



® April 14, 2016

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

**RE: SB 209 (Pavley) – Surface mining: financial assurances: reclamation plans
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) I write to respectfully request your signature on SB 209, by Senator Fran Pavley. This measure would make several important changes to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

Specifically, SB 209 would update provisions of SMARA, affecting mining operator reporting fees and penalties. SB 209 would also permit corporate financial tests combined with other approved mechanisms as a financial assurance mechanism for mining operators. In addition, this measure includes new, flexible provisions for local agency intermittent borrow pit operations.

CSAC appreciates the efforts of your administration last year to bring together a working group comprised of the Department of Conservation, the Office of Mining Reclamation, and representatives of local government, industry, and environmental organizations to work out differences with two SMARA related bills, SB 209 (Pavley) and AB 1142, by Assembly Member Adam Gray. As a result of these discussions all parties agreed to amendments to both bills that combined will make significant and necessary improvements to SMARA affecting the certainty, quality, and accuracy of annual mine inspections and financial assurances.

For these reasons CSAC urges your favorable consideration of SB 209. Should you have any questions on our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 327-7500, x-511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Keene' in a cursive script.

Karen Keene
Senior Legislative Representative

cc: Senator Fran Pavley
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown