



FLOOR ALERT

To: Members, California State Senate
From: Mary Pitto, RCRC, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Karen Keene, CSAC, Senior Legislative Representative
Date: March 29, 2016
Re: Assembly Bill 1142 (Gray) - **SUPPORT**

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), we are writing to express our support for AB 1142, authored by Assembly Member Adam Gray, regarding the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

Over the past several years there have been many unsuccessful attempts to overhaul the SMARA. There is still, however, a need to update some of the provisions and to ensure accurate inspections and financial assurances for the appropriate reclamation of mineral operations.

Through the efforts of the Brown Administration, in 2015 a working group that included stakeholders from the Department of Conservation, the Office of Mining Reclamation, and representatives of lead agency, industry, and environmental organizations was convened and collectively worked on amendments to both AB 1142 and SB 209, by Senator Fran Pavley, until the bills were harmonized and acceptable to all parties involved. Together, the provisions of AB 1142 and SB 209 will improve the certainty, quality, and accuracy of annual inspections and financial assurances.

Many of the amendments in AB 1142 clarify and improve existing law to ensure complete reclamation plans, appropriate financial assurances, proper inspections, and clear authority and processes. These changes not only protect the environment and our mineral resources, but also protect lead agencies' liabilities.

For these reasons RCRC and CSAC are pleased to support AB 1142. Should you have any questions on our position, please contact Mary Pitto with RCRC at (916) 447-4806 or Karen Keene with CSAC at (916) 327-7500.

cc: Assembly Member Adam Gray