



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 3/4/2009
Agenda Placement: 10A

Napa County Planning Commission Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Planning Commission
FROM: John McDowell for Gitelman, Hillary - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: DONALD BARRELLA, PLANNER III - 707-299-1338
SUBJECT: Surface Mining and Reclamation Act Information Item

RECOMMENDATION

SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION ACT UPDATE

Request: Information item to outline and discuss the County practices and regulations concerning implementation of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

Staff Contact: Don Barrella, 299-1338 dbarrella@co.napa.ca.us

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information item to acquaint the Commission on the purpose, procedures and requirements related to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) and the County's Surface Mining and Reclamation (Chapter 16.12 NCC). It is expected that later in 2009 at least one SMARA related project, the expansion and production increase of the Napa Quarry (located off east side of the Napa Vallejo Highway: Highway 221) owned and operated by Syar Industries Incorporated, will be coming before the Planning Commission for review. The purpose of this item is to provide background information in advance of future SMARA related items coming before the Commission. At the meeting, staff will provide background materials, give a brief presentation and respond to questions.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Information Item - The item is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) as a "project" and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA, Public Resources Code, Sections 2710-2796) provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy with the regulation of surface mining operations to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the state's mineral resources.

Napa County, as the lead agency, administers SMARA, which primarily requires the following for a mining operation:

- | A permit to mine;
- | An approved reclamation plan;
- | An approved financial assurance amount and security mechanism; and,
- | Annual inspections and annual reports submitted to the State Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR).

It is anticipated that staff will be providing the Commission with a Resource CD containing the SMARA statute, the County Surface Mining Ordinance, other SMARA and mining related documents, and related references and web sites.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

Napa County Planning Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: John McDowell