

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 982 (Carrillo)

As Amended August 21, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes a surface mining operation to apply for and request the Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) to review and approve an application for Idle Reserve Mine Status.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Change the sunset date from January 1, 2036, to January 1, 2033, on the Idle Reserve Mine Status authorization.
- 2) Revise and recast the definition of "idle;" define "active," "in the process of being reclaimed," and "reserves;" and, revise the definition of "construction aggregate material."
- 3) Add "Idle Reserve Mine Status" as a reportable status of a mining operation.
- 4) Require the State Mining and Geology Board (Board) to impose the annual reporting fee on each mining operation that is newly permitted, active, idle, in "Idle Reserve Mine Status," or in the process of being reclaimed.
- 5) Provide that the approval of "Idle Reserve Mine Status" is not a project for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 6) Provide that information related to reserves, production, or rate of depletion submitted by an applicant to the State Geologist shall be deemed proprietary information prohibit disclosure to any member of the public.
- 7) Authorize the Board to adopt regulations to implement the bill.
- 8) Require DMR, commencing December 31, 2028, and annually thereafter, to compile and post on its internet website specified information.

COMMENTS

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) 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.

Under current law, mine operators can hit "pause" on their operations and idle their mines when/while it is not commercially viable to continue mining. Providing for idle status also helps prevent the abandonment of mines and ensure regulatory oversight and inspections continue until the mine is reclaimed. Construction aggregate facilities have been particularly prone to becoming idle, due to spikes in production from large infrastructure projects.

The bill covers surface mining operations authorized for extraction of construction aggregate materials that are currently idle. According to California Construction & Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA), there are approximately 100 operations in the state that could be eligible for the proposed Idle Mine Reserve Status. This bill creates an "Idle Reserve Mine

Status" of up to 10 years length for idle construction aggregate mines, and sunsets on January 1, 2033, among other provisions.

According to the Author

Assembly Bill 982 is crucial for the continued success of our local mining industry and the construction projects that rely on it. By allowing mines across California to extend their operations, we ensure that valuable resources are preserved for future use, reducing unnecessary shutdowns and costly transportation. In rural districts like mine, where mines are spread far apart, the closure of any mine forces longer travel for resources, which increases emissions and makes it harder to attract investment in local construction projects. This bill will help keep construction materials local, reducing fuel consumption, [carbon] emissions, and traffic congestion. By supporting AB 982, we're investing in our local economy, job creation, and sustainable development, while ensuring that we have the resources to build the infrastructure our communities need and deserve.

Arguments in Support

CalCIMA states that AB 982 is an important measure to maintain the supply chain of construction materials needed to rebuild and maintain California's critical infrastructure, including roads and highways, bridges, sidewalks, airports, public transit, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, dams, reservoirs, utility infrastructure, commercial buildings, housing, and health care facilities.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, this bill would result in ongoing costs of about \$1 million in the first year and \$987,000 annually thereafter until the January 1, 2033, sunset date (Mine Reclamation Account) for the Department of Conservation to develop regulations, review applications, and fulfill annual reporting requirements, among other things.

VOTES:

ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 14-0-0

YES: Bryan, Alanis, Connolly, Ellis, Flora, Garcia, Haney, Hoover, Kalra, Muratsuchi, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-1-0

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez,

Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas
NO: Ávila Farías

UPDATED

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