



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

April 16, 2015

The Honorable Adam Gray  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1142 – Mining and Geology: Surface Mining: SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Gray:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Assembly Bill 1142, regarding the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). RCRC is an association of thirty-four rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

Over the past several years there have been many unsuccessful attempts to overhaul SMARA. There is still, however, a need to update some of the provisions to ensure accurate inspections and financial assurances for the appropriate reclamation of mineral operations. The provisions of AB 1142 will improve the certainty, quality, and accuracy of annual inspections and financial assurances.

AB 1142 will require enhanced training of local government personnel through the development of a curriculum by the State Geologist to include inspection techniques, proper use of the inspection form, and calculation for financial assurances. Additionally, this measure will resolve several other issues including:

- It fixes an unreasonable requirement that a state-licensed professional conducting a mining inspection for the lead agency cannot have been employed by *any* surface mining operation within the jurisdiction of the lead agency in any capacity during the previous 12 months, by more appropriately specifying they could not have been employed by *the* mine being inspected; and
- It confirms the long standing practice that a lead agency employee may conduct an inspection of a surface mining operation operated by another department within the local agency.

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Through the efforts of the Administration, RCRC recognizes this bill is still subject to various amendments and is committed to working with the author to improve the quality of inspections and accuracy of financial assurances.

For the above reasons, RCRC supports AB 1142. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or [chillery@rcrcnet.org](mailto:chillery@rcrcnet.org) should you have any questions regarding our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cyndi B. Hillery".

CYNDI B. HILLERY  
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Michael Jarred, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
John Kennedy, Assembly Republican Policy Consultant