

Attachment 6

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MONTEREY COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Carl P. Holm, AICP, Director



LAND USE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES | PARKS

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December 17, 2018

Vance Querfurth
Carmel Stone Mine
PO Box 1432
Carmel, CA 93924

SUBJECT: MINE STATUS-ABANDONED, FORFEITURE OF FINANCIAL ASSURANCE CARMEL STONE MINE (MINE ID NO. 91-27-0030)

Dear Mr. Querfurth,

This letter is a notification of violations, and notification that the County plans to proceed with the process forfeiture of the Financial Assurance, reclamation and closure for the Carmel Stone Mine.

The County has not received a 2017 or 2018 MRRC-2 Annual Operating Reports, or a 2018 Financial Assurance Cost Estimate. The MRRC-2 Annual Operating report was due on July 1, 2017 and 2018. The 2018 Financial Assurance Cost Estimate was due 30 days from the date of the inspection which was performed on August 15, 2018. Under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) statute, there is a strict 30-day period after the annual SMARA inspection in which the Operator must provide the FACE to the Lead Agency, and the MRRC-2 report must be submitted annually by July 01.

In addition there are multiple outstanding fees for this mine site for which the County still has not yet received payment.

Several unsuccessful efforts were made to schedule an annual inspection with you for 2018. You never responded to the County's requests regarding a date for the 2018 annual mine inspection.

Based on communications with Greg Middleton from the BLM, the County has learned that you have decided to abandon the Carmel Stone Mine and are letting the contract with BLM be terminated.

Based on your lack of response to the County, the missing documents described above, and recent communications with BLM, the County has determined that you have abandoned the mine Carmel Stone Mine site and have no capabilities or intent to perform the required reclamation.

The County plans to move forward with the forfeiture of the Financial Assurance under “Article 11.5 Forfeiture of Financial Assurance” of the California Statutes and Regulations for the Division of Mine Reclamation.

If you have intentions to comply with the SMARA requirements, and plan to resume operations at the Carmel Stone mine site please contact me directly and submit the required documents discussed above.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline R. Onciano".

Jacqueline R. Onciano
RMA Chief of Planning
Monterey County Resource Management Agency