



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**For Meeting Date: October 14, 2010**

**Agenda Item No. 10: Acceptance of Regulatory Language for Designation of Mineral Resources Areas of Statewide or Regional Significance for the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region, County of Riverside, California.**

**INTRODUCTION:** The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), based on recommendations from the State Geologist, considers mineral resource areas to be designated as being of statewide or regional significance. The State Geologist has recommended designation of newly classified mineral resource lands, and termination of designation of select mineral resource lands previously designated in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption (P-C) Region, Riverside County. Such recommendations were accepted by the Mineral and Geologic Resources Committee (Committee) at their meeting held on April 10, 2008. Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2793, the Committee held a public hearing on March 11, 2009, to receive comments on the proposed action. Comments received have been addressed. The SMGB is considering accepting the proposed designations for the Palm Springs P-C Region and directing the Executive Officer to commence rulemaking.

**STATUTORY ASPECTS:** The SMGB's statutory authority to incorporate mineral lands classification information into state policy is provided pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 9, Article 4, State Policy for the Reclamation of Mined Lands, Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2761(a), which states:

*"On or before January 1, 1977, and, as a minimum, after the completion of each decennial census, the Office of Planning and Research shall identify portions of the following areas within the state which are urbanized or are subject to urban expansion or other irreversible land uses which would preclude mineral extraction:*

*(1) Standard metropolitan statistical areas and such other areas for which information is readily available.*

*(2) Other areas as may be requested by the board.*

*(b) In accordance with a time schedule, and based upon guidelines adopted by the board, the State Geologist shall classify, on the basis solely of geologic factors, and without regard to existing land use and land ownership, the areas identified by the Office of Planning and Research, any area for which classification has been requested by a petition which has been accepted by the board, or any other areas as may be specified by the board, as one of the following:*

*(1) Areas containing little or no mineral deposits.*



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*(2) Areas containing significant mineral deposits.*

*(3) Areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which requires further evaluation.*

*The State Geologist shall require the petitioner to pay the reasonable costs of classifying an area for which classification has been requested by the petitioner.*

*(c) The State Geologist shall transmit the information to the board for incorporation into the state policy and for transmittal to lead agencies.”*

Once classified, the SMGB’s has statutory authority to consider areas for designation as provided pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 9, Article 6, Areas of Statewide or Regional Significance, PRC Section 2790, which states:

*“After receipt of mineral information from the State Geologist pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 2761, the board may by regulation adopted after a public hearing designate specific geographical areas of state as areas of statewide or regional significance and specify the boundaries thereof. Such designation shall be included as a part of the state policy and shall indicate the reason for which the particular area designated is of significance to the state or region, the adverse effects that might result from premature development of incompatible land uses, the advantages that might be achieved from extraction of the minerals of the area, and the specific goals and policies to protect against the premature incompatible development of the area.”*

The statutory authority which allows the SMGB to terminate, in whole or in part, an area previously designated is provided pursuant to PRC Section 2793 which states:

*“The board may, by regulation adopted after a public hearing, terminate, partially or wholly, the designation of any area of statewide or regional significance on a finding that the direct involvement of the board is no longer required.”*

**BACKGROUND:** Designation is the formal recognition by the SMGB of lands containing mineral resources of regional or statewide economic significance that are needed to meet the demands of the future. In 1985, the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG; now CGS) published Special Report 159 (SR 159) – *Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region*. In response to this classification report, the SMGB, in 1989, designated construction aggregate resource areas of regional significance in the Palm Springs P-C Region as presented in the report titled “*SMARA Designation Report No. 10 - Designation of Regionally Significant Construction Aggregate Resources in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region*”. At its December 13, 2007, regular business meeting, the SMGB accepted California Geological Survey (CGS) Special Report 198



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which updated information on Portland cement concrete-grade (PCC) aggregate in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption (P-C) Region previously presented in SR 159.

The updated mineral classification report prepared by CGS, SR 198, presented the following conclusions:

- As of January 2006, eleven mines, operated by seven different mining companies, were producing PCC-grade aggregate in the Palm Springs P-C Region. In 1985, there were eight mines operated by five mining companies. In addition to PCC aggregates, these mines also produced a full range of lower aggregate grades for such products as asphaltic concrete and base.
- The anticipated consumption of aggregate in the Palm Springs P-C Region for the next 50 years (through the year 2056) is estimated to be 307 million tons, of which 45 percent, or 138 million tons, must be PCC quality. This is nearly double the 50-year consumption estimate made in SR 159.
- Since 1985, permitted PCC-grade aggregate reserves have increased from 67 million tons to 167 million tons, extending the projected depletion date from 2012 to 2038.
- Approximately 10 percent, or 923<sup>(a)</sup> acres of the 9,094 acres of lands designated by the SMGB in 1989, has been lost to land uses incompatible with mining.
- An additional 6,638 acres of land containing an estimated 472 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources have been identified in the Palm Springs P-C Region.

The State Geologist has recommended several candidates, or areas, which meet or exceed the SMGB's threshold economic value, thus, each area may be considered for designation as an area of regional or statewide significance by the SMGB. These areas include eight areas which have been reclassified as MRZ-2a, and eight areas that have been reclassified as MRZ-2b. The State Geologist also recommended five areas for termination of designation. These areas are illustrated on Plate 1 (Western Area) and Plate 2 (Eastern Area).

(a) This acreage total adds up to 923 in this report due to the additional windmill construction that occurred between classification and designation, and differs from that published in the CGS Special Report 198.



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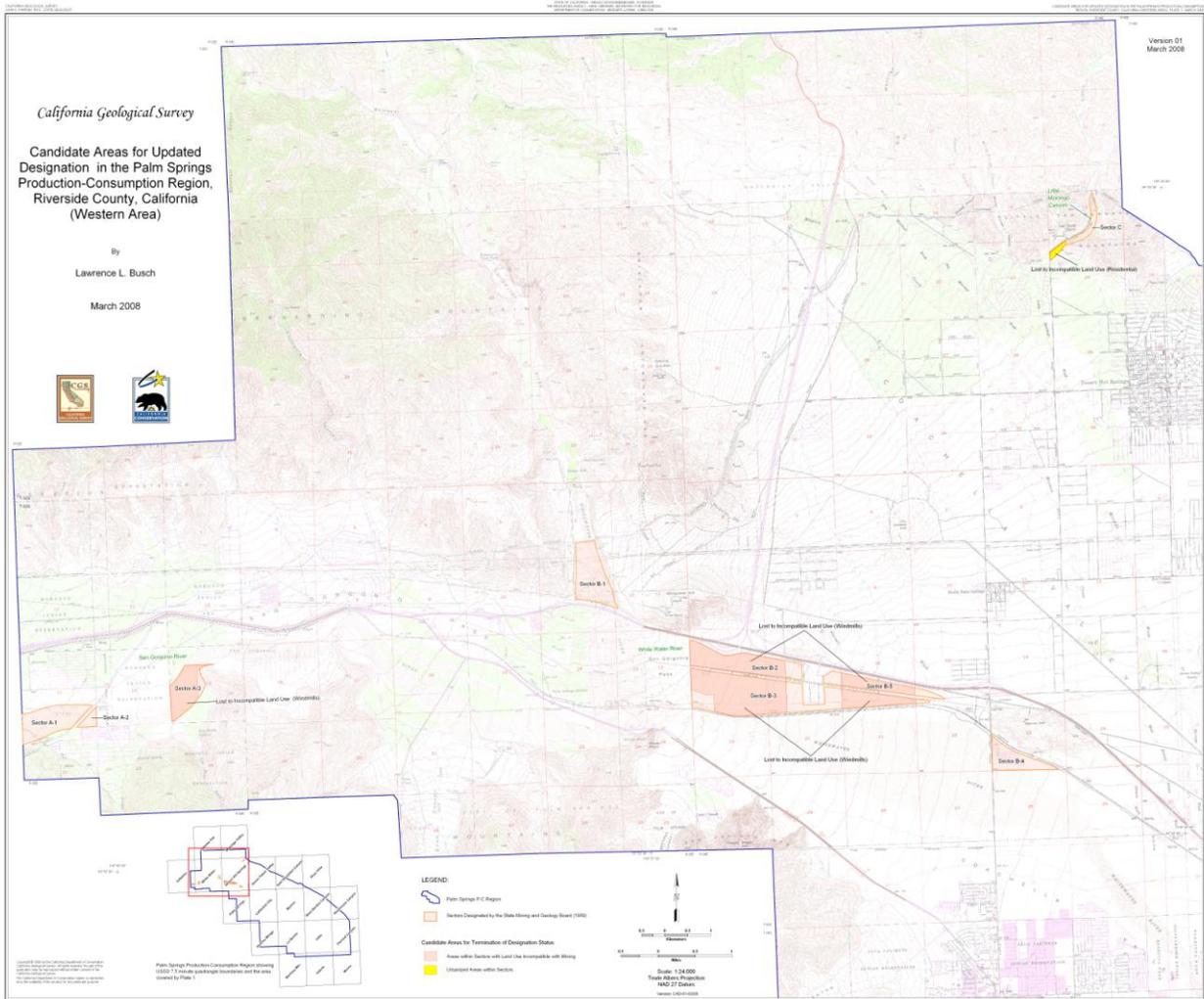


Plate 1. Western Area.

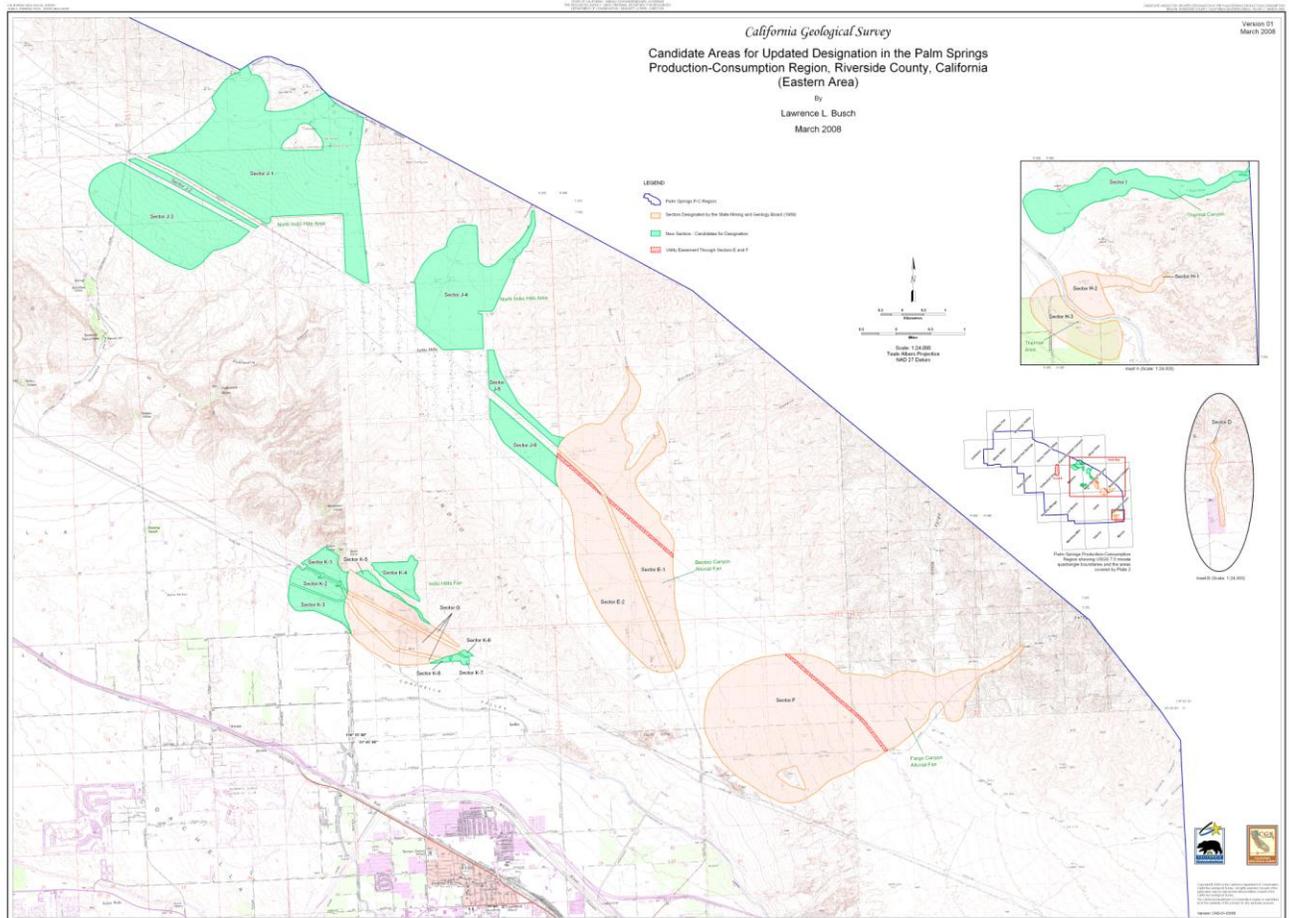


Plate 2. Eastern Area.

The 60-day public comment period commenced on February 6, 2009, and ended on April 7, 2009. No comments were received during this period. In addition, pursuant to PRC Section 2793, a public hearing was held on March 11, 2009, in Palm Springs. During such hearing, comments were received and responses prepared. Written comments were received from the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC), and the Friends of the Desert Mountains.

**CANDIDATE AREAS FOR DESIGNATION:** Each Sector, or group of Sectors, described below, meets or exceeds the SMGB's threshold economic value, and each Sector may be considered for designation as an area of regional or statewide significance by the SMGB pursuant to Article 6, Section 2790 *et seq.* (SMARA).

Candidates for Designation -- Areas Reclassified MRZ-2a:

New information obtained since the publication of the 1988 Mineral Land Classification study has resulted in the reclassification of some areas originally classified MRZ-3 in that study. The areas reclassified as MRZ-2a for PCC-grade aggregate are in the area around previously designated Sector G. The reclassified areas are identified as Sector K. Candidate Sector K has eight sub-sectors (K-1 through K-8) that border the existing Sector G on the northwestern, northern, and eastern sides. A single mining/construction company owns all or part of sub-sectors K-1 through K-8. Therefore, estimated tonnage of aggregate present in these sectors is proprietary and is not listed below. However, each of the Sectors below, except as noted, meets or exceeds the threshold value as established by the SMGB. At the time of the updated classification study, that threshold value amounted to approximately 1.5 million tons of aggregate. Both unpermitted and permitted aggregate resources contained in these Sectors are considered proprietary because the property is owned by a single company.

Candidate Sector K-1 (112 acres) is in Sections 28, and 33, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is bounded to the north by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault near the base of the south flank of the Indio Hills. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the east. On the south it is bounded by a utility corridor, which separates it from Sector K-2.

Candidate Sector K-2 (125 acres) is in Section 33, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is bounded to the north by a utility corridor, which separates it from Sector K-1. On the south, it is bounded a second utility corridor separating it from Sector K-3.

Candidate Sector K-3 (152 acres) is in Section 33, T4S, R7E; and Section 3, T5S, R7E, SBBM. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the east. It is bounded to the north by a utility corridor, which separates it from Sector K-2. On the south, it is bounded by agricultural land of the Coachella Valley.

Candidate Sector K-4 (136 acres) is in Sections 27, and 34, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is bounded on the south by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault.

Candidate Sector K-5 (34 acres) is in Sections 33, 34, and 35, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the south. On the north, it is bounded by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault, which separates it from Sector K-4.



Candidate Sector K-6 (6 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, east of the original Sector G. It is bounded by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault on the north and a utility corridor to the south. Sector K-6 has less than the threshold amount of material within it; however it could be mined in conjunction with Sector G.

Candidate Sector K-7 (16 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, southeast of the original Sector G. Utility corridors separate it from Sector K-6 to the north and Sector K-8 to the west.

Candidate Sector K-8 (9 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, southeast of the original Sector G. A utility corridor separates it from Sector K-7 to the east. Sector K-8 has less than the threshold amount of material within it; however it could be mined in conjunction with Sector G.

Candidates for Designation -- Areas Reclassified MRZ-2b:

New information obtained since the publication of 1989 SMGB Designation Report No. 10 has resulted in two areas in the eastern Palm Springs P-C Region being reclassified as MRZ-2b for PCC-grade aggregate. These areas are identified as Candidate Sector I and Candidate Sector J (sub-sectors J-1 through J-6).

Candidate Sector I (683 acres) is in Sections 12 and 13, T5S, R8E; and Sections 7, 8, 9, and 18, T5S, R9E, SBBM, and includes that part of Thermal Canyon wash within the Palm Springs P-C Region. It is south of Interstate Highway 10, east of the Coachella Canal, and four miles northeast of the community of Thermal. This Sector contains an estimated 25 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J (sub-sectors J-1 through J-6; 5,365 acres) is located near the community of Indio Hills. They include deposits formed as a series of coalescing alluvial fans deposited from material discharged from canyons cut northward into the Little San Bernardino Mountains. Sector J (sub-sectors J-1 through J-6) contains an estimated 373 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-1 (2,633 acres) is north of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, T3S, R7E; and Sections 3 and 5, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-2 to the south by Dillon Road. This sub-sector contains an estimated 191 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.



Candidate Sector J-2 (103 acres) is west of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 31, and 32, T3S, R7E; and Section 5, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-1 on the north by Dillon Road and from Sector J-3 on the south by a utility corridor. This sub-sector contains an estimated 6 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-3 (1,135 acres) is west of the community of Indio Hills in Section 36, T3S, R6E; Section 1, T4S, R6E; and Sections 5, and 6, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-2 to the north by a utility corridor. This sub-sector contains an estimated 83 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-4 (1,086 acres) is north and east of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-5 to the southeast by a public road and residential development in the community of Indio Hills. This sub-sector contains an estimated 71 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-5 (148 acres) is east of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 13, and 24, T4S, R7E; and Section 19, T4S, R8E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-4 to the northwest by a public road and urbanization in the community of Indio Hills, and from Sector J-6 to the south by Dillon Road and a utility easement. Sector J-5 is contiguous with Sector E-1, to the southeast. This sub-sector contains an estimated 7 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-6 (260 acres) is southeast of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 13 and 24, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-5 to the north by Dillon Road and a utility easement. Sector J-6 is contiguous with Sector E-2, to the southeast. This sub-sector contains an estimated 15 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

**CANDIDATES FOR TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION STATUS:** Six areas (in five Sectors) are identified as potential candidates for termination of designation status due to high-value incompatible land use developments. Five areas, in Sectors A-3, B-2, B-3, and B-5 in the San Gorgonio Pass, are sites where large, high-value wind-driven electrical generators have been constructed. One area, Sector C in Little Morongo Canyon near Desert Hot Springs, is the site of recently constructed urban development and flood control infrastructure. These sites, located in the western part of the Palm Springs P-C Region, are shown on Plate 1 (Western Area). In addition to the areas described below, areas in Sectors E-1, E-2, and F are now underlain by a utility corridor carrying fiber optic cables. These areas amount to 100 acres containing 27 million tons of aggregate. Because these cables



may be relocatable, allowing for the mining of the underlying aggregate, CGS is not recommending termination of designation status for these utility corridors at this time.

Candidate for Termination of Designation Sector A-3 (146 acres) is south of Interstate Highway 10 in Section 13, T3S, R2E, SBBM. Construction of wind-driven electrical generators and associated infrastructure has occurred. It is likely that this development will preclude the future mining of the 38 million tons of resources contained in Sector A-3.

Candidate for Termination of Designation - Sector B-2 (207 acres) is south of Interstate Highway 10 in Section 18, T3S, R4E, SBBM. Construction of wind-driven electrical generators and associated infrastructure has occurred in the western portion (207 acres) of Sector B-2. It is likely that this development will preclude future mining of the approximately 44 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources contained in that part of Sector B-2.

Candidates for Termination of Designation - Sector B-3 (473 acres) is in Sections 16, 18, 19 and 21, T3S, R4E, SBBM, south of Interstate Highway 10 and north of the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Construction of wind-driven electrical generators and associated infrastructure has occurred in the western half (372 acres) and eastern sixth (101 acres) of this Sector. It is likely that this high-value development will preclude future mining of the approximately 117 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources contained in those parts of Sector B-3.

Candidate for Termination of Designation - Sector B-5 (86 acres) is south of Interstate Highway 10 in Section 16, T3S, R4E, SBBM. Development of wind-driven electrical generators and associated infrastructure has occurred on approximately 86 acres of Sector B-5. It is likely that this high-value development will preclude the future mining of approximately 15 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources contained in the Sector.

Candidate for Termination of Designation - Sector C (11 acres) in Section 24, T2S, R4E, SBBM in Little Morongo Canyon north of the City of Desert Hot Springs. The southern one-quarter of Sector C (11 acres) has undergone development in the form of residential construction and associated infrastructure (roads, flood control improvements, etc.) thus precluding future mining from this portion of the Sector. The one million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources contained in the southern one-quarter of the sector are considered lost to urbanization.



### **REFERENCES:**

State Mining and Geology Board, 1989, *SMARA Designation Report No. 10 - Designation of Regionally Significant Construction Aggregate Resources in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region*.

California Division of Mines and Geology, 1985, Special Report 159 (SR 159) – *Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region*.

### **RESPONSE TO COMMENTS:**

Written comments were received from the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC), and the Friends of the Desert Mountains in regards to designation of new areas. No comments were received pertaining to termination of designated areas.

The CVMC in correspondence dated March 10, 2009, offered several comments as follows:

**Comment No. 1: Sector I is described as including "that part of Thermal canyon wash within the Palm Springs P-C Region. It is south of Interstate Highway 10....". Thermal Canyon wash is an important wildlife movement corridor linking the Mecca Hills Wilderness and Joshua Tree National Park. The Friends has been acquiring land in adjacent to Thermal Canyon with a Proposition 84 grant from the Conservancy to protect this crucial biological corridor. Thermal Canyon is also targeted for conservation within the NCCP Reserve System.** Intent to purchase land does not prevent or conflict with designation. A surface mine is temporary and with reclamation the mine site is returned to open space, or some other land use determined by the local lead agency. Designation does not prevent subsequent conservation of these areas, or consideration of some other land use incompatible with mining.

**Comment No. 2: Sector J -1 (2,633 acres). This is a portion of the 8,881 acres acquired in 2004 by a partnership of conservation entities to conserve the lands in perpetuity as part of the NCCP Reserve System. The lands are currently managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation ("State Parks"), the California Department of Fish and Game ("CDFG") and the Friends of the Desert Mountains ("Friends"). These lands were acquired primarily or entirely with Proposition 40 bond funds approved by the voters specifically for the purpose of protecting wildlife habitat and other conservation values.** The SMGB has previously not considered designation of mineral lands when such land has been purchased for the sole purpose of protecting wildlife habitat and other conservation values. When the SMGB in 1989 considered designation within the Palm-Springs P-C Region, the SMGB excluded land from designated after public input for the following reasons:



- Within a Habitat Conservation Plan (i.e., endangered species such as fringed-toed lizard habitat);
- Sectors identified as a sensitive resource area;
- High winds and scenic corridors;
- Existing wind turbines and gas lines, high winds, visual concerns, and the potential for high water; and
- Floodplain Reserve because of the existence of endangered species.

Being consistent with previous considerations, it is recommended that approximately 2,633 acres within Sector J-1 not be designated.

**Comment No. 3: Sector J -2 (103 acres). This is a portion of the 8,881 acres acquired in 2004 by a partnership of conservation entities to conserve the lands in perpetuity as part of the NCCP Reserve System. The lands are currently managed by State Parks. These lands were acquired primarily or entirely with Proposition 40 bond funds approved by the voters specifically for the purpose of protecting wildlife habitat and other conservation values.** Similar to the response to Comment No. 2, and being consistent with previous considerations, it is recommended that approximately 103 acres within Sector J-2 not be designated.

**Comment No. 4: Sector J -3 (1,135 acres). A portion of this sector is part of the 8,881 acres referenced above and is managed in part by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and in part by State Parks. BLM used federal funds specifically to protect the habitat values of the property as part of the Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Area of Critical Environmental Concern. State Parks used Proposition 40 bond funds approved by the voters specifically for the purpose of protecting wildlife habitat and other conservation values. Additional portions of this sector were acquired in the 1980s by ELM with federal funds as part of the establishment of the Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which is part of the Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Preserve established pursuant to a Habitat conservation Plan to satisfy the federal Endangered Species Act.** Similar to the response to Comment No. 2, and being consistent with previous considerations, it is recommended that approximately 1,135 acres within Sector J-3 not be designated.

**Comment No. 5: Sector K-I (112 acres). The portion of this that is in Section 28 is owned by State Parks and is within the Indio Hills unit of the State Park system. State Parks is a Permittee under the NCCP and is obligated to manage the land for its habitat conservation values in perpetuity.** Similar to the response to Comment No. 2, and being consistent with previous considerations, it is recommended that approximately 52 acres within Sector K-1 not be designated.



**Comment No. 6: Sector K-4 (136 acres). The portion of this that is in Section 27 is owned by either State Parks and is within the Indio Hills unit of the State Park system and the NCCP Reserve System, or by the Friends of the Desert Mountains. State Parks is a Permittee under the NCCP and is obligated to manage the land for its habitat conservation values in perpetuity. The Friends is a non-profit conservation organization that holds land for the purpose of conserving the resource values on the land. The Friends' land is also with the NCCP Reserve System.** Similar to the response to Comment No. 2, and being consistent with previous considerations, it is recommended that approximately 4 acres within Sector K-4 not be designated.

FDM in correspondence dated March 11, 2009, expressed support of the comment letter provided by the CVMC dated March 10, 2009, noting that FDM owns considerable acreage within potential designated areas, and expressed no interest of any of their lands being designated for possible mineral extraction.

**REVISED CANDIDATE AREAS FOR DESIGNATION:** Each Sector, or group of Sectors, described below, meets or exceeds the SMGB's threshold economic value, and each Sector may be considered for designation as an area of regional or statewide significance by the SMGB pursuant to Article 6, Section 2790 *et seq.* (SMARA).

In summary, 923 acres (215 million tons) are being proposed for termination of designation. Based on the comments received, a total of 3,871 (280 million tons) for Sector J, and parts of Sector K comprising 56 acres (total in million tons proprietary), are proposed to be removed from designation consideration as summarized and subsequently described below. Mineral lands being proposed for designation comprise 2,177 acres (118 million tons) in Sectors I, J-4, J-5 and J-6, and 534 acres for Sectors K-1 through K-8 (total in million tons proprietary).

**Mineral lands being proposed for termination of designation:**

A-3	146 acres	38 million tons
B-2	207 acres	44 million tons
B-3	473 acres	117 million tons
B-5	86 acres	15 million tons
C	11 acres	1 million tons
<b>Total</b>	<b>923 acres</b>	<b>215 million tons</b>



**Based on comments received, originally proposed mineral lands that would not be designated:**

J-1	2,633 acres	191 million tons
J-2	103 acres	6 million tons
J-3	1,135 acres	83 million tons
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,871 acres</b>	<b>280 million tons</b>

**Or parts of sectors:**

K-1	52 acres	proprietary
K-4	4 acres	proprietary
<b>Total</b>	<b>56 acres</b>	<b>proprietary</b>

**Mineral lands currently being proposed for designation:**

K-1	60 acres	proprietary
K-2	125 acres	proprietary
K-3	152 acres	proprietary
K-4	132 acres	proprietary
K-5	34 acres	proprietary
K-6	6 acres	proprietary
K-7	16 acres	proprietary
K-8	9 acres	proprietary
<b>Total</b>	<b>534 acres</b>	<b>proprietary</b>

I                    683 acres    25 million tons

J-4	1,086 acres	71 million tons
J-5	148 acres	7 million tons
J-6	260 acres	15 million tons
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,177 acres</b>	<b>118 million tons</b>

Or with sector K, 2711 acres to be designated containing more than 118 million tons of aggregate.



**Description of the individual sectors being proposed for designation:**

**Candidates for Designation -- Areas Reclassified MRZ-2a:**

New information obtained since the publication of the 1988 Mineral Land Classification study has resulted in the reclassification of some areas originally classified MRZ-3 in that study. The areas reclassified as MRZ-2a for PCC-grade aggregate are in the area around previously designated Sector G. The reclassified areas are identified as Sector K. Candidate Sector K has eight sub-sectors (K-1 through K-8) that border the existing Sector G on the northwestern, northern, and eastern sides. A single mining/construction company owns all or part of sub-sectors K-1 through K-8. Therefore, estimated tonnage of aggregate present in these sectors is proprietary and is not listed below. However, each of the Sectors below, except as noted, meets or exceeds the threshold value as established by the SMGB. At the time of the updated classification study, that threshold value amounted to approximately 1.5 million tons of aggregate. Both unpermitted and permitted aggregate resources contained in these Sectors are considered proprietary because the property is owned by a single company.

Candidate Sector K-1 (60 acres) is in Section 33, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the east. On the south it is bounded by a utility corridor, which separates it from Sector K-2.

Candidate Sector K-2 (125 acres) is in Section 33, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is bounded to the north by a utility corridor, which separates it from Sector K-1. On the south, it is bounded a second utility corridor separating it from Sector K-3.

Candidate Sector K-3 (152 acres) is in Section 33, T4S, R7E; and Section 3, T5S, R7E, SBBM. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the east. It is bounded to the north by a utility corridor, which separates it from Sector K-2. On the south, it is bounded by agricultural land of the Coachella Valley.

Candidate Sector K-4 (132 acres) is in Section 34, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is bounded on the south by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault.

Candidate Sector K-5 (34 acres) is in Sections 33, 34, and 35, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the south. On the north, it is bounded by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault, which separates it from Sector K-4.



Candidate Sector K-6 (6 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, east of the original Sector G. It is bounded by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault on the north and a utility corridor to the south. Sector K-6 has less than the threshold amount of material within it; however it could be mined in conjunction with Sector G.

Candidate Sector K-7 (16 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, southeast of the original Sector G. Utility corridors separate it from Sector K-6 to the north and Sector K-8 to the west.

Candidate Sector K-8 (9 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, southeast of the original Sector G. A utility corridor separates it from Sector K-7 to the east. Sector K-8 has less than the threshold amount of material within it; however it could be mined in conjunction with Sector G.

Candidates for Designation -- Areas Reclassified MRZ-2b:

New information obtained since the publication of 1989 SMGB Designation Report No. 10 has resulted in two areas in the eastern Palm Springs P-C Region being reclassified as MRZ-2b for PCC-grade aggregate. These areas are identified as Candidate Sector I and Candidate Sector J (sub-sectors J-1 through J-6).

Candidate Sector I (683 acres) is in Sections 12 and 13, T5S, R8E; and Sections 7, 8, 9, and 18, T5S, R9E, SBBM, and includes that part of Thermal Canyon wash within the Palm Springs P-C Region. It is south of Interstate Highway 10, east of the Coachella Canal, and four miles northeast of the community of Thermal. This Sector contains an estimated 25 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J (sub-sectors J-4 through J-6; 1,494 acres) is located near the community of Indio Hills. They include deposits formed as a series of coalescing alluvial fans deposited from material discharged from canyons cut northward into the Little San Bernardino Mountains. Sector J (sub-sectors J-4 through J-6) contains an estimated 93 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-4 (1,086 acres) is north and east of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-5 to the southeast by a public road and residential development in the community of Indio Hills. This sub-sector contains an estimated 71 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.



Candidate Sector J-5 (148 acres) is east of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 13, and 24, T4S, R7E; and Section 19, T4S, R8E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-4 to the northwest by a public road and urbanization in the community of Indio Hills, and from Sector J-6 to the south by Dillon Road and a utility easement. Sector J-5 is contiguous with Sector E-1, to the southeast. This sub-sector contains an estimated 7 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-6 (260 acres) is southeast of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 13 and 24, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-5 to the north by Dillon Road and a utility easement. Sector J-6 is contiguous with Sector E-2, to the southeast. This sub-sector contains an estimated 15 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Upon review and discussion, the SMGB may consider accepting the proposed designations, and directing the Executive Officer to commence rulemaking in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Rulemaking would commence with directing the Executive Officer to proceed with the 45-day notice to adopt proposed regulations which would add Section 3550.16 to Title 14, Article 2, of the California Code of Regulations, and provide a description of the locations of mineral resources areas designated to be of statewide significance.



**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:** The Executive Officer offers the following motion language for the SMGB's consideration:

Motion to accept the proposed regulatory language and commence rulemaking:

*Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the SMGB today, I move that the Board accept the proposed regulatory language and direct the Executive Officer to commence the rulemaking process, and proceed with the 45-Day notice to adopt regulations for the designation of mineral lands of regional significance within the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region, County of Riverside.*

Respectfully submitted:

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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer

