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Update of Mineral Land Classification: Portland Cement Concrete-Grade Aggregate in the Western San Diego County Production-Consumption Region, California

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BACKGROUND:

California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires the State Geologist to classify land into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs), based on the known or inferred mineral resource potential of that land. The process is based solely on geology, without regard to existing land use or land ownership. The primary goal of mineral land classification is to help ensure, through appropriate local lead agency policies and procedures, that mineral resources will be available when needed and do not become inaccessible because of inadequate information during the land-use decision-making process.

SUMMARY:

This report is the third in a series of regional mineral land classification reports for portland cement concrete (PCC)-grade aggregate for the Western San Diego County Production-Consumption Region (P-C Region). The original mineral land classification was published as Special Report (SR) 153 in 1982. The first update was published in 1996 as Open-File Report (OFR) 96-04. This current report updates the mineral land classification of the region, reevaluates the region's PCC-grade aggregate resources, and includes an updated 50-year projection of construction aggregate demand for the P-C Region through the year 2065. This update report reevaluated the PCC-grade aggregate resources in areas originally designated by the State Mining and Geology Board and new areas identified in subsequent mineral land classification reports including this update report. This update report does not replace SR 153 or OFR 96-04.

Since the mid-1990s, local aggregate production has not been sufficient to meet local demand in the P-C Region. This shortfall has been met by importing construction aggregate, predominately sand, from neighboring aggregate producing regions. At various times, construction aggregate has been imported into the P-C Region from mines in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial counties, and Baja California, Mexico.

In this update report, the following conclusions are reached:

- Since the designation of 50,982 acres in 1985, 14,436 acres have been lost to urbanization or other incompatible land uses. The remaining 36,546 acres contain 5,700 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.
- This update report identifies an additional 1,461 acres of undesignated land containing an estimated 282 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

- An estimated 5,982 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources, both designated and non-designated, are identified in the P-C Region.
- The projected demand of construction aggregate in the P-C Region for the next 50 years (through the year 2065) is estimated to be 760 million tons. Of this total, 380 million tons will likely be used for PCC.
- The 271 million tons of currently permitted PCC-grade aggregate reserves are projected to last to the year 2035.
- Presently, the P-C Region consumes more PCC-grade aggregate than it produces; the balance of the Region's demand is imported from adjacent regions.
- Land-use planners and decision-makers in the P-C Region are faced with balancing a wide variety of needs in planning for a sustainable future for their communities. These include the need to plan carefully for the use of lands containing construction aggregate resources, to consider the permitting of additional aggregate resources in the P-C Region, and to take into consideration the demands of neighboring regions that are competing for the resources being imported into the San Diego area.

AVAILABILITY:

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