



Publication Date: Friday, February 27th, 2026

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

Will Conduct a Regular Business Meeting on:

Thursday, March 12th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

**California Natural Resources Headquarters
715 P Street, Second Floor RM 2-201
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: 261 012 028 391 51** and **Passcode: kD3LK9Vw**. You may also join us by phone by dialing (916) 318-8892 and entering the **Phone Conference ID: 182 157 442#**

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>.



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 (TBD)
 - B. Division of Mine Reclamation Report (Balestreri)
 - C. California Geological Survey Report (TBD)
- 6. Chair Report (Sheingold)**
- 7. Executive Officer Report (Schmidt)**
- 8. Geologist Report (Fry, Jones)**
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
November 20, 2025
- 12. Regular Business Items**
 - A. Consideration and adoption of the 2025 Annual Mine Fee Schedule pursuant to Public Resources Code section 2207.
- 13. Presentations, Reports, and Informational Items**
 - A. *SMARA@50: Documenting Fifty Years of California Reclamation*
(Adam Harper, California Construction and Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA))
 - B. *SMARA in Action: Effective Mine Reclamation Under SMGB Authority*
(SMGB Staff)
- 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.

15. Announcements and Future Meetings

16. 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 State 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.

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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.

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715 P Street, MS 1909
Sacramento, CA 95814**

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Agenda Item No. 11A

March 12th, 2026

Consideration and Approval of Minutes for the November 20, 2025, Regular Business Meeting

INTRODUCTION:

Approve the Conformed Minutes for the State Mining and Geology Board's November 12, 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 November 20th, Regular Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey Schmidt,
Executive Officer



*****DRAFT*****

CONFORMED MINUTES

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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 with Members Driscoll, Holst, Jung, Landregan, Los Huertos, Zafir, Vice Chair Kenline, and Chair Sheingold present, and a Quorum was declared. Member Whyte was not in attendance.

4. Review of the Agenda (Sheingold)

Chair Sheingold reviewed the agenda and shared his regular announcements.

5. Department Reports

A. Department of Conservation Report (Tiffany)

Gabe Tiffany, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Conservation, reported that 2025 was a significant year for the department, marked by a new director, an active legislative session, and major energy transition bills. Looking ahead to 2026, he noted that budget challenges are expected due to uncertainty surrounding federal funding and highlighted the appointment of Senator Monique Limón as state Senate President Pro Tempore, emphasizing her strong record on energy legislation and partnership with the department. Tiffany underscored the department's continued role in regulating oil, gas, and geothermal resources, advancing carbon sequestration projects under SB 905, and pursuing opportunities to meet California's climate goals. He also expressed interest in collaborating with the Board on critical minerals, reinforcing the department's commitment to sustainability and stakeholder engagement.

Following Tiffany's report, Member Los Huertos asked whether the department's federal funding comes from ongoing allocations or short-term "soft money" grants. The Chief Deputy Director explained that it is a mix, with much of it being project-based, and emphasized the need to remain fiscally cautious since federal grants may not always materialize. He noted that while federal funds make up a relatively small portion of the department's overall budget, they support important projects.

State Geologist, Jeremy Lancaster, elaborated, highlighting the USGS Earth MRI program for critical minerals mapping, which had been funded at \$64 million nationally but is now reverting to a \$10 million baseline, making competition among states much tighter. He noted that for the California Geological Survey (CGS), grant income accounts for 10–15% of its budget—significantly more than other divisions. Lancaster also described challenges with carbon sequestration and geothermal grant applications.

B. Division of Mine Reclamation Report (Whalin)

Lindsay Whalin, Supervisor of Mine Reclamation, reported that the Division's reimbursement grants with the Department of Interior (DOI) for abandoned mine land hazard identification and remediation (about \$1 million annually) are no longer being renewed. However, a new \$200,000 grant from the DOI's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance has been secured, with similar work underway in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on state lands.

Whalin highlighted a mine site tour held in October attended by Board Chair Sheingold, Director Lucchesi, Chief Deputy Tiffany, and DOC staff, showcasing abandoned, active, and reclaimed sites to demonstrate the breadth of DMR's work. Regarding compliance, about 45 operators have not filed 2024 annual reports; staff is following up with lead agencies and operators, with enforcement pursued only when local agencies decline to act. Three penalties issued for 2023 mines in Inyo County have since been resolved. The SMARA team also hosted a well-attended inspection workshop, with plans for another session next year.

Finally, at the federal level, two bills have been introduced to fund the Abandoned Hard Rock Mine Program, which could benefit DMR if passed. Whalin also noted expedited permitting efforts for critical minerals under Fast 41 and a USGS proposal to add several minerals, including copper and silver, to the federal critical minerals list. Whalin referenced potential impacts for California mines, including Castle Mountain in San Bernardino County, and announced an upcoming meeting with county officials to strengthen SMARA coordination particularly around critical minerals given the presence of Mountain Pass, the nation's only rare earth mine.

C. California Geological Survey Report (Lancaster)

State Geologist Jeremy Lancaster announced the release of 13 new seismic hazard maps in partnership with the Board. These include liquefaction and landslide maps for Contra Costa, Sonoma, Sacramento, and Yolo counties, as well as Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone maps for the San Gregorio Fault system in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and the Sierra Madre Fault system in Los Angeles County.

Lancaster also updated the Board on CGS's strong motion instrumentation program. Since 2022, the survey has been upgrading seismic monitoring stations from analog to real-time reporting, with 70% of the work already completed ahead of schedule. He highlighted a pilot program with the Golden Gate Bridge Authority that uses real-time data to send alerts on structural displacement following earthquakes, supporting rapid safety decisions and resilience. Similar systems are planned for other critical facilities statewide.

During Jeremy Lancaster's report, members raised questions about sensor replacement, earthquake prediction, geology education, critical minerals, and tsunami mapping. Lancaster explained that sensor replacements are easier at single-array field stations but more complex at large facilities like hospitals, where engineering and telemetry work are required; state funding and private contracts are helping sustain progress. He emphasized that earthquakes cannot be predicted, though probability forecasts and USGS aftershock tools guide emergency response. On primary and secondary school education, he noted geology is required in some districts but not standardized statewide. He added that California is well-positioned to compete for federal critical mineral grants and reported that tsunami mapping is undergoing strategic planning with guidance from a technical advisory committee.

Lancaster closed by recognizing Rick Wilson, recently retired, with a proclamation on behalf of the DOC. Wilson was honored for his 34 years with the CGS, including 25 years in seismic hazard mapping and 16 years leading the state's tsunami program. He coordinated California's tsunami preparedness efforts, represented the state nationally, authored numerous scientific publications, and developed evacuation maps, emergency playbooks, and hazard tools that improved coastal safety. His work earned multiple awards for public service and national recognition. The DOC formally thanked him for his dedication and

contributions, and Rick expressed appreciation for the Board's support, emphasizing the importance of continued clear communication about tsunami hazards.

6. Chair Report (Sheingold)

Chair Sheingold reported ongoing communication with department, DMR, and Board staff, participation in the San Bernardino outreach program, and a visit to Harbor Cave, a remediated underground mine. He also met with Granite Rock representatives regarding anticipated quarry activity in San Benito County.

7. Executive Officer Report (Schmidt)

Executive Officer, Jeffrey Schmidt, closed out the final Board meeting of the year with a comprehensive overview of 2025 accomplishments. The Board managed a wide range of responsibilities, from electing a new vice chair and updating the Mining Ordinance Guidance document to overseeing reclamation plan amendments and site visits that ensured compliance with a PRC 2714(f) exemption that was granted by the Board. It also advanced policy work by finalizing the mineral designation rulemaking package for the Sacramento Production Consumption Region, while creating the Critical Minerals Committee to address rising demand for resource conservation. Outreach was a major focus, with workshops held in partnership with county planning directors, industry groups, and rural representatives, as well as direct meetings with counties to update local ordinances. The Board collaborated with the DMR on inspection training and presented to professional and educational audiences, including CalCIMA's Women's Committee and high school students exploring geology careers. Schmidt emphasized that 2025 was a productive year and expressed confidence that 2026 would bring equally significant activity.

8. Geologist Report (Fry, Jones)

Geologist, Mallory Jones, provided an update on recent and ongoing activities since the last meeting. Starting with the 2025 inspection cycle, the Board has completed 14 mine inspections along with inspections of 14 borrow pits along the Colorado River Aqueduct for the Metropolitan Water District, while also beginning to review FACEs for the current inspection cycle. Reclamation plan amendments for Garnet Pit and Spring Valley Quarry were reviewed, and compliance measures for Pyrite Quarry are being finalized. Jones noted additional outreach and participation, including presenting at the DOC's all staff meeting on the ongoing Mining Ordinance Update Project, attending the BCDC sand study group, joining the DMR's inspector certification workshop, and responding to a subpoena records request from San Benito County. Looking ahead, the Board will finish the inspection cycle with a visit to the Lapis Sand Mine, continue advancing mining ordinance updates, pursue rulemaking packages for 2714(f) exemptions and mineral designations, and further develop the Critical Minerals Committee.

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.

No ex-parte communications disclosed.

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.

There were no public comments.

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:
September 18, 2025

During the meeting, the Board considered approval of the September 18th minutes. Vice Chair Kenline proposed minor edits to the discussion around agenda item 13B regarding a critical minerals definition. He made a suggestion to clarify that during the discussion about the committee's recommendation, committee discussions had been considered by the full board and moved to approve the minutes with those changes. Member Holst raised concerns about how voting results were recorded, noting that in the case of the critical minerals item, the minutes only reflected a majority outcome without identifying individual votes. After discussion, members agreed that going forward, outside of unanimous votes, minutes should include detailed vote counts and the names of those voting for and against each motion. This was established as a new policy to ensure clarity and historical accuracy. Kenline revised his motion to incorporate both his initial edits and the new voting documentation practice, which was seconded by Member Jung. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 6-0 with two abstentions. Members Driscoll, Holst, Jung, Zafir, Vice Chair Kenline, and Chair Kenline voted in favor of the motion while Members Landregan and Los Huertos abstained. Member Whyte was not in attendance.

12. Regular Business Items

- A. Consideration and approval of the Garnet Pit's (Mine ID# 91-33-0031) reclamation plan amendment

Senior Geologist, Paul Fry presented on the consideration and approval of the Garnet Pit's reclamation plan amendment #4 (RPA). He explained that the Garnet Pit, a 147-acre sand and gravel mine in Palm Springs operating since the 1940s, had its reclamation plan first approved in 1990 and later amended in 2023 to allow concurrent use as an inert debris fill site. The current amendment focuses on revising revegetation methods and performance standards for the exterior berm, shifting to natural revegetation, and removing approximately 22 acres from the reclamation plan to accommodate debris fill operations. Fry emphasized that the amendment does not expand mining operations, alter the approved end use, or extend the termination date, and therefore qualifies as a non-substantial amendment under SMARA. He also noted that the project meets CEQA Class 1 and Class 4 exemptions, as it involves negligible expansion and only minor physical alterations without impacts to trees or scenic resources. The review timeline included submission in May 2025, comments from DMR in September, and revisions in October to address requests for quantitative revegetation success criteria and a noxious weed management plan. With these updates incorporated, staff concluded the amendment is consistent with regulatory requirements and recommended Board approval of RPA #4.

Following Fry's presentation, Board members discussed jurisdiction, reclamation standards, and oversight of the Garnet Pit. Member Landregan questioned why Palm Springs never adopted a mining ordinance after annexing the site, and Fry explained the city has only one mine nearing closure, leaving the Board as lead agency. Vice Chair Kenline also noted that Water Board closure permits generally supersede SMARA unless agreements are made, while Fry added that SMARA prohibits double bonding, so landfill regulation falls outside the Board's scope. Members also reviewed past "pit capture" issues, resolved by construction of a berm, and clarified that inspection costs are paid by operators through fees. On reclamation, Fry emphasized that while SMARA sets

performance standards, plans are site-specific; in Palm Springs' desert environment, natural revegetation proved more effective than artificial methods. The discussion also highlighted broader patterns of small cities annexing mines without ordinances, leaving the Board responsible.

Member Landregan then motioned to approve the Class 1 and Class 4 categorical exemption, pursuant to CEQA guidelines sections 15301 and 15304, and further approve the Garnet Pit RPA in accordance with SMARA. Member Zafir seconded, and the motion carried unanimously with all members present. Member Whyte was not in attendance.

B. Review and discussion of San Bernardino County's Draft Updated Mining Ordinance; no formal action will be taken by the Board

Vice Chair Kenline recused himself prior to this agenda item due to his former employment with San Bernardino County, the jurisdiction whose ordinance was under review. Following his exit, Geologist, Mallory Jones, presented an update on San Bernardino County's revised mining ordinance, emphasizing that the item was for Board comments rather than a formal certification. She explained that under SMARA, lead agencies must have a certified local mining ordinance, and the Board requires updates if an ordinance is out of compliance with state policy. San Bernardino initially submitted a draft ordinance in late 2023, but after receiving staff feedback, chose to completely rewrite it, conducting outreach with local operators and CalCIMA for input. The county later resubmitted a new draft, which Board staff and legal counsel reviewed and refined through collaborative meetings with county staff and their consultants. A final draft was determined to be consistent with SMARA and ready for Board review and comment. Jones noted that the Board is being asked for comments at this stage to avoid delays experienced with Solano County.

Board members reviewed San Bernardino County's updated mining ordinance, focusing on public input and consistency with the Board's guidance document. Member Landregan asked if outreach extended beyond industry groups, and staff noted that environmental organizations had engaged in the Board's guidance document update, with further opportunities for public participation during the local adoption process. Discussion also addressed deviations from the Board's template: Fry highlighted the county's detailed provisions on vested rights and permitting, while Rinke noted she had cautioned the County against citing case law, stressing it is fact-specific, subject to change, and difficult for the public to interpret. She added that the vested rights section required close scrutiny but, after thorough review, was found adequate. Member Los Huertos suggested the creation of more specific alternative templates to streamline drafting in the future, though staff emphasized the need for flexibility given each jurisdiction's unique structures. Fry concluded that Board staff believe San Bernardino's ordinance is comprehensive and could serve as a model for other counties.

Following discussion, the Board determined that the ordinance is thorough, consistent with state policy, and ready to proceed to local adoption before returning for certification, with no additional comments needing to be transmitted to the County.

C. Consideration and Approval of the 2024-2025 Annual Report

Member Landregan, chair of the Policy and Administration Committee, presented the annual report covering July 2024– July 2025. Member Los Huertos expressed appreciation for the inclusion of the enforcement section, emphasizing its importance for transparency. A motion to approve the annual report was made by Member Jung and

seconded by Member Zafir. Roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously. Member Whyte was not in attendance; the annual report was approved for submission to the legislature.

D. Consideration and Approval of the 2026 SMGB Meeting Schedule

Chair Sheingold introduced the proposed 2026 meeting calendar, which schedules monthly meetings with the understanding that some may be canceled if agendas are light. Member Los Huertos suggested designating months with historically low activity, such as December, to avoid unnecessary scheduling, while staff and Vice Chair Kenline stressed the need for flexibility to address appeals and other time-sensitive matters. Member Holst expressed support for holding some meetings in Southern California to reflect mining activity, and Executive Officer Schmidt noted the Board had met in different regions prior to COVID and could consider an annual trip in the future, though Chair Sheingold cautioned that budget constraints may limit travel.

Member Los Huertos moved to adopt the 2026 calendar, seconded by Member Zafir. The motion carried unanimously among members present, with Members Jung and Whyte absent.

13. Presentations, Reports, and Informational Items

A. *Mining Ordinance Update Project, Progress Update* (SMGB Staff)

Geologist Mallory Jones updated the Board on the mining ordinance project, noting progress with lead agencies in both Group 0 and Group 1. Shasta and Mendocino Counties are still undergoing review after multiple comment rounds with their consultants. Jones reported the City of Susanville is not long perusing drafting a mining ordinance at this time, while the initial engagement with San Diego and Humboldt Counties has gone well leading to an agreement to biweekly meetings to work through ordinances section by section, a new approach intended to reduce delays compared to lengthy rounds of written comments. Merced County indicated that they are finalizing a consultant contract to update their mining ordinance.

Board members raised questions about the efficiency of the process. Vice Chair Kenline asked about San Diego's responsiveness given its ordinance is embedded in its grading ordinance, and Jones confirmed both San Diego and Humboldt have been eager to collaborate. Member Los Huertos questioned why some counties required multiple rounds of comments, and Jones explained regular scheduled meetings have been noted to be more effective. It was added that reviewing ordinances in smaller sections avoids the difficulty of tracking cascading issues across lengthy drafts. Lessons learned from San Bernardino and other counties should make future reviews faster.

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 January 15, 2026.

16. Adjournment

Member Landregan moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chair Kenline. Chair Sheingold declared the motion unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

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Agenda Item No. 12A

March 12, 2026

Consideration and adoption of the 2025 Annual Mine Fee Schedule pursuant to PRC section 2207.

INTRODUCTION: Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2207(d) requires the State Mining and Geology Board (Board) to impose, by regulation, an annual reporting fee on, and method for collecting annual fees from each active and idle surface mining operation. Furthermore, the maximum fee for any single mining operation may not exceed ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) annually and may not be less than one-hundred dollars (\$100) annually. These amounts shall be adjusted for cost of living as measured by the California Price Index (CPI).

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION: PRC Section 2207(d)(2)(A) states that a schedule of fees shall be adopted to cover the Department of Conservation’s (Department) cost in carrying out the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) as reflected in the Governor’s proposed Budget. Additionally, PRC Section 2207(d)(3) outlines the amount of revenue to be generated by the fee schedule. The total revenue generated by the reporting fees may not exceed, and may be less than, the amount of eight million dollars (\$8,000,000). This amount shall be adjusted for the cost of living beginning with the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year (FY) and annually thereafter.

Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) are addressed in the California Code of Regulation Section 3698 and allow for increases to help maintain adequate funding for the SMARA programs within the Department. The COLA, or rate of inflation, is measured by the CPI. For reporting year 2025, the COLA pushes the maximum fee beyond the statutorily mandated \$10,000 to \$12,952.

Moreover, if the Director of the Department determines that the revenue collected in the preceding FY was greater or less than the cost to implement PRC Section 2207 and SMARA, the Board shall adjust the fees to compensate for the over collection or under collection of revenues.

PRC Section 2207(d)(4)(A) requires the reporting fee revenue be deposited in the Mine Reclamation Account (MRA) for carrying out the provisions of PRC Section 2207 and SMARA. Those provisions include “classification and designation of areas with mineral resources of statewide or regional significance, reclamation plan and financial assurance review, mine inspection, and enforcement.”

The Department’s anticipated needs and projected revenues for the 2026-2027 FY are summarized below:

MINE RECLAMATION ACCOUNT REVENUE NEEDS: (rounded to the nearest thousand dollar)

<u>FY 2026-2027</u>	
\$ 5,062,000	Department of Conservation Budget Request
\$ 101,000	Potential General Salary Increases
\$ 152,000	Other Post Employment Employee Benefits
\$ 0	Supplemental Pension Payments
\$ 245,000	Pro Rata (Statewide Overhead)
\$ 5,560,000	Subtotal
\$ 834,000	Reserve for Economic Uncertainties
\$ 6,394,000	TOTAL Revenue Need

Other Revenue (not from Mine Operator Annual Fees)

\$ 1,774,000	Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2026 (projection)
\$ 179,000	SMGB Lead Agency Fees (projection)
\$ 81,000	Income from Surplus Money Investments
\$ 22,000	Penalties
\$ 2,056,000	Subtotal (other revenue)

Summary

\$ 6,394,000	TOTAL Revenue Need
-\$ 2,056,000	Subtotal (other revenue)

\$ 4,338,000

Mine Reclamation Account Revenue Need for 2026-2027 FY

The fee schedule calculation considers revenues collected from current and prior years, the revenue needs that the Department is authorized to collect, the amount projected to be collected from those operators expected to be at a fixed fee, and the amount projected to be collected from mine operations subject to the maximum fee amount of \$12,952.

To meet the requirements of PRC Section 2207(d)(2)(A) the proposed 2025 Annual Mine Fee Schedule sets the fee for the highest three tiers of production at the maximum amount of \$12,952 (\$10,000 plus COLA), an increase of \$421 from the previous year.

The first-tier fee in each production category is proposed to be \$389 (Fee Codes D, J, and P), which is an increase of \$48 compared to the 2024 fee.

The second-tier fee in each production category is proposed to be \$1,295 (Fee Codes E, K, and Q), which is an increase of \$102 compared to the 2024 fee.

The third-tier fee in each production category is proposed to be \$3,756 (Fee Codes F, L, and R), which is an increase of \$859 compared to the 2024 fee.

The fourth-tier fee in each production category is proposed to be \$6,994 (Fee Codes G, M, and S), which is an increase of \$1,540 compared to the 2024 fee.

The fifth-tier fee in each production category is proposed to be \$8,937 (Fee Codes H, N, and T), which is an increase of \$2,461 compared to the 2024 fee.

The sixth-tier fee in each production category is proposed to be \$12,952 (Fee Codes I, O, and U), which is an increase of \$421 compared to the 2024 fee.

For newly permitted and not operational or closed mining operations (Fee Codes A, B, and C) there is a COLA increase of \$6, for a proposed fee of \$185.

For the Low Gross Exemption (LGE) fee request, the gross income cut off is \$173,128, a COLA increase of \$5,630. The proposed fee for the LGE is \$690, an increase of \$22 compared to the 2024 fee.

For the Multiple Site fee request, the proposed fee is \$7,342, and an increase of \$239 compared to the 2024 fee.

Attachments to this report illustrate the fee schedule changes and include (1) the proposed 2025 Annual Fee Schedule and (2) a comparison of the 2024 Annual Fee Schedule versus the proposed 2025 Annual Fee Schedule.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed 2025 Annual Mine Fee Schedule pursuant to PRC section 2207, as discussed and presented today.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Board Chair and Members, considering the information before the State Mining and Geology Board today, I move that the State Mining and Geology Board adopt the proposed 2025 Annual Mine Fee Schedule pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 2207, as discussed and presented today.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey Schmidt,
Executive Officer

Attachments:

- 1 – Proposed 2025 Annual Fee Schedule
- 2 – 2024 Annual Fee Schedule vs Proposed 2025 Annual Fee Schedule Comparison
- 3 – Slide Deck Presentation for Proposed 2025 Annual Fee Schedule

FEES SCHEDULE

**STATUS AND PRODUCED MINERALS DURING THE 2025 REPORTING YEAR
FOR ALL OPERATIONS:**

TABLE 1 -- FOR "NEWLY-PERMITTED" AND "CLOSED" OPERATIONS:

REFER TO ITEM 5 OF YOUR ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	FEE
NEWLY-PERMITTED: NOT YET IN OPERATION	A	\$185
CLOSED: MINING CEASED WITH NO INTENT TO RESUME, NO PRODUCTION, RECLAMATION INCOMPLETE	B	\$185
CLOSED: MINING CEASED WITH NO INTENT TO RESUME, NO PRODUCTION, RECLAMATION COMPLETE, CERTIFIED RECLAIMED	C	\$185

TABLE II -- FOR ALL OTHER OPERATIONS:

CATEGORY NO. 1: REFER TO ITEM 15A OF ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	FEE
0 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 100 TONS	D	\$389
GREATER THAN 100 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 1,000 TONS	E	\$1,295
GREATER THAN 1,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 10,000 TONS	F	\$3,756
GREATER THAN 10,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 50,000 TONS	G	\$6,994
GREATER THAN 50,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 100,000 TONS	H	\$8,937
GREATER THAN 100,000 TONS	I	\$12,952
CATEGORY NO. 2: REFER TO ITEM 15A OF ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	FEE
0 OUNCES UP TO AND INCLUDING 1 OUNCE	J	\$389
GREATER THAN 1 OUNCE UP TO AND INCLUDING 10 OUNCES	K	\$1,295
GREATER THAN 10 OUNCES UP TO AND INCLUDING 50 OUNCES	L	\$3,756
GREATER THAN 50 OUNCES UP TO AND INCLUDING 150 OUNCES	M	\$6,994
GREATER THAN 150 OUNCES UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 OUNCES	N	\$8,937
GREATER THAN 300 OUNCES	O	\$12,952
CATEGORY NO. 3: REFER TO ITEM 15A OF ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	FEE
0 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 10 POUNDS	P	\$389
GREATER THAN 10 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 100 POUNDS	Q	\$1,295
GREATER THAN 100 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 1,000 POUNDS	R	\$3,756
GREATER THAN 1,000 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 10,000 POUNDS	S	\$6,994
GREATER THAN 10,000 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 20,000 POUNDS	T	\$8,937
GREATER THAN 20,000 POUNDS	U	\$12,952

COMPARISON OF 2024 AND PROPOSED 2025 ANNUAL FEES**TABLE 1 -- FOR "NEWLY PERMITTED" AND "CLOSED" OPERATIONS:**

REFER TO ITEM 5 OF YOUR ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	2024 Fee	2025 Fee	Change 24-25
NEWLY PERMITTED: NOT YET IN OPERATION	A	\$179	\$185	+\$6
CLOSED: MINING CEASED WITH NO INTENT TO RESUME, NO PRODUCTION, RECLAMATION INCOMPLETE	B	\$179	\$185	+\$6
CLOSED: MINING CEASED WITH NO INTENT TO RESUME, NO PRODUCTION, RECLAMATION COMPLETE, CERTIFIED RECLAIMED	C	\$179	\$185	+\$6

TABLE II -- FOR ALL OTHER OPERATIONS:

CATEGORY NO. 1: REFER TO ITEM 15A OF ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	2024 Fee	2025 Fee	Change 24-25
0 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 100 TONS	D	\$341	\$389	+\$48
GREATER THAN 100 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 1,000 TONS	E	\$1,193	\$1,295	+\$102
GREATER THAN 1,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 10,000 TONS	F	\$2,897	\$3,756	+\$859
GREATER THAN 10,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 50,000 TONS	G	\$5,454	\$6,994	+\$1,540
GREATER THAN 50,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 100,000 TONS	H	\$6,476	\$8,937	+\$2,461
GREATER THAN 100,000 TONS	I	\$12,531	\$12,952	+\$421
CATEGORY NO. 2: REFER TO ITEM 15A OF ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	2024 Fee	2025 Fee	Change 24-25
0 OUNCES UP TO AND INCLUDING 1 OUNCE	J	\$341	\$389	+\$48
GREATER THAN 1 OUNCE UP TO AND INCLUDING 10 OUNCES	K	\$1,193	\$1,295	+\$102
GREATER THAN 10 OUNCES UP TO AND INCLUDING 50 OUNCES	L	\$2,897	\$3,756	+\$859
GREATER THAN 50 OUNCES UP TO AND INCLUDING 150 OUNCES	M	\$5,454	\$6,994	+\$1,540
GREATER THAN 150 OUNCES UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 OUNCES	N	\$6,476	\$8,937	+\$2,461
GREATER THAN 300 OUNCES	O	\$12,531	\$12,952	+\$421
CATEGORY NO. 3: REFER TO ITEM 15A OF ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	2024 Fee	2025 Fee	Change 24-25
0 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 10 POUNDS	P	\$341	\$389	+\$48
GREATER THAN 10 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 100 POUNDS	Q	\$1,193	\$1,295	+\$102
GREATER THAN 100 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 1,000 POUNDS	R	\$2,897	\$3,756	+\$859
GREATER THAN 1,000 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 10,000 POUNDS	S	\$5,454	\$6,994	+\$1,540
GREATER THAN 10,000 POUNDS UP TO AND INCLUDING 20,000 POUNDS	T	\$6,476	\$8,937	+\$2,461
GREATER THAN 20,000 POUNDS	U	\$12,531	\$12,952	+\$421

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEM: 12A

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2025 ANNUAL MINE FEE SCHEDULE

STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD



FEE SCHEDULE BACKGROUND

1. Public Resources Code (PRC) 2207(d) states that a schedule of fees shall be calculated on an equitable basis and the revenue collected may not exceed \$8,000,000.
2. Fixed fees and fees at the statutorily mandated \$10,000 cap are adjusted with the cost of living as measured by the California Price Index.
3. All other fee categories are adjusted to ensure that the total collected can maintain adequate funding for SMARA programs (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, Article 8, Section 3698).

MINE RECLAMATION ACCOUNT REVENUE NEEDS

(ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST THOUSAND DOLLAR)

FY 2026-2027

\$ 5,062,000	Department of Conservation Budget Request
\$ 101,000	Potential General Salary Increases
\$ 152,000	Other Post Employment Employee Benefits
\$ 0	Supplemental Pension Payments
\$ 245,000	Pro Rata (Statewide Overhead)
\$ 5,560,000	Subtotal

\$ 834,000	Reserve for Economic Uncertainties
\$ 6,394,000	TOTAL Revenue Need

Other Revenue (not from Mine Operator Annual Fees)

\$ 1,774,000	Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2026 (projection)
\$ 179,000	SMGB Lead Agency Fees (projection)
\$ 81,000	Income from Surplus Money Investments
\$ 22,000	Penalties
\$ 2,111,000	Subtotal (other revenue)

Summary

\$ 6,394,000	TOTAL Revenue Need
-\$ 2,056,000	Subtotal (other revenue)

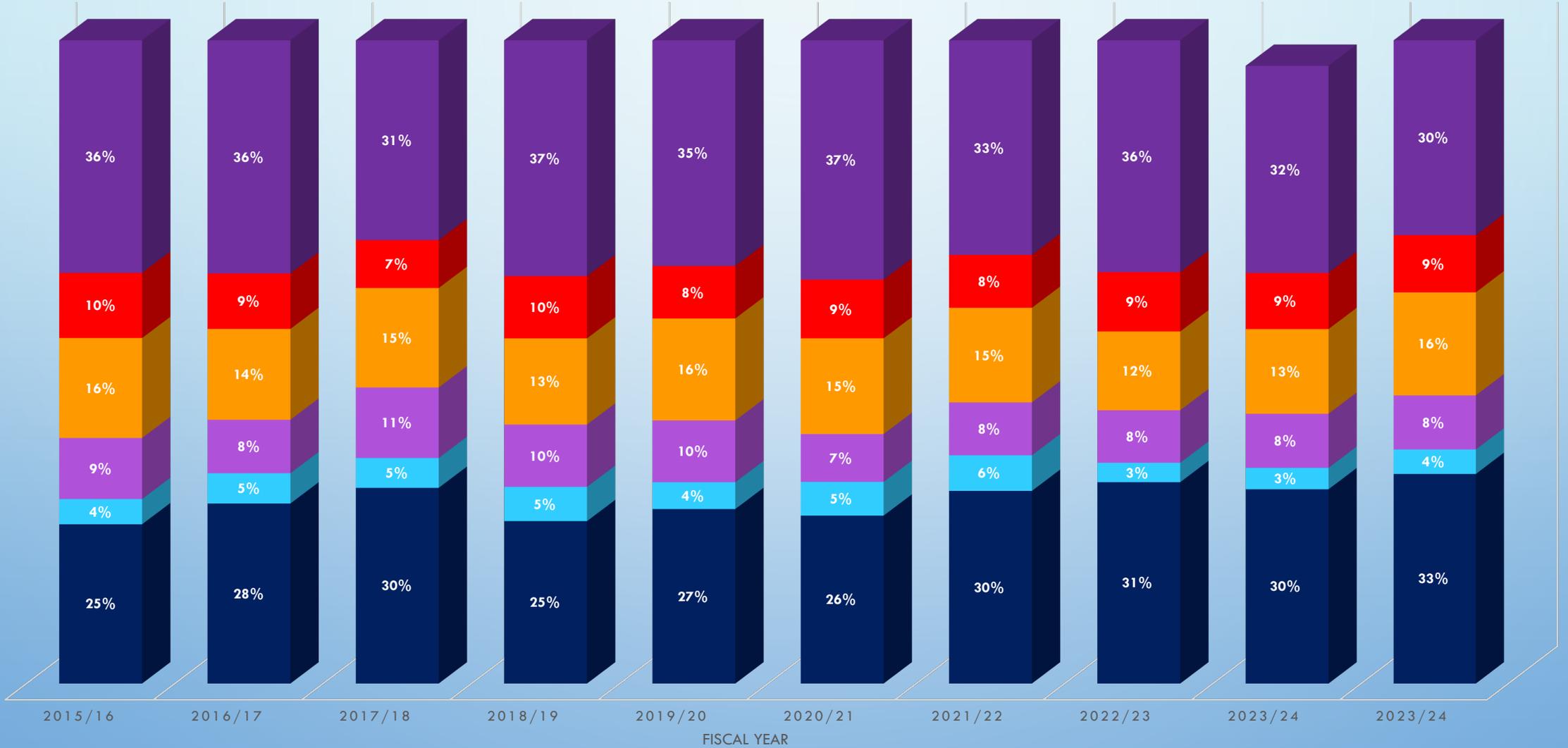
\$ 4,338,000 **Mine Reclamation Account Revenue Need for 2026-2027 FY**

Mine Reclamation Account Revenue Need

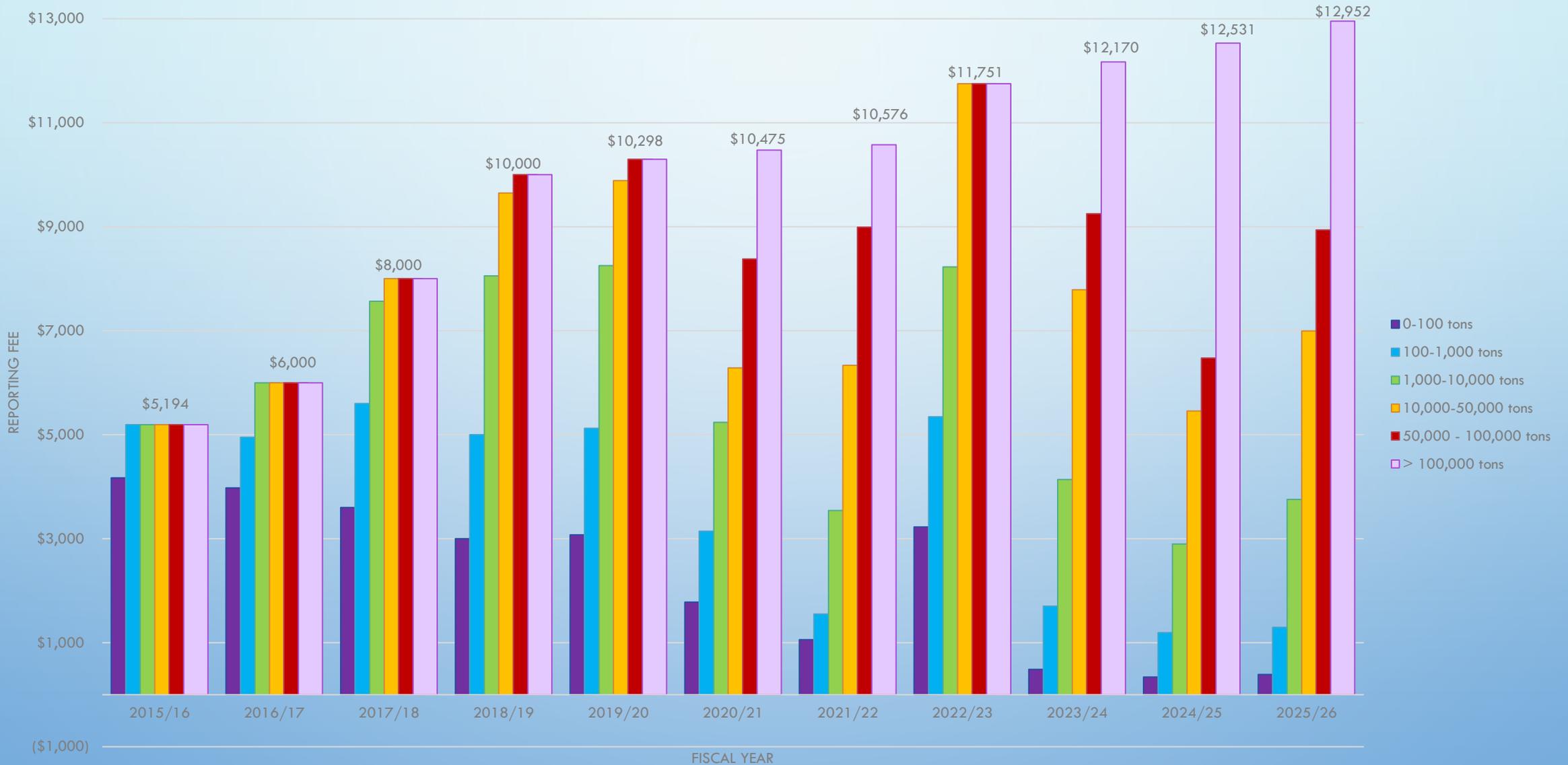


% OPERATORS PER FEE CATEGORY

■ 0-100 tons ■ 100-1,000 tons ■ 1,000-10,000 tons ■ 10,000-50,000 tons ■ 50,000 - 100,000 tons ■ > 100,000 tons



Annual Reporting Fee per Fee Category



CATEGORY COMPARISON 2024 vs 2025

TABLE 1 -- FOR "NEWLY PERMITTED" AND "CLOSED" OPERATIONS:

REFER TO ITEM 5 OF YOUR ANNUAL REPORT	CODE	2024 Fee	2025 Fee	Change 24-25
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CLOSED: MINING CEASED WITH NO INTENT TO RESUME, NO PRODUCTION, RECLAMATION COMPLETE, CERTIFIED RECLAIMED	C	\$179	\$185	+\$6

TABLE II -- FOR ALL OTHER OPERATIONS:

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GREATER THAN 100 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 1,000 TONS	E	\$1,193	\$1,295	+\$102
GREATER THAN 1,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 10,000 TONS	F	\$2,897	\$3,756	+\$859
GREATER THAN 10,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 50,000 TONS	G	\$5,454	\$6,994	+\$1,540
GREATER THAN 50,000 TONS UP TO AND INCLUDING 100,000 TONS	H	\$6,476	\$8,937	+\$2,461
GREATER THAN 100,000 TONS	I	\$12,531	\$12,952	+\$421

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Board & Department Staff recommend that the Board adopt the proposed 2025 Annual Mine Fee Schedule as discussed and presented today.

THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?





Agenda Item No. 13A

March 12th, 2026

Presentation: *SMARA@50: Documenting Fifty Years of California Reclamation*

by: Adam Harper, California Construction and Industrial Materials Association

INFORMATION:

The California Construction and Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA) will present an informational overview of SMARA@50, a statewide historical documentation and education initiative commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. The presentation will describe the initiative's scope, provide some initial data and history, highlight the golden anniversary reclamation awards program designed to archive and elevate reclamation outcomes across California. We are inviting the Board's and other Stakeholders perspective and participation.

SMARA@50

Documenting 50 Years of California Reclamation

Adam Harper
Senior Director of Policy
CALCIMA

Presented to: State Mining & Geology Board
March 12, 2026



- Enacted in 1975
- Bipartisan conservation statute
- State standards with local implementation
- Reclamation required as a condition of operation

A Durable Framework

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

DISTRICT OFFICE
1393 CIVIC DRIVE
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596
(415) 934-4550

SACRAMENTO ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916) 443-6003



JOHN A. NEJEDLY
SEVENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Senate

September 15, 1975

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

May I respectfully bring to your attention Senate Bill 756 (the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975) which is presently before you for approval.

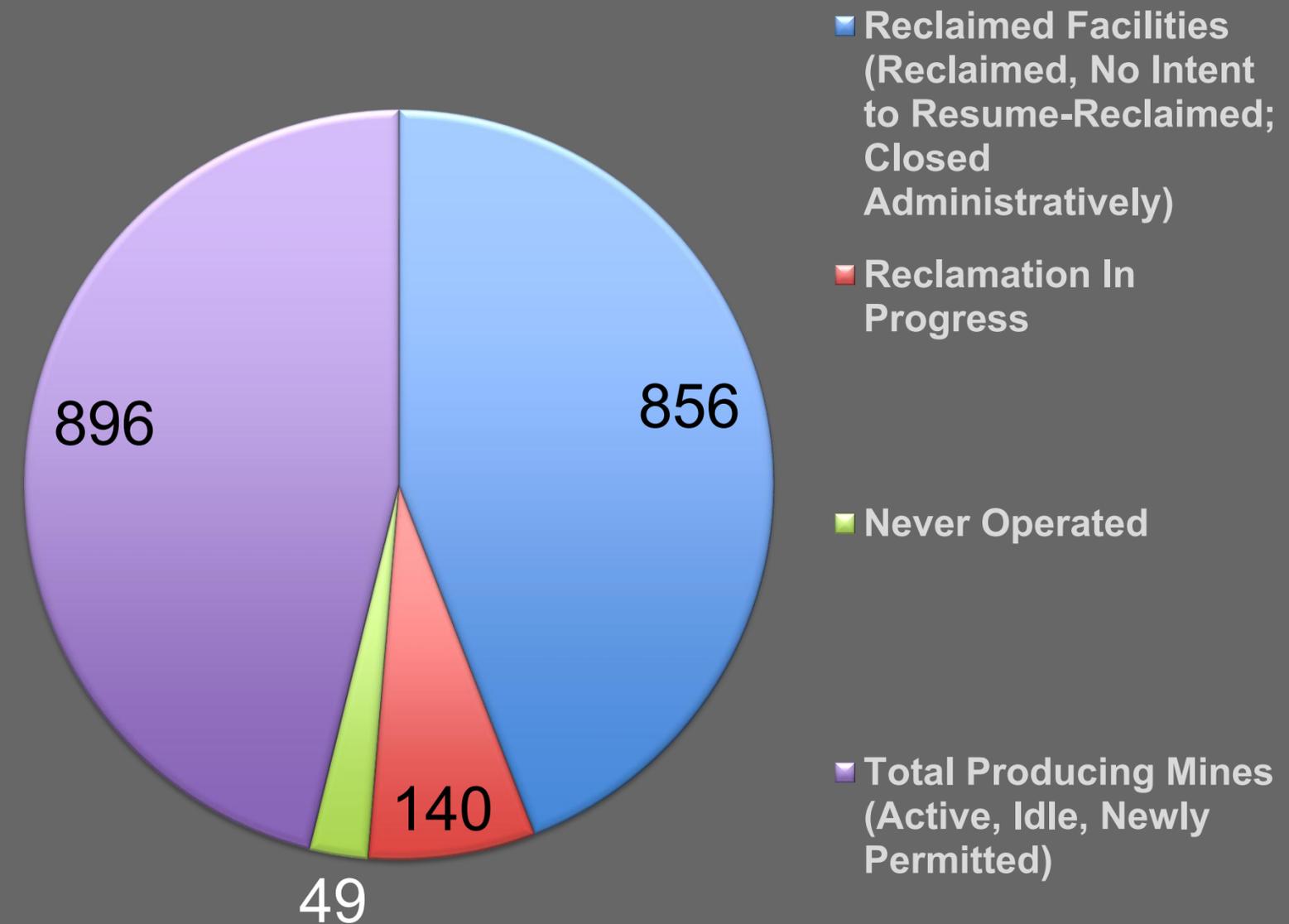
COMMITTEES

NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE, CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PENAL INSTITUTIONS, CHAIRMAN
JOINT COMMITTEE FOR REVISION OF THE PENAL CODE
PUBLIC UTILITIES, TRANSIT AND ENERGY
SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION OF TIMBER AND TIMBERLAND
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FAIR ALLOCATION AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Why Reflect Now?

- Promote understanding of SMARA
- Materials Supply + Reclamation
- Institutional Memory Mining
- Lesson Learning

California SMARA Mines Update 2025



Why Reflect Now?

- Regulatory Policy Maker
- Lead Agency Executive Authority
- Administrative Adjudicatory Body
- Mineral Resource Designator & Defender

The Board's Central Role

MEMBERS

Tom Bates
Charles Calderon
Lloyd Connelly
Sam Farr
Art Frazee
Luis Frizzelle
Bev Hansen
Trice Harvey
Marian La Follette
Burt Margolin
Sally Tanner
Maxine Waters

California Legislature Assembly Natural Resources Committee

BYRON D. SHER
CHAIRMAN

February 6, 1991

CHIEF CONSULTANT:
Kip Lipper

CONSULTANTS:
Jeffrey P. Shellito
Paul D. Thayer

COMMITTEE SECRETARY
Ann E. Boone

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001
TELEPHONE: (916) 445-9367

Mr. James A. Anderson, Chairman
State Mining and Geology Board
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1326-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Anderson:

As you are aware, AB 3551 and AB 3903 assign several new and important responsibilities to the State Mining and Geology Board which will require it to play an increasingly critical role in implementation of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). How the board handles these new duties will help determine whether the legislative reforms we enacted last year succeed or fail.

The SMARA@50 Initiative



- Uncover historical documentation
- Gather institutional perspectives
- Develop reclamation case studies
- Educate and inform

Golden Anniversary Reclamation Awards



- Outcome-focused
- Document Performance
- Transparent Criteria
- Develop a Visual Archive

Making Outcomes Visible

Habitat and Open Space



Reclamation as Outcome

- Minimizes water degradation, air pollution, and damage to aquatic or wildlife habitat
- Reduces flooding, erosion, and other adverse effects from surface mining
- Restores mined lands to a usable condition readily adaptable for alternate land uses
- Eliminates danger to public health or safety
- May extend to affected lands surrounding the mine site

Making Outcomes Visible

Maximizing Natural Land Resource Value



Reclamation as Outcome

- Minimizes water degradation, air pollution, and damage to aquatic or wildlife habitat
- Reduces flooding, erosion, and other adverse effects from surface mining
- Restores mined lands to a usable condition readily adaptable for alternate land uses
- Eliminates danger to public health or safety
- May extend to affected lands surrounding the mine site

Making Outcomes Visible

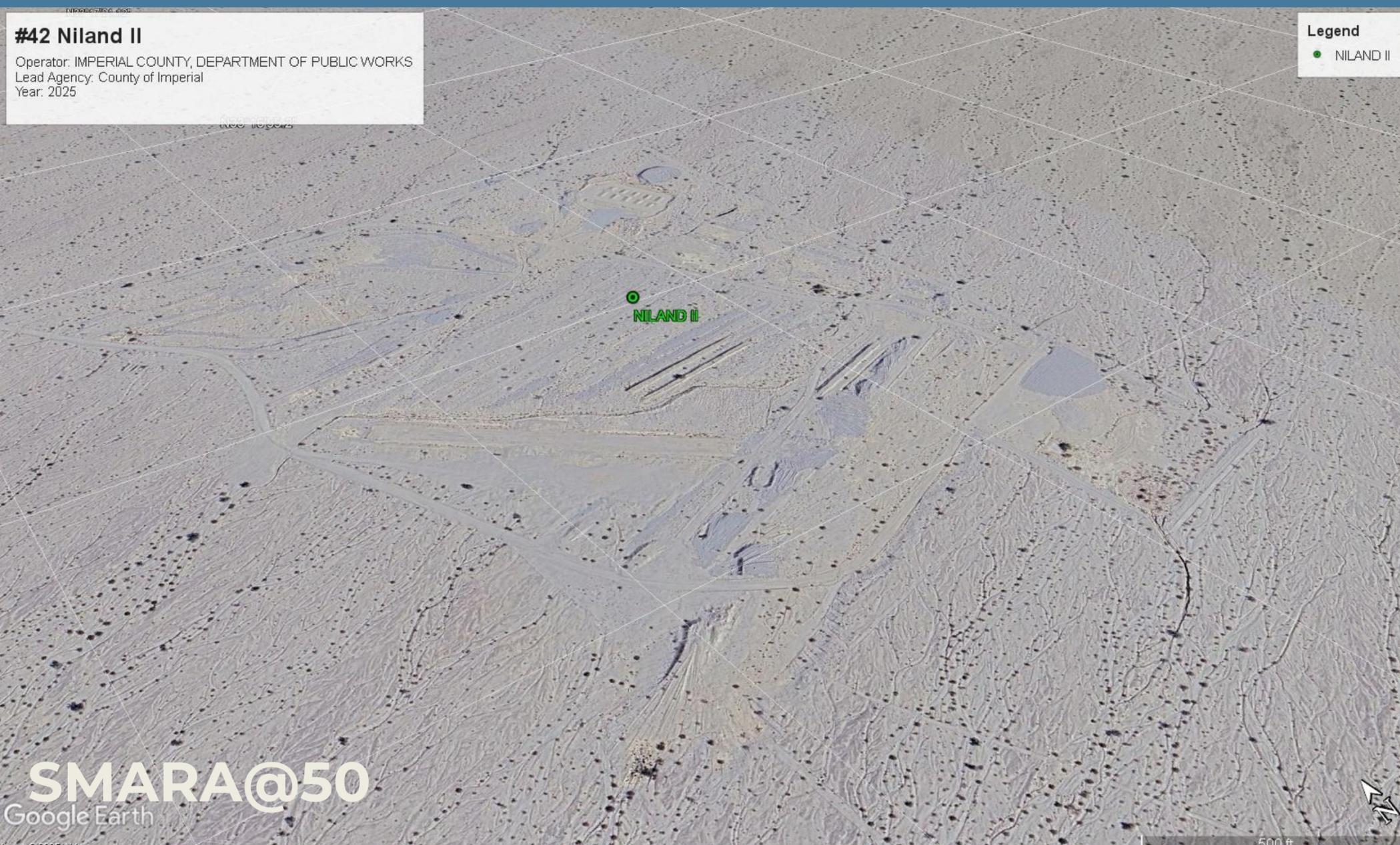
Institutional Value



- Demonstrates regulatory flexibility
- Demonstrates effective governance
- Preserves institutional memory
- Supports informed public discourse

Making Outcomes Visible

What the Awards Are and Are not!



The Golden Anniversary Reclamation Awards are:

- Documentation and Outcome Focused
- Institutional Reflection
- A SMARA Evaluation

They are not:

- Substitutes for Oversight
- An Endorsement of Projects
- One Size Fits All Solutions

**Submit Golden Anniversary Award
Entry's**

**Governmental &
Developer
Perspective
Encouraged**



50 Years to Document – Our Future to Improve!

Please Contact Us

Adam Harper
Senior Director of Policy
California Construction and Industrial Materials Association
aharper@calcima.org
www.linkedin.com/in/adam-harper-51669016
(916) 554-1000 Ext. 102

Learn More: https://calcima.org/page/SMARA_50

AWARD ENTRY



Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 157

**Introduced by Assembly Member Hoover
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bains and Nguyen)**

March 4, 2026

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 157—Relative to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 157, as introduced, Hoover. Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975: 50th anniversary.

This measure would commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, For 50 years, the Surface Mining and Reclamation
2 Act of 1975 (SMARA) has served as California’s framework for
3 balancing the extraction of essential minerals with the protection
4 of the environment, public health, and local communities, ensuring
5 that mined lands are reclaimed and returned to beneficial use; and
6 WHEREAS, Authored by Senator John A. Nejedly, a Republican
7 from Contra Costa County, and signed into law by Governor
8 Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown, Jr., SMARA reflected a spirit of
9 bipartisan stewardship that has continued through subsequent
10 updates and modernizations, ensuring the act remains effective in
11 meeting California’s environmental and economic needs; and
12 WHEREAS, SMARA recognizes that mineral resources are
13 fundamental to strong communities, providing the raw materials
14 for clean water, housing, transportation, and technology, while

1 ensuring they are developed responsibly for the benefit of future
2 generations; and

3 WHEREAS, Since its adoption, SMARA has guided the
4 responsible operation and reclamation of hundreds of mining sites
5 throughout California, resulting in the restoration of lands for
6 future community use, including open space, wildlife habitat,
7 public parks, housing, and commercial uses, among others; and

8 WHEREAS, The act established a framework of shared
9 governance between local and state agencies, aligning community
10 accountability with statewide oversight to sustain responsible
11 mining and reclamation across California; and

12 WHEREAS, SMARA relies on the essential partnership between
13 local governments and state agencies, including the Department
14 of Conservation and the State Mining and Geology Board, which
15 provide technical expertise, oversight, and policy guidance, while
16 local lead agencies act as the primary permitting and enforcement
17 authorities, together ensuring that mineral resource development,
18 reclamation, and long-term stewardship of lands are carried out in
19 a manner that is locally accountable, scientifically informed, and
20 consistent with statewide environmental and resource development
21 and conservation goals; and

22 WHEREAS, SMARA's classification and designation system
23 has mapped and conserved millions of acres of mineral resources
24 of regional or statewide significance, ensuring that lands critical
25 to California's infrastructure, economy, and environment remain
26 available for future generations to develop and use; and

27 WHEREAS, California remains among the nation's leading
28 producers of nonfuel minerals, with essential commodities such
29 as aggregates, limestone for cement, gypsum, boron, and rare earth
30 elements forming the foundation for housing, agriculture,
31 transportation, water systems, and climate-resilient infrastructure;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, SMARA has guided reclamation practices that
34 restore mined lands to productive and natural uses, demonstrating
35 that environmental stewardship and resource development can
36 advance together; and

37 WHEREAS, SMARA affirms that the responsible use and
38 restoration of natural resources are essential to both human
39 prosperity and environmental health, providing a model for how
40 working lands can serve people and nature alike; and

1 WHEREAS, SMARA continues to embody the principle that
2 thoughtful policy, shared responsibility, and enduring cooperation
3 can sustain both the natural environment and the human
4 communities necessary as California looks to build the
5 infrastructure of the future and remain the gateway to the Pacific;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
8 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby commemorates
9 the 50th Anniversary of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
10 of 1975, honors the leadership of Senator John A. Nejedly,
11 Governor Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown, Jr., and the many bipartisan
12 policymakers, local officials, and industry partners whose vision
13 created SMARA, and reaffirms California’s enduring commitment
14 to responsible mineral resource management and environmental
15 restoration; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the Governor, the Department of Conservation,
18 the State Mining and Geology Board, and to the author for further
19 distribution to other relevant stakeholders as a mark of the
20 Legislature’s recognition and celebration of this historic milestone.



Agenda Item No. 13B

March 12th, 2026

Presentation: *SMARA in Action: Effective Mine Reclamation Under SMGB Authority*
by: SMGB Staff

INFORMATION:

The State Mining and Geology Board (Board) serves as the lead agency for 49 surface mining operations across California, making it the fifth-largest SMARA lead agency statewide. In this role, the Board is responsible for approving reclamation plans, conducting annual inspections, reviewing and approving financial assurances, and ensuring compliance, while local lead agencies maintain land-use authority. As part of its oversight, Board staff documents completion of reclamation consistent with the approved reclamation plan resulting in the release of financial assurances. Today's presentation focuses on the completed reclamation at the Lapis Sand Mine and the Wheatland Pit.