

Surface Mining Reclamation Facts

Restoring Lands and Transforming Communities.

The Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) addresses the need for conserving mineral resources for extraction, and requires all mining operations to have an approved reclamation plan.

A reclamation plan will illustrate how the mined area will be returned to a productive use. Each mine site will provide a different plan based on the surrounding community's needs. In California, recreation is the second most frequent use of reclaimed land. Further, surface mining reclamation allows for land and environmental sustainability by working with scientist, biologists, engineers, and communities to restore land for new uses.

- Land use projects promote positive relationships between aggregate and industrial mineral producers, communities, and local, and county governments.
- Reclaimed lands near urban areas are ideal for highly valued master-planned communities.
- Residential areas also benefit from reclamation, by having surrounding vegetation and natural landscapes restored.
- Reclamation plans are developed to ensure that wetlands and/or any other wildlife habitats are maintained and restored.
- Often, surface mines located within dense urbanized areas are reclaimed as thriving commercial areas such as business parks, malls, or school campuses.

Reclamation ensures that mined lands provide mutual benefit for all generations and maximizes the sustainability of our resources. Unlike other types of urban development, mining is a transient use. Following resource depletion, the site can be reclaimed to a variety of uses that benefit a community.



A before and after of the Oro Grande Project site, located north of Victorville in the Mojave Desert, was awarded the Outstanding Reclamation Award in 2010 by the California Department of Conservation, Office of Mine Reclamation.



Vulcan's Mission Valley operation, Quarry Falls, is now in the process of becoming an innovative and eco-friendly housing and urban community. With parks, housing, entertainment, shopping, and commercial real estate.

Common Uses of Reclaimed Land

- High Value Residential Housing
- Commercial Office Parks
- Schools
- Hiking and Walking Trails
- Government Buildings
- Recreation
- Smart growth communities
- Open Space
- Entertainment Venues