



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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Publication Release

February 15, 2006

CGS SPECIAL REPORT 190

RELATIVE LIKELIHOOD FOR THE PRESENCE OF NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS IN PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

by
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The Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, has completed a map and accompanying report on the relative likelihood for the presence of naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) in Placer County, California. The map is based primarily on geologic information compiled and interpreted from published and unpublished geologic and soil maps available at the time of the study. The report provides detailed information on the underlying geologic assumptions for the map, its accuracy, and its use and limitations.

The county is divided into different areas based on the relative likelihood of encountering NOA. These areas are defined as: most likely, moderately likely, and least likely to contain NOA. In addition, zones of faulting and shearing are highlighted where they exist in areas most likely or moderately likely to contain NOA; these represent zones of increased likelihood for the presence of NOA greater than that of the surrounding areas. The presence of NOA is possible within all of these areas, but it is more likely to be present in some areas than others. The areas that are most likely or moderately likely to contain NOA are found mainly in the west-central part of the county (Auburn-Dutch Flat-Foresthill region) within the lower elevations of the Sierra Nevada. Areas least likely to contain NOA are distributed throughout the county.

The purpose of the map is to provide information to government agencies and the public about the likelihood of encountering NOA within Placer County. The available information used to create the map is not sufficient to determine if NOA will be found at a specific location within the county. A site-specific geologic investigation is required to verify the presence of NOA.

Price.....\$45.00
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