STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet
DF-46 (REV 03/25)

Fiscal Year	Business Unit Number	Department
2026-27	3560	State Lands Commission

Hyperion Budget Request Name	Relevant Program or Subprogram
3560-004-BCP-2026-GB	2560-Mineral Resources Management Division

Budget Request Title
Ongoing Inspections, Remediations, and Repairs of Previous Closures of Abandoned Mine Features on State-owned School Lands

Budget Request Summary
The State Lands Commission is requesting $102,000 School Land Bank Fund in fiscal year 2026-27 and ongoing to conduct the required safety inspections of abandoned mine features on school lands, use updated equipment to improve the safety of staff involved in these inspections, proactively perform mine closures that present a safety risk to the public, and proactively remediate features that require repair or have been breached therefore removing the safety risk to the public.

Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP)	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed
☐ Trailer Bill Language ☐ Budget Bill Language ☒ N/A	

Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Department CIO	Date

For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), the approval date, and the total project cost.

Project No. **Approval Date:**

Project Approval Document: **Total Project Cost:**

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Prepared By	Date	Reviewed By	Date
Ricky Lee, David Dillon	1/8/2026	Jennifer Coronel	1/8/2026
Department Director	**Date**	**Agency Secretary**	**Date**
Matthew Dumlao	1/8/2026	Wade Crowfoot	1/8/2026

Department of Finance Use Only

Additional Review: ☐ Capital Outlay ☐ ITCU ☐ FSCU ☐ OSAE ☐ Dept. of Technology

Principal Program Budget Analyst	Date submitted to the Legislature
Vy Nguyen	1/9/2026

A. Problem Statement

The State Lands Commission (Commission) faces a major challenge in remediating new mine features and repairing vandalized closures on its school lands parcels due to the limited current budget, which only covers staff's inspections and warning sign installations.

According to a 2009 study by the Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR), there are 100 state school land parcels with abandoned mine features. Public Resources Code section 6201.5 authorizes the Commission to remediate abandoned mine features on school lands. Field inspections show that previously remediated mine sites are frequently vandalized to gain entry by members of the public who are drawn to the abandoned mines out of curiosity or for social media content. Mine entrances become an attractive nuisance and require relatively frequent monitoring to ensure that they are not accessible to the public. Most underground mines include unstable tunnels, shafts, chutes, and other features that can present major safety risks to the general public who may not be aware of or may ignore the inherent and varied dangers within an underground mine. Public access to the mines also disturbs endangered and threatened wildlife, such as bats, bobcats, owls, desert tortoises, and bighorn sheep, who make their home in and around the mine openings. Staff authorize the installation of bat gates and cupolas which help prohibit public access but still allow free ingress and egress for the resident wildlife.

Historically, staff have relied on DMR to fund the remediations of mines on the Commission's school lands parcels. To date, Commission staff have remediated mines on 71 parcels, partially remediated 6 parcels, and identified 6 parcels located in remote areas with known heavy metal content in conjunction with DMR. The remaining 17 parcels will require inspections to determine if any remediation is needed. Approximately 11 bat gates, 11 cupolas, and 23 fences have been constructed. Inspections were paused from 2020 to 2022 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and resumed in 2023. Staff coordinate the repairs and remediations with DMR, who hire contractors to perform mine closures and repairs. DMR receives separate funding from a mining tax acquired from all gold and silver miners in the state for the purpose of remediating abandoned precious metal mines throughout the state. However, the current list of remediations requiring DMR funding is long and the physical hazards dominating state school land parcels are secondary to the sites dominated by chemical hazards that make up the majority of the DMR prioritized remediation list. Due to DMR's prioritization of funding for other reclamations and repairs, it is possible that this remediation could be delayed past 2026 if DMR determines that there are other higher priority remediations that need to be addressed first.

Furthermore, based on our field experience we observed that certain sites get frequent visitation from the public, and staff anticipate periodically finding vandalized mine closures that would require repairs. Some of these sites may require inspection and repairs that could be required on a revolving basis due to the increased amount of public trespass found at certain parcels.

Resource History

(Dollars in thousands)

Program Budget	PY - 4	PY - 3	PY - 2	PY-1	PY	CY
Authorized Expenditures	$0	$0	$0	$750	$1,500	$3,000
Actual Expenditures	N/A	N/A	N/A	$750	$1,500	$3,000

Workload History

Workload Measure	PY - 4	PY - 3	PY - 2	PY-1	PY	CY
Inspections	0	0	0	1	2	3

B. Justification

The requested funding will enable staff to secure contracts with appropriate contractors and support the scheduling of mine remediations and repairs as needed. Funding will also support regular field inspection trips, the purchase of necessary field and safety supplies, and provide staff with greater control over the prioritization and timing of remediation work at school land mine sites. This will reduce the length of time that breached mine features remain open and hazardous to the public, as remediation would no longer be delayed due to competing priorities.

The requested funding includes $100,000 to hire specialized contractors for repairs or remediation of breached abandoned mine features on state land. Estimated costs include approximately $10,000 to repair a breached bat gate, over $20,000 for the installation of new bat gates or cupolas, and up to $10,000 in materials for fencing. Funding will also enable inspection trips that require long-distance travel, which have historically been deferred due to limited resources. Additionally, outdated or inoperable equipment will be repaired or replaced, including gas monitors, Geiger counters, face/gas masks, flashlights/lamps, safety ropes, welders, generators, saws, and signage. With these resources, staff plan to inspect up to ten parcels with abandoned mine features on an annual basis.

C. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

The requested funding is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan as well as the Commission's mission of being a responsible steward of the land. To date, there has not been any funding specifically earmarked for the remediation of abandoned mine features on state school lands. As a result, all previous reclamation activities since the Commission began actively remediating abandoned mine features, have been planned, paid for and scheduled based on DMR's available budget and according to their schedule. Having approved funding for completing necessary repairs or remediations on the Commission's schedule would reduce the duration and exposure of damaged mine closures, decreasing the risk to public safety and liabilities to the state.

D. Outcomes and Accountability

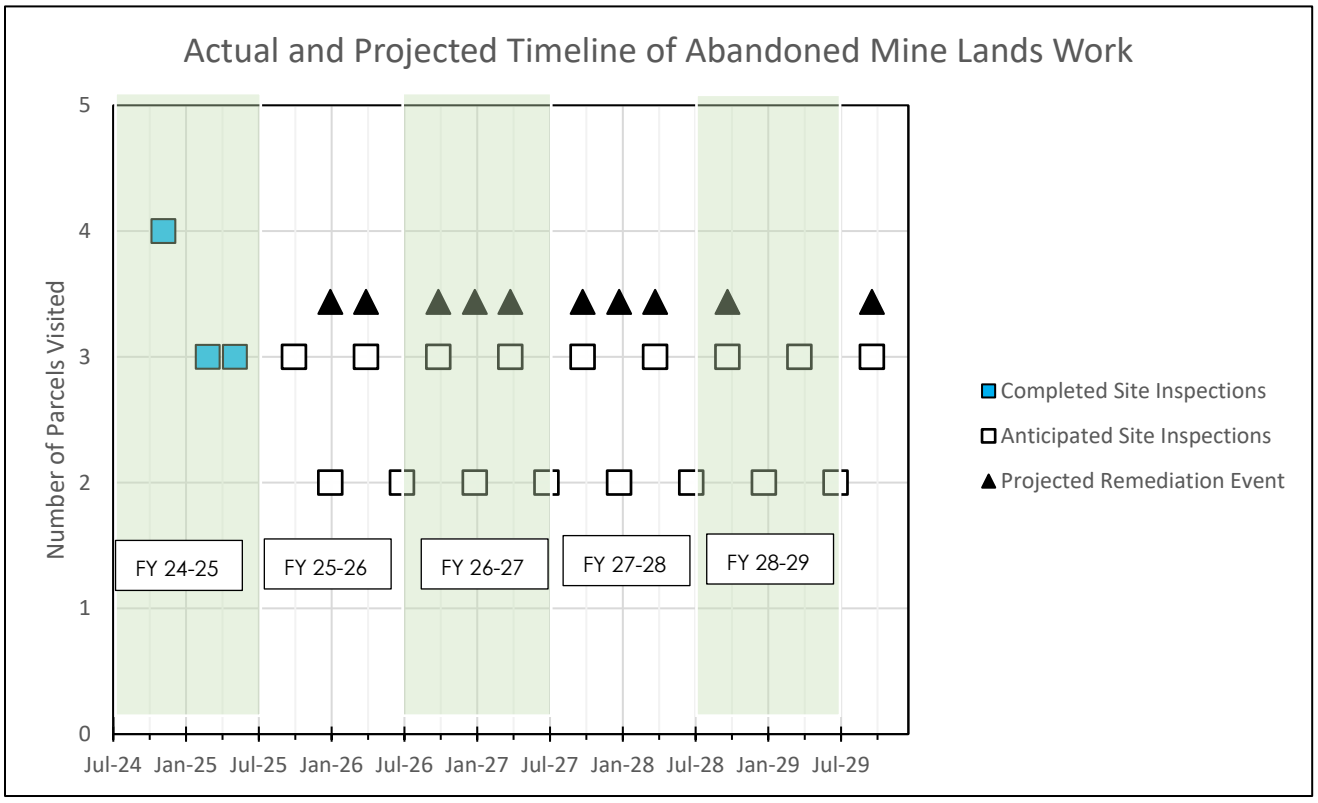
The requested funding will allow the Commission to address abandoned mine hazards more efficiently, reducing public safety risks and potential state liability. With dedicated resources, staff will be able to independently engage contractors to complete new remediation projects and repair breached and/or damaged mine closures with reduced reliance on DMR's schedule and funding. This will allow work to be completed in alignment with Commission priorities and staff schedule. The funding will also support the acquisition of necessary safety equipment used for underground mine inspections. Field areas that require long-distance travel and extended stays will be more easily prioritized for inspection and scheduled.

Projected Outcomes

Workload Measure	CY	BY	BY+1	BY+2	BY+3	BY+4
Site Visits to abandoned mines parcels	3	10	10	10	10	10
Installations: New Bat gates or Cupolas	N/A	4	4	4	4	4
Repairs: Bat gates, Cupolas, Fencing, signs	N/A	4	4	4	4	4

E. Implementation Plan

Currently pending reclamation and repair projects will be prioritized and scheduled for completion independently from DMR, or any other agency's schedule. Staff time will be required to create new contracts that will be used for scheduling necessary reclamations or repairs as they arise. Field inspections that require long-distance travel will be prioritized, scheduled, and abandoned mine sites on school lands that have never been visited by any Commission staff in the past will be inspected. Necessary safety and field-related equipment will be purchased, and repairs/maintenance will be conducted on existing equipment, such as the generator, welder, and electric drills.



F. Supplemental Information (If Applicable)

None.

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

(Dollars in Thousands)

BCP Title: Ongoing Inspections, Remediations, and Repairs of Previous Closures of Abandoned Mine Features on State Lands

BR Name: 3560-004-BCP-2026-GB

Budget Request Summary

Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
5320 - Travel: In-State	0	1	1	1	1	1
5340 - Consulting and Professional Services - External	0	100	100	100	100	100
5368 - Non-Capital Asset Purchases - Equipment	0	1	1	1	1	1
Total Operating Expenses and Equipment	**$0**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**

Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total Budget Request	**$0**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**

Fund Summary

Fund Source

Fund Source	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
State Operations - 0347 - School Land Bank Fund	0	102	102	102	102	102
Total State Operations Expenditures	**$0**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**
Total All Funds	**$0**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**

Program Summary

Program Funding

Program Funding	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
2560010 - Mineral Resources Management - State Leases	0	102	102	102	102	102
Total All Programs	**$0**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**	**$102**