



# Legislation to Amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to Provide Metropolitan with Lead Agency Status

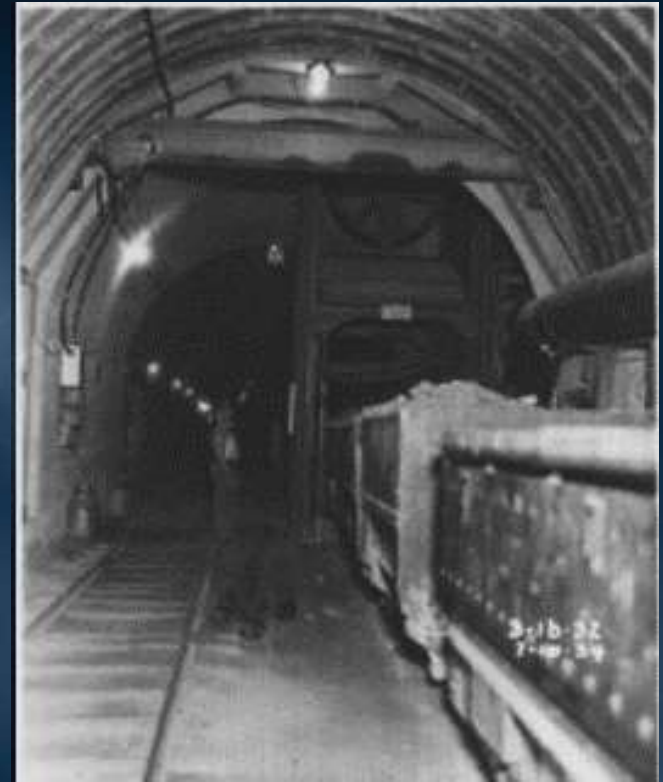
Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 8-5

October 7, 2019

# Proposed Action

Authorize the General Manager to seek legislation to amend California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) to provide Metropolitan with Lead Agency status for its activities



Iron Mountain tunneling operation  
(c. 1934)

# SMARA Background

- SMARA enacted in 1975
  - Minimize adverse environmental effects of surface mining operations
  - Reclaim mined lands to a useable condition
  - Minimize residual hazards to the public

# Metropolitan's O&M Activities

- Repair, replace, and maintain facilities & infrastructure
- Material obtained locally, where possible



Storm damage: exposed CRA barrel Nov. 2018

# SMARA Requirements

- Reclamation plans
- Financial assurances
- Annual lead agency inspections
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance
- Regulatory permitting compliance

# Lead Agency Benefits

- Consistent administration of SMARA
- Streamlined permitting and CEQA compliance
- Metropolitan-led inspections and reporting
- Reduced costs
- Direct reporting to Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation

# Board Options

- Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to seek legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to provide Metropolitan with lead agency status for its activities

- Option #2

Do not authorize the General Manager to seek legislation to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to provide Metropolitan with lead agency status for its activities

# Staff Recommendation

- Option #1



