

Key Info and Draft Text for activist email back to SMGB:

State Mining and Geology Board
801 K Street, MS 20-15
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Metallic Mine Backfill Regulations
Email: smgb@conservation.ca.gov

Re: Notice of Pre-Rulemaking Workshop and Public Comment Period – June 13
Sacramento, CA Workshop

Dear State Mining and Geology Board Members:

I am deeply concerned about the State Mining and Geology Board's review of our state's strong open pit mine reclamation rules. Open pit mining permanently scars wild landscapes, pollutes our air and water, degrades wildlife habitats, and spoils outdoor recreation opportunities. Fortunately for our environment, California has some of the strongest regulations in the country and was the first state to adopt backfill requirements for open pit mine reclamation. These backfill rules do not need to be amended and I urge you not to undertake changes at this time. I do not want to see California fall prey to the extensive mining pollution and damage other western states, such as Nevada and Utah, have experienced.

I am particularly alarmed that these important rules are being reconsidered at a time when the Board has no environmental member and while the Trump Administration is aggressively pursuing its destructive agenda of environmental rollbacks. California needs to continue to stand strong as a national leader against the Trump administration's environmental assaults. We must keep our state's critical environmental safeguards firmly in place.

There are many wild places in the Sierra Nevada and across the California Desert that will be threatened if the backfill regulations are weakened and mining expands. I'm very concerned that special areas I know and love will be targeted by mining companies for new open pit gold mining if the state's backfill regulations are weakened.

California's air, water and special places should not be sacrificed in the interest of mining. Please do not aid and abet the Trump Administration's assault on our air, water and public lands by weakening our own state standards at the same time as the Administration is eliminating critical national level protections. I urge the Board to continue its important work to manage and protect California's land and resources by leaving the backfill regulations in place and unchanged.