

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

901B



REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DATE 9/24/13 TMG  
Tina Grande

Departmental Concurrence

**FROM:** Transportation and Land Management - TLMA

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
September 16, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Consolidation of Riverside County's Mining Program to TLMA-Planning.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors receive and file this report.

**BACKGROUND:** Riverside County currently oversees mining operations within the unincorporated County, in accordance with County Ordinance No. 555, and on several mining operations located on Federal land, as the Lead Agency pursuant to the State of California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). County Ordinance No. 555 currently divides the administration of the County's mining program between the "Planning Director" and the "Building Director".

The State has recently adopted new regulations, and is anticipated to adopt additional regulations under SMARA, that further intermesh many entitlement issues with various inspection and reporting issues. We have been advised in recent meetings with officials of the State Mining and Geology Board and the Office of Mine Reclamation that it is the State's experience that the most successful SMARA Lead Agency programs are administered under a single point of contact. Recent discussions with mining industry representatives through the California Construction and Industrial Materials Association (CALCIMA) confirmed their interest in having Riverside County maintain its Lead Agency status, and their support of having a single point of contact for our mining program.

Juan C. Perez  
Director of Transportation and Land Management

Initials: JCP/dlj  
(Continued On Attached Page)

- Dep't Recomm.:  Consent  Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.

District: All

Agenda Number:

3-16

In order to implement this change, it is anticipated that the following will occur gradually within the next year:

1. The management of the County's comprehensive mining program under County Ordinance No. 555 will be transferred to the Planning Department under direction of the Chief Engineering Geologist.
2. The Planning Department will commission a nexus study to examine the County's current fee structure for our mining program oversight and to consider an appropriate new fee structure that will provide the enhanced oversight and reporting requirements that the State is seeking. County staff will establish a task force through CALCIMA to participate in the review of the Nexus Study and fee-setting procedures in order to obtain feedback from the mining industry.
3. The Planning Department will issue a RFP to pursue consulting services for the purpose of performing future mine inspections, financial assurance cost estimate review, and mine inspection report preparation under supervision of County staff. Use of consulting services will supplement County staff's technical expertise and provide on-call staffing resources that can flexibly meet the workload demands.
4. The Planning Department will revise County Ordinance No. 555 to reflect the consolidation of functions under the Planning Department.