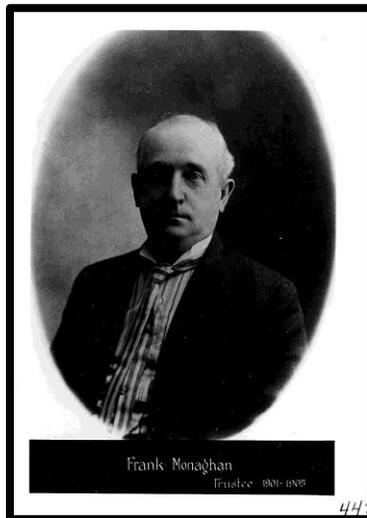


Figure 5. Trustee Member Frank Monaghan

### **ABOLISHMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (1913)**

Although provisions were made in 1884 for a Board of Trustees, to be appointed by the Governor, and to act in an advisory capacity and to supervise expenditures, the Board of Trustees was repealed by amendment of the act in 1913, and all powers of the Board of Trustees were vested in the State Mineralogist.

In 1927, the Department of Natural Resources Act was implemented, which included the name of the State Mining Bureau being changed to the Division of Mines and Mining. The Executive Officer, known as the Director of Natural Resources, was responsible for the management of the new department. The department was divided into at least four divisions including the Division of Mines and Mining (formerly State Mining Bureau), Division of Forestry, Division of Parks and Division of Fish and Game. The Division of Mines and Mining was administered by a chief known as the State Mineralogist.

The department was invested with all the duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities and jurisdiction of the State Mining Bureau, State Mineralogist, and Department of Petroleum and Gas.

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE MINING BOARD (1929 – 1965)**

In 1929, the Division of Mines and Mining was changed to the Division of Mines. The State Mining Board was also created in 1929 by amendment of the Department of Natural Resources statute (Sections 373a and 373b of the Political Code, Chapter 128). Legislation in 1929 amended the 1927 statutes and created the five-member State Mining Board, which had the responsibilities to determine "...*general policies for the guidance of the Division of Mines.*" The board would serve as an advisory group to the State Mineralogist and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Board members were appointed by the Governor, and held office at the pleasure of the Governor.

According to W. W. Bradley in his Biennial Report of the State Mineralogist for the period July 1, 1928, to June 30, 1930 (26<sup>th</sup> Report of the State Mineralogist, pp. 489-494, 1931).

*“The first meeting of this new board was held in Sacramento, April 10, 1930, at which time an outline of policy and procedure was adopted. Subsequently, two meetings were held in San Francisco, the budget for the coming biennium for the division and the geological survey being the principal matter considered and approved for recommendation.”*

Note: The geological survey referred to above was the Geological and Economic Mineral Survey, a part of the Division organization under the direction of the Chief Geologist.

No records of minutes of these meetings of this first board could be located, nor did subsequent publications of the Division of Mines and Geology refer to subsequent meetings of the board. According to Stewart (1970), the earliest record in the board files maintained by the Division of Mines and Geology pertained to the Mining Board appointed by former Governor Merriam (1934-1939). The Mining Association of California in an undated statement makes reference to the fact that *“For the past several years this important Board, whose duty it is to advise the Governor upon general policies for the guidance of the Division of Mines, was allowed to lapse.”* This statement was followed by the minutes of the first four meetings of that Board.

The 1934 Board appointed by Governor Merriam was composed of:

Errol MacBoyle	President, Idaho-Maryland Company, Grass Valley
Charles G. Johnson	State Treasurer, Sacramento
Robert A. Kenzie	Consulting Engineer, San Francisco
Charles H. Segerstrom	President, Carson Hill Gold Mining Corporation, Sonora
Edward M. Smith	President, Emsco Asbestos Company, Los Angeles

At the first Board meeting, August 14, 1934, MacBoyle was elected Chairman. Smith resigned and was replaced by Robert Linton. Mr. J. C. Kemp van Fe was named Secretary.

The next known record of board meetings was in a letter dated July 17, 1940, which referred to a regular meeting of the board on June 16, 1940, and an excerpt of that meeting. With the previous Board becoming inactive, Governor Olson appointed a new Board composed of:

C. H. O'Rourke  
James E. Babcock  
Vincent W. Ryan  
Leroy Palmer  
Frank Clark

From March 1, 1943 to June 30, 1943, the World War II years, the budget was reallocated. A gap exists in the known record until 1944, with no information on activities of any board during this interim. A press notice, dated April 21, 1944, announces a new Board appointed by Governor Warren (1942-1952), which marked the beginning of the “modern” Board. Meetings were identified as *“The first meeting of the State Mining Board appointed by Governor Warren.”* P. R. Bradley was named Chairman on April 26, 1944, a position he would hold for nearly 26 years.

In 1945, the State Mining Board policy statement was published in the Mining and Industrial News (January 1945). The Board under Governor Warren was composed of:

Philip R. Bradley, Jr.	Pacific Mining Company, Jamestown
F. C. Van Deirse	General Manager, Yuba Consolidated Goldfields; President, Gold Producers of California, San Francisco
William C. Browning	Manager, Golden Queen Mining Company, Mojave
William Wallace Mein, Jr.	Calaveras Cement Company, San Andreas
George W. Hallock	President, California Hydraulic Mining Association, Grass Valley

At its meeting of January 19, 1950, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, General Warren T. Hannison, had a drawing by lot to decide on the expiration dates of each of the five members of the State Mining Board. The results of the drawing were to be submitted to the Governor for his approval. At its March 7, 1950, meeting, the Director notified the Board that the Governor had approved the drawing by lot, and had appointed the members of the Board, subject to Senate confirmation the day of this meeting, effective February 9, 1950, for terms as follows:

F. C. van Deirse	Expiration January 15, 1951
William Wallace Mein, Jr.	Expiration January 15, 1954
George W. Hallock	Expiration January 15, 1951
P. R. Bradley, Jr.	Expiration January 15, 1952
William C. Browning	Expiration January 15, 1952

All but Mein were reappointed for additional four-year terms. Van Deirse resigned in 1953, and his place was filled by J. P. Hall, a publisher from Santa Cruz. In 1954, Mein would be replaced by L. L. Huelsdonk, General Manager of Best Mines, for a term ending January 15, 1958. Hallock was elected Secretary. Hall was formally appointed for a term ending January 15, 1955.

Policy statements introduced by the Board during this period permeated all facets of the Division. Those approved included:

- A. Secure and publish the results of the work of the United States Geological Survey in California.
- B. Enlarge the program of purchase of geologic reports made by qualified graduate students of the universities.
- C. Increase, so far as possible, the amount of work of an engineering nature.
- D. Increase, so far as possible, attention to metallurgical developments and recording of metallurgical processes and history on California.
- E. Cooperate with those Colleges of Mining and Universities in the State where research in mining and metallurgical fields is proceeding, to the extent that, where of sufficient importance, the results of such work may be placed in the Library of the Division.
- F. To the list of publications add two bulletins printed not less often than annually, summarizing (1) advances in the metallurgy of metals and minerals in California, and 2) new State and Federal laws pertaining to mining.
- G. Re-catalogue and re-index the contents of the Library and place the Library in the hands of a trained librarian.
- H. Re-catalogue the publications of the Division and publish same, with a competent subject index.
- I. Improve the appearance of the Monthly Commercial Mineral Notes.

- J. Emphasize the importance of obtaining, through the field offices, comprehensive maps of underground mine workings of mines within the jurisdiction of each field office.
- K. Press the completion of topographic quadrangle maps of the mineral areas of the State of California.
- L. Press a market survey for both metallic and non-metallic minerals in the State of California.
- M. Investigate and publish a bulletin upon compensation rates, compensation fund payments and accumulations and other matters pertaining to industrial accidents insurance for the mining industry in California.
- N. Make determined campaign to publicize the work of the Division.

Other matters in which the Mining Board expressed policy came to the board's attention through the expressed needs of the Division of Mines or from outside sources. Since functions of the Division of Mines as well as its operating procedures are carefully delineated in the Public Resources Code, lack of the board's expression of policy along these lines was deliberate. Regardless, some problem areas where policy was expressed included matters pertaining to personnel, frequency of reporting by the Chief (State Geologist) to the Director of Natural Resources for transmittal to the Governor, the need for a conference expressing the need for the Justice Department to provide investigators and legal advice required for compliance with the Ore Buyers License Act, withdrawals of large areas from the public domain, the confidentiality of publishing production statistics, the need to support mineral research, and the benefit of having the State Mining Board meet in conjunction with minerals symposia conducted by the State Division of Mines.

In a letter dated November 25, 1953, to Chairman Bradley, DeWitt Nelson, Director of the Department of Natural Resources, commented on the fact that Board meetings must be open (Chapter 1588, Statutes of 1953, Section 54590) stating *"In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards, and councils and other public agencies in this state exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly."* Nelson would go on to state that *"The Mining Board is a policy making board. Whenever it voted on a policy it must do so in an open, public meeting."*

By the late 1950s, the functions of the Department, Division and State Mining Board would be clarified. With the possible passing of AB 1607 in 1957, in a letter dated June 28, 1957, to State Geologist Jenkins from Director Nelson, new guidelines for the Department, Division, and Board were established.

*"The Division of Mines and the State Mining Board have been given new opportunities and responsibilities in the field of policy, program and administration with the passing of Assembly Bill 1607 (assuming that this bill will be signed by the Governor). This bill would later be vetoed by the Governor, but would reappear in the form of AB 1102 of the 1950 Legislature.*

*"Whether this bill is signed or not I wish to establish some new operating procedures and relationships between the Mining Board, the Division and the Department. Therefore, effective upon receipt of this communication, the following will be order.*

1. *The Division of Mines shall be administered by and through the Chief of the Division in accordance with state statutes and the policies prescribed by the*

*Mining Board. This administration shall be carried out under the supervision and direction of the Director.*

*In order that the functions of all three of these agencies (Board, Division and Department) may be properly executed and in order to clarify any misunderstandings at the various levels, it is important that we each recognize our respective authorities and responsibilities in the work of the Division:*

- (a) The Chief of the Division will administer the Division of Mines under the provisions of the statutes and the policies established by the Board.*
  - (b) The Board policies, directions and suggestions shall be directed to the Chief with a copy to the Director in the form of the Board's minutes.*
  - (c) The Chief will carry out these policies, directions, and suggestions to the best of his ability within limitations of budget, programs and statutes.*
  - (d) In order to facilitate the operations of the Mining Board, the Chief shall work with the board chairman in the development of agenda for meetings and shall provide necessary secretarial services for the taking and distribution of minutes.*
- 2. The Mining Board shall establish the necessary policies and program areas for the Division in full consultation and corporation with the Chief and the Director. Each level must share the responsibility of counseling with the Mining Board in the development of policies and program areas within the limits established by law and legislative intent.*
  - 3. The Director shall be responsible for general supervision through the Chief, of the work conducted by the Division of Mines and share in the responsibility of counseling with the Mining Board in the development of policies and program areas.*
  - 4. In developing and executing the provisions of Assembly Bill 1607, which creates a \$500,000 annual appropriation for research in the mineral field, it is important that we reorient our approach to the problem and the part we play in the organization. As such, it is essential that the Division and Board present suggested research programs. I believe it to be further desirable that the Board request the counsel of representatives of mining schools, industry, and other competent sources for the development of such program areas. Invitations for such participation may well be handled by the Chief in consultation with the chairman. When the scope of the program and the various projects are determined and approved by the Board, the details of working out budgets, contracts, supervision, etc., shall be the responsibility of the Chief of the Division. This and other policies and program areas can be satisfactorily developed only by complete corporation on the part of all concerned.*

*If we all put our shoulder to the wheel and work together for the common goals in which we are all interested and concerned, I am confident that this set of guide lines will materially facilitate all programs."*

Policies, directions and suggestions of the State Mining Board were thus directed to the Chief (State Geologist) with copies forwarded to the Director of the Department in the form of the board's minutes. To facilitate operations of the State Mining Board, the Chief worked closely with the Chairman of the board in the development of agendas for meetings, and provided necessary secretarial services for the taking and distribution of minutes.

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA (1961)**

Prior to the 1960s, the State Mining Board was dominated by representatives of the State's mineral industry, and the Division of Mines and Geology was "*a 100% minerals industry oriented organization*" (SMB Minutes, April 9, 1964). Earthquake research was steadily increasing in the late 1960s within the Division. Before the 1960s, in the Division, much like in the United States Geological Survey, the emphasis was placed "*in obtaining and providing information of benefit to the State's mineral industry*" (SMB Minutes, April 9, 1964).

This was all about to change under the tenure of State Geologist Dr. Ian Campbell (Figure 6). In 1960, Campbell justified to the State Mining Board and initiated a small geologic mapping program in the Palos Verdes area, and several other areas throughout Los Angeles County that were rapidly being urbanized, but threatened by landslides. He also noted that these areas being developed also threatened to pave over vast deposits of sand and gravel, which were among the State's most valuable mineral resources. This mapping however would also aid in the delineation of areas susceptible to landslides, earth shaking due to earthquakes, and other geologic hazards (SMB, Minutes, January 28, 1960).

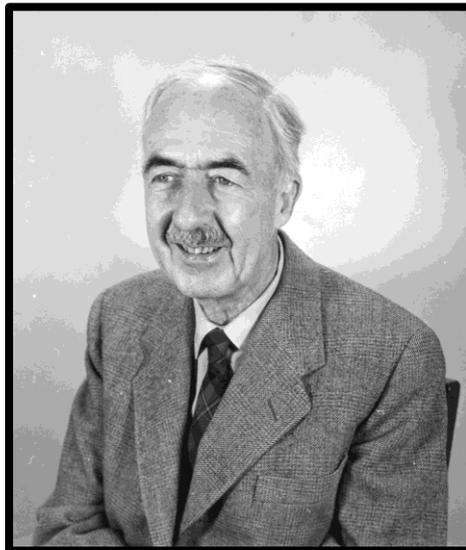


Figure 6. State Geologist Dr. Ian Campbell.

By 1961 the Governor's cabinet, which was made up of the heads of several Departments, was also becoming unwieldy. The solution was the creation of The Resources Agency of California which included the Department of Natural Resources, but not without a name change. The Department of Natural Resources was renamed Department of Conservation. The Division of Mines was renamed the Division of Mines and Geology, and its Chief became the State Geologist. The makeup of the SMB is shown in Figure 7.



Figure 7. The 1964 State Mining Board. From left to right (sitting), Lewis L. Huelsdonk, Thomas H. Rogers, Philip R. Bradley, Edmond F. Brovelli and D. L. Marlett. Standing is State Geologist Dr. Ian Campbell, and Department of Conservation Director DeWitt Nelson.

### **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD (1965 – Present)**

In 1965, power among the State legislature shifted from rural counties, many still dependent on mining, to urban counties. Concurrent with this political shift a bill was passed making “*large scale geologic mapping to provide timely delineation of geologic hazards in urban areas*” an integral part of the division’s mission.

In 1965, under existing statutory law, the State Mining Board was renamed the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), and in 1975 it was vested with certain powers and duties with respect to mining and geology. During this year, a different composition and organization for the SMGB was enacted with Senate Bill 756 (Nejedy, Chapter 1131, Statutes of 1975). The new SMGB would generally succeed the powers and duties of its predecessor board, but would be vested with additional powers and duties. Two new members to the board included a structural geologist and an engineer-seismologist. These two new members, Clarence Allen and Karl V. Steinbrugge, along with existing member, Stanford geologist Richard Jahns, would form a cohesive bloc, along with Campbell, in support of the Division’s geologic hazards program (SMGB, Minutes, March 12, 1969 and August 8, 1968). The new board would also govern surface mining operations and reclamation.

With the expansion of the SMGB’s authority and responsibilities (1976-1985), a number of innovative public policies were developed in the areas of mineral resource conservation, mined

land reclamation and geologic hazards. These policies would later be incorporated into regulation and included:

### **Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act**

- Adopted regulations in corporation with the Seismic Safety Commission regulations which implemented the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones Act. These regulations outlined local and state responsibilities for the use of geologic information in preventing structures for human occupancy from being constructed in active fault zones.

### **Seismic Hazards Mapping Act**

- Developed guidelines and priorities for the Department of Conservation in implementing its Landslides Hazards Identification Program pursuant to AB 101.
- Developed graduation requirements for public schools that included geology and natural resources in corporation with the Board of Education and its Curriculum Commission.

### **Surface Mining and Reclamation Act**

- Developed mineral lands classification-designation processes and provisions for related petitions and mapping priorities.
- Developed guidelines for the preparation of reclamation plans.
- Formulated a Memorandum of Understanding between California's Resources Agency, the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, which recognized SMARA's applicability to federal lands in California.
- Completed the first and precedent setting mineral lands classification-designation process for construction aggregates in the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles County; construction aggregates resources in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Production-Consumption regions were also classified and designated.
- Expanded the classification-designated process to highly mineralized regions of the State, such as the Sierra Nevada, which were considered by SMARA's definition to be "non-urban" but were none the less experiencing threats from urban pressures.
- Expanded the SMGB's oversight role in requiring certification of local SMARA ordinances, mineral resources management policies for inclusion in a local lead agency's General Plan and a time certain for the submittal of reclamation plans to lead agencies for approval, by operators with vested rights. These policy provisions were adopted legislatively by SB 1300.

To better coordinate the implementation of SMARA with local government, the SMGB's staff was expanded to include a Designation Coordinator and a Reclamation Coordinator. The functions of the two positions were later incorporated into the State Geological Survey's (formerly the Division of Mines and Geology) Office of Mine Reclamation.

In 1990, AB 3551 and AB 3903 assigned several new and important responsibilities to the SMGB, requiring the SMGB to play an increasingly critical role in the implementation of SMARA. In a letter addressed to James A. Anderson, SMGB Chairman, from Byron D. Sher, Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, dated February 6, 1991, Sher advised the Chairman that

how the SMGB handles these new duties will help determine whether the legislative reforms enacted in 1990 would succeed or fail. The board's work was outlined to include:

- Establishment of a schedule of industry fees.
- Development of annual reporting and inspection forms.
- Adopting new reclamation standards.
- Formulation of procedures for assuming lead agency jurisdiction and handling appeals of enforcement actions and financial assurances.

Sher was hopeful that local enforcement of SMARA could be established and that the SMGB members "...recognized that SMARA now requires more of a shared partnership between state and local government. Because of a past history of poor enforcement by some lead agencies, the law now provides for the state to play a greater role in the operation of SMARA. I believe that the centerpiece of this partnership is development of an effective state monitoring and oversight program under the Department of Conservation, Monitoring and oversight is essential for the state to determine when, and if, enforcement actions should be undertaken by the State Geologist and lead agency authority should be preempted by the Mining and Geology Board."

Upon the direction of the Governor at the signing of SB 741 (Rogers, Chapter 1287, Statutes of 1993), the Department of Conservation formed the Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR), which realigned SMARA duties within the Department of Conservation. The Mine-Lands Reclamation Program and the Caltrans Reclamation Program were removed from the then Division of Mines and Geology and also consolidated within OMR. SMARA-related staff previously assigned to the SMGB was reassigned to OMR.

As noted above, today's SMGB is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate, for four-year staggered terms. The SMGB operates within the Department of Conservation, and is granted certain autonomous responsibilities and obligations under several statutes.