

SUTTER COUNTY SOIL REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS

When are permits needed?

When more than 1,000 cubic yards of material is removed from a site or more than one-acre of surface disturbance occurs, the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) applies. Surface mining includes the following:

- Borrow pitting for road or levee construction
- Prospecting and exploratory activities
- Dredging and quarrying
- Stream bed skimming
- Stockpiling of mined material

If a project is grading, filling, excavation, storage or disposal of 350 cubic yards or more of soil or earthy material; or clearing or grubbing of one acre of land or more; or grading, filling or storage of 50 cubic yards or more of soil or earthy material in a designated floodway; or relocation, reshaping, re-routing, obstructing, or altering an existing watercourse; then a grading permit is needed from the Public Works Department. (Please contact the Public Works Department at (530) 822-7450 for more details).

What permits are needed?

If a project meets the criteria for SMARA, then a **surface mining permit, reclamation plan, and financial assurance mechanism** must be approved by the Sutter County Planning Commission with concurrence from the Department of Conservation's Office of Mine Reclamation **before mining can start**.

Surfacing Mining Permit: This provides details as to how mining will occur; how long it will take; and how much material will be removed.

Reclamation Plan: All mining operations must specify an end use and provide a reclamation plan indicating how the site will become that end use. Approved end uses for existing surface mines in the County include agricultural crops, grazing, and retention basins.

Financial Assurance: SMARA requires that an operator provide sufficient funds to reclaim the mine in compliance with the approved reclamation plan. If the operator does not perform the reclamation work, the County will utilize the funds to perform the work.

What does this cost?

Current Sutter County fees are at cost with a \$9,300 deposit. This does not include the cost of any studies or fees charged by the State of California.

How long does it take?

Once all the necessary information to process the application is submitted, it takes approximately 7 months before the application goes to hearing before the Planning Commission.

Other Information

Surface mining permits and reclamation plans are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If a borrow pit is intended to supply material to a project that was already evaluated under CEQA, a separate environmental document will still be necessary, unless that project's environmental document already identified the material source and evaluated the impacts of its removal.

Please note this is provided as a general overview. Contact the Planning Division of the Sutter County Community Services Department at (530) 822-7400 for specific information regarding your project.