

## **Update On The Proposed Elimination of the State Mining and Geology Board**

Last week in a surprise move, a funding hearing was held by the Budget Committee of the California Assembly. Executive Branch personnel spoke in support of the SMGB elimination. Members of several professional groups testified against the elimination and included CalCIMA, The Sierra Fund, and AEG. This diverse group of professionals all supported the work of the SMGB and emphasized how its elimination would NOT reduce state government or openness. In fact this move would INCREASE STATE GOVERNMENT by turning over all SMGB responsibilities to a government agency staffed by full-time state employees. At present the duties of the Board are carried out by appointed Board members that serve in a voluntary capacity with only their actual expenses reimbursed.

THE FIGHT IS NOT OVER. While the Assembly Budget Committee members decided to HOLD OPEN this issue on the day of the hearing, they could still vote to eliminate the SMGB. There is another Assembly hearing scheduled for next Wednesday May 9, 2012. YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED TO CONTACT THE ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS listed below and voice your opinion for maintaining the SMGB. We may need future mobilization if this goes to the Senate, but hopefully it can be stopped in the Assembly. A letter to the Governor written by SMGB members may be useful when preparing your comments, it can be found as the January 12, 2012 announcement on the website: <http://www.aegsc.org/announcements/>

Following are the Assembly Budget Committee members, also it would be good to contact **Assembly Speaker John Perez: Capitol Office Room 219, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 319-2046:**

### **Committee Members**

Richard S. Gordon – Chair	Dem-21
Betsy Butler	Dem-53
Jared Huffman	Dem-6
Brian W. Jones	Rep-77
David G. Valadao	Rep-30
Bob Blumenfield - Dem. Alternate	Dem-40
Jim Nielsen - Rep. Alternate	Rep-2

### **District Office & Contact Information**

<a href="#">Contact Assembly Member Richard S. Gordon</a> State Capital, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-002 (916) 319-2021
<a href="#">Contact Assembly Member Betsy Butler</a> State Capital, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0053 (916) 319-2053
<a href="#">Contact Assembly Member Jared Huffman</a> State Capital, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA, 94249-0006 (916) 319-2006
<a href="#">Contact Assembly Member Brian W. Jones</a> State Capital, Room 4126, Sacramento, CA 94248-0001 (916) 319-2077
<a href="#">Contact Assembly Member David G. Valadao</a> State Capital, Room 2174, Sacramento, CA 94248-0001 (916) 319-2030
<a href="#">Contact Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield</a> State Capital, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0040 (916) 319-2040
<a href="#">Contact Assembly Member Jim Nielson</a> State Capital, Room #6031, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 319-2002