

# PERMIT TO MINE / RECLAMATION PLAN

## APPLICANT'S GUIDE TO PROCEDURES

Permits to Mine and Reclamation Plans are required for all mining activities except:

1. Excavations or grading conducted for farming or onsite construction or for the purpose of restoring land following a flood or natural disaster.
2. Prospecting for, or the extraction of, minerals for commercial purposes and the removal of overburden in total amounts of less than 1,000 cubic yards in any one location of one acre or less.
3. On-site excavation and on-site earthmoving activities which are an integral and necessary part of a construction project that are undertaken to prepare a site for construction of structures, landscaping, or other land improvements, including the related excavation, grading compaction, or the creation of fills, road cuts, and embankments, whether or not surplus materials are exported from the site, subject to the conditions specified under Public Resources Code Section 2714.(b)(1) et. seq.
4. Operation of a plant site used for mineral processing, including associated onsite structures, equipment, machines, tools, or other materials, including the onsite stockpiling and onsite recovery of mined materials, subject to the conditions specified under Public Resources Code Section 2714.(c)(1) et. seq.
5. Surface mining operations that are required by federal law in order to protect a mining claim, if such operations are conducted solely for that purpose.

The location and operation of such activity is subject to review and County issuance of a Permit to Mine and Reclamation Plan. These are required to ensure conformity with the General Plan and zoning, to prevent or minimize adverse environmental effects, ensure that reclamation will be to a usable condition readily adaptable for alternative uses, that reclamation will permit continued mining and that residual hazards to the public health, safety, and welfare will be eliminated. A Permit to Mine and Reclamation Plan is not required for those minor activities set forth in Section 9-5.03 of the Plumas County Code.

### **WHERE TO FILE?**

Planning & Building Services (530) 283-7011  
555 Main Street  
Quincy, CA 95971

### **WHAT TO FILE?**

1. The completed application form and fifteen (15) copies of the topographic maps. If applicable, attach copies of Stream-bed Alteration Agreement and Waste Discharge Requirements.
2. The filing fee set forth in Planning & Building Services' fee schedule (attached).

## **PROCEDURE**

In order to determine compatibility, an application for a Permit to Mine / Reclamation Plan is investigated by the Zoning Administrator, which investigation may include preparation of an environmental document, and is subject to a public hearing. If your project is determined to have no significant environmental effect or to be exempt, no further review is required. If it is determined that a Negative Declaration is required, one of two fees will be charged depending on whether the Negative Declaration is prepared by staff in the Planning & Building Services Department or by a consultant. These fees are listed in the attached fee schedule. After the document is prepared it is circulated for public review for a period of 30 days.

If an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required, one of two fees will be charged depending on whether the EIR is prepared by staff in the Planning & Building Services Department or by a consultant. These fees are listed in the attached fee schedule. After preparation, the EIR is circulated for public review for a period of 45 days.

After your application is investigated a staff recommendation is prepared and mailed to you. A public hearing before the Zoning Administrator is scheduled and hearing notices are mailed to the owners of property within 300 feet. In addition, a notice of public hearing will be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing. It is recommended that the applicant or a representative be present at the hearing. The date of hearing is normally determined within 30 days of receipt of a complete application.

The decision of the Zoning Administrator is made at the public hearing. Appeals must be filed within 10 days from the date of the decision to be considered by the Board of Supervisors. The filing fee, paid to Planning & Building Services, is set forth in the fee schedule (attached).

For additional information, contact Planning & Building Services at (530) 283-7011.



### III. MINING OPERATION & CLOSURE

1. State the type of mineral(s) to be mined: \_\_\_\_\_
2. State the quantity of mineral(s) to be mined: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Proposed initiation date: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed termination date: \_\_\_\_\_
4. State the maximum anticipated depth of mining: \_\_\_\_\_  
**\*\*\* Depth of mining should be tied to a verifiable benchmark that can be referenced in the field for compliance monitoring. \*\*\***
5. Describe the type of mine and the method for removing overburden and the mineral commodity.
6. Describe the site in a regional context.
7. Provide a topographic map of the project area.  
**\*\*\* This map should include current and final contours that are supported by cross-sections, the original and proposed final drainage patterns, areas of existing vegetation and proposed areas of revegetation, setbacks from adjacent properties and sensitive areas, location of mining operations area, the location of stockpiled materials, the location of equipment, materials, and supplies, and temporary and permanent locations of erosion control facilities, including any sediment basins, benches, and berms. \*\*\***  
**\*\*\* The maps provided should include a legend, north arrow, and a scale for reference, and be of sufficient scale to allow evaluation of the proposed reclamation. \*\*\***
8. Provide the size and attach a legal description of the lands that will be mined.
9. Provide a time schedule for completion of each segment of mining.
10. Provide a statement on the anticipated impact of reclamation on future mining.
11. Describe how potential impacts to public health and safety (exposure) will be minimized.
12. If mining activity results in any surface openings, describe how they will be gated or otherwise protected from public entry, but preserve wildlife access.
13. Describe the disposal of old equipment.
14. Describe how equipment, materials, and supplies will be stored in designated areas. Describe how waste material will be disposed of in accordance with current laws.
15. Describe how all structure and equipment are to be dismantled and removed prior to mine closure unless they are deemed necessary for the proposed end use.

### IV. END LAND USE

1. Provide a description of the proposed uses or potential uses of the land after cessation of mining.
2. Describe the reclamation measures adequate for the proposed end use.

### V. GEOTECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Describe the designed steepness and proposed physical treatment of final mined slopes.  
**\*\*\* Slope angles specified in the reclamation plan must be less than the critical gradient of the type of material involved. Whenever final slopes approach the critical angle (gradient) for the type of material involved, an engineering analysis of the slope stability must be undertaken by a California-registered civil engineer and/or a California-certified engineering geologist. \*\*\***

2. Demonstrate how cut slopes, including quarry highwall and cut faces, will maintain a minimum factor of safety adequate for the end use or conform with surrounding topography.
3. Describe fill placement and compaction with reference to the end use and the appropriate engineering standards and technology.
4. Indicate the maximum depth and/or height of fill material and show where it is located.
5. When the proposed end use is urban, including building sites and road beds, describe how the proper compaction will be accomplished.
6. Final reclamation fill slopes cannot be steeper than 2:1 (horizontal to vertical), except when engineering and revegetation analyses allow. Provide the appropriate analyses if final reclamation fill slopes will be steeper than 2:1.
7. Demonstrate, using maps or illustrations, that final landforms of fills will conform with surrounding topography and/or end use.

## **VI. HYDROLOGY & WATER QUALITY**

1. Demonstrate how surface and groundwater will be protected from siltation and pollutants that may diminish water quality.
2. Describe how erosion and sedimentation will be controlled during all phases of mining and reclamation.
3. Provide a sediment and erosion control monitoring plan for the project.
4. Discuss how erosion control facilities (dikes, ditches, etc.) will be installed and maintained where necessary to control surface runoff and drainage.
5. Erosion control measures should be designed to receive and control runoff from at least a 20 year-1 hour intensity storm event. Include the calculations that demonstrate the adequacy of the erosion control measures.
6. Demonstrate how runoff will be conveyed to interior basins or to natural drainage course.
7. Provide mitigations which show that natural drainages, when covered, restricted, diverted, or otherwise impacted by mining activities, will not result in increased runoff or sedimentation.
8. Demonstrate that design and construction of settling ponds or sediment retention basins will prevent sedimentation of streams.
9. Discuss how overburden stockpiles will be managed to minimize water and wind erosion.
10. Identify potential on-site contaminants and describe their control or disposal. Describe how imported wastes, such as domestic garbage, chemicals, oil, or other materials will be disposed.

## **VII. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING & PROTECTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**

1. Provide a detailed description of the environmental setting of the project area and an assessment of the potential impact of reclamation on surrounding land uses.  
***\*\*\* This information should include a description of the vegetation and wildlife on the site. Vegetation can be described by overstory (tree or shrub) density, canopy closure, height, and composition, as well as, understory composition and stratification. Identify sensitive species and sensitive natural communities (e.g. wetlands and riparian zones) that may occur within, or in the vicinity of, the project. \*\*\****
2. Describe the vegetative cover, suitable to the end use and capable of self-generation, that will be established.
3. Describe measures that will be undertaken to protect fish and wildlife habitat.
4. Describe how sensitive species and habitats will be conserved or how impacts to them will be mitigated.

## VIII. RESOILING & REVEGETATION

1. Describe how topsoil will be conserved and stockpiled and how it will be protected from wind and water erosion.
2. Describe the reapplication of the soil following mining.
3. Map topsoil resources prior to stripping. Indicate the location of topsoil stockpiles on the site maps and in the field.  
**\*\*\* Salvageable topsoil should be removed prior to disturbance by mining. Topsoil should be reapplied as soon as possible after mining is completed in a given area. \*\*\***
4. Include a soils analysis if the topsoil has been stockpiled more than two years or if the topsoil has been chemically altered.
5. Describe how fertilizers or soil amendments are used so as not to contaminate surface or groundwater.
6. Describe revegetation plan, including a vegetation monitoring plan, specific to the property.  
**\*\*\* Some essential components of a revegetation plan include a statement of project goals, a description of site preparation, the source(s) and types of plant materials, seed application rates, a planting schedule, a discussion of plant protection measures, a vegetation maintenance schedule (including weed control), a monitoring schedule with site-specific monitoring criteria, and a discussion of remedial measures. \*\*\***
7. Describe how vegetation and overburden removal will be minimized preceding mining.
8. Assess planting procedures through the use of test plots if success has not been proven previously in similar vegetation and with similar species.
9. Describe how decompaction will be achieved to permit successful rooting of vegetation.
10. Designate all haul roads and traffic routes to be reclaimed following cessation of mining.
11. Describe soil stabilizing measures to be used to control erosion during plant establishment.
12. If irrigation is used during the period of plant establishment, demonstrate that the vegetation will be self-sustaining without irrigation for a minimum of two years prior to release of financial assurances.
13. Describe how weeds will be managed.
14. Describe quantitative performance standards for vegetative cover, density, and species richness against which to measure the success of the revegetation effort.