

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
ACR 157 (Hoover)
As Introduced March 4, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA).

Major Provisions

- 1) Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of SMARA, honors the leadership of Senator Nejedly, Governor Brown, and the many bipartisan policymakers, local officials, and industry partners whose vision created SMARA.
- 2) Reaffirms California's enduring commitment to responsible mineral resource management and environmental restoration.

COMMENTS

Today, there are 3,350 known mines in California, more than 1,000 of which are active to remove aggregate for building material, metals, and minerals. Mining operators are required under SMARA to develop and implement reclamation plans, which will return the mine to a condition where it can be used for another purpose after the mining operation is complete.

SMARA provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy with regulations for the extraction of minerals that are essential to the continued economic well-being of California and the needs of society, as well as for the reclamation of mined lands in order to prevent or minimize adverse effects on the environment and public health. SMARA applies to anyone, including government agencies, engaged in surface mining operations in California (including those on federally managed lands) that disturb more than one acre or remove more than 1,000 cubic yards of material. This includes prospecting and exploratory activities, dredging and quarrying, streambed skimming, borrow pitting, and the stockpiling of mined materials. According to the California Construction and Industrial Materials Association, today, approximately 1,970 mines have been or are regulated under SMARA.

Since SMARA was enacted, about 856 mines have completed reclamation and been formally closed.

According to the Author

SMARA represents a landmark achievement in California's approach to balancing environmental stewardship with the responsible development of mineral resources. For fifty years, SMARA has provided a comprehensive framework ensuring that surface mining operations are conducted responsibly and that mined lands are reclaimed for beneficial future uses. California relies on a steady supply of construction materials—including aggregates, concrete, and other mineral resources—to build and maintain the infrastructure that supports our communities. Roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, water systems, and housing all depend on these essential materials. ACR 157 recognizes the 50th anniversary of SMARA and the collaborative efforts of state agencies, local governments, industry, and community stakeholders who have helped implement and strengthen this important law. The resolution acknowledges the continued importance of

responsible resource management and mine reclamation in protecting the environment while supporting California's long-term infrastructure and economic needs.

Arguments in Support

The California Construction and Industrial Materials Association writes in support that SMARA plays an essential role in ensuring California maintains access to the mineral resources necessary to build and maintain modern infrastructure. Materials such as rock, sand, and gravel are critical ingredients in concrete, asphalt, and other construction materials used to build roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, water systems, public transit, and housing across the state. SMARA provides a clear regulatory framework that allows mineral extraction to occur while minimizing environmental impacts.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

Nonfiscal

VOTES

ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 13-0-1

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi

UPDATED

VERSION: March 4, 2026

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FN: 0003159