

Purpose :

The main purpose of the interim review is to allow the County a "second bite at the apple" in effect by opening a window during which relevant new environmental regulations or statutory changes may be applied to the Permits. The point is to strengthen the County's environmental controls over the permitted mining operations. As such only regulations that increase levels of environmental protection will be considered. To the extent that environmental regulations in any given area may have been weakened by changes in law since 1996, these would not be considered.

The regulations/statutes to be considered must be promulgated by a responsible or trustee agency with authority over a particular environmental/natural resource. Examples are the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Conservation, Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Lands Commission, State Reclamation Board, Yolo County, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Whether or not the Permits are amended to incorporate any new requirements as a part of this interim review is within the sole discretion of the County. It should be noted that, absent any public hazard or public nuisance or other threat to public health or safety, tonnage, acreage, and depth of mining remain vested under the executed DAs. Should the County decide to incorporate new provisions into the Permits, this is to be accomplished as an amendment to the Permits in the form of new or modified conditions of approval applied to the individual Permit.

General Permits,

The CCRMP operates under the authority of several state and federal "general permits" that were issued following adoption of the CCAP in 1996. A brief summary of these permits and their issuance dates are provided below. There would be no change in these general permits as a part of this interim review of the individual mining Permits. The interim review relates only to the conditions of approval for the individual mining Permits.

July 1997	Army Corps of Engineers (COE) issues a five-year Regional General Permit (Number 58) for the CCRMP\CCIP which authorizes instream activities under Section 4C)4 of the Clean Water Act.
June 1997	California Department of Fish and Game issues a five-year Stream or Lake Alteration Agreement (Number 315-97) for the TCRMP\CCIP which authorizes under Section 160111603 of the Fish and Game Code the projects contemplated in the CCIP.
June 1999	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issues three-year Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the CCRMP\CCIP which authorizes instream activities under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.
October 1999	AB 297 passed enacting Section 2715.5 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) which establishes the CCRMP as the equivalent of a Reclamation Plan for the California Department of Conservation (DOC) for the purposes of satisfying the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).
August 2002	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board re-issues five-year Section 401 Water Quality Certification,