



SMARA DESIGNATION
REPORT NO. 2

DESIGNATION OF REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT
CONSTRUCTION AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS
IN THE
WESTERN VENTURA COUNTY
AND
SIMI PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION REGIONS

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MAP 2	Simi Valley Production-Consumption Region Designation No. 82-1, Exhibit 2 (attached)

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Special Report #145, "Mineral Lands Classification of Ventura County," Parts I, II, and III.
- Appendix B: Special Publication #51, "California Surface Mining and Reclamation Policies and Procedures."
- *Appendix C: SMARA EIR No. 2, "Final Environmental Impact Report for Designation of Regionally Significant Construction Aggregate Resource Areas in the Western Ventura County and Simi Production-Consumption Regions."
- Appendix D: Resolution #82-4, State Mining and Geology Board.
- Appendix E: Resolution #82-5, State Mining and Geology Board.

*Available upon request.

I. Introduction

The rapid growth of many California communities, particularly during the past two decades, has served to emphasize the continuing importance of mineral resource conservation as a land-use issue. To support the maintenance of our existing community structure as well as provide for its continued growth, adequate supplies of a variety of mineral commodities must be available at a reasonable cost. Yet, urban expansion itself has been a major cause of a decline in the availability of many important minerals. In many areas, for example, pressure from competing land uses has severely reduced or completely eliminated access to available mineral resources such as sand and gravel deposits. The loss of these deposits has occurred because land-use planning decisions have often been made with little, if any, knowledge of the location and importance of these resources.

To provide for a comprehensive mineral resource inventory program, as well as assure the reclamation of mined lands, the California Legislature enacted the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). The Act facilitates a coordinated approach to mineral resource planning by directing the State Geologist and State Mining and Geology Board to undertake a two-phased resource evaluation program called classification-designation. During the first phase of this

program, classification, the State Geologist inventories select mineral commodities that occur in a defined study area. The classification report forecasts mineral demand and describes the market boundaries for each production area.

Upon completion of the classification report, the Mining and Geology Board may consider designating all or portions of those deposits classified as significant mineral resource zones (MRZ-2) as being of regional or of statewide significance. Both the classification report and designation information are transmitted to lead agencies as they are completed. Lead agencies, pursuant to SMARA, are required to incorporate this information into their general planning process and to develop resource management policies that emphasize the conservation of these deposits.

The purpose of this cooperative resource identification process is to assure that local lead agencies have information on the location and importance of the mineral deposits within their jurisdiction that are available to meet future needs.

II. Classification and Designation of Sand and Gravel Resource Areas

The first mineral commodity selected by the State Mining and Geology Board for classification by the State Geologist was

construction aggregate -- sand and gravel. While its importance is often overlooked, sand and gravel is an essential commodity in today's society. As a construction material, sand and gravel is a key component in products such as Portland cement concrete, asphaltic concrete (blacktop), railroad ballast, stucco, road base, and fill. Aggregate normally provides from 80 to 100 percent of the material volume in these products. Portland cement concrete, in turn, is also used in a number of building materials such as concrete blocks and pipes, foundation pilings, precast concrete beams, and tilt-up concrete walls. In total, aggregate provides a wide range of basic, yet necessary, construction material.

The significance and value of aggregate as a basic construction material has important economic multiplier effects. The availability of aggregate is essential, for example, to the construction industry. Developers, building and highway contractors, cement manufacturers, asphalt producers, construction workers, and truck drivers are dependant, either directly or indirectly, on a ready supply of aggregate. Therefore, the availability of aggregate deposits and their proximity to markets are critical factors in the strength of the economy.

In establishing priorities for the classification program, the Board initially directed the Division of Mines and

Geology to evaluate the sand and gravel deposits in the Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego metropolitan areas. Ventura County was added to this priority one group in March of 1981 at the request of county and industry representatives. Several other smaller metropolitan areas are also slated for classification once the priority one reports have been completed. This lower priority group includes such areas as Bakersfield, Fresno, Monterey, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, and the Coachella Valley.

Designation of regionally significant mineral resource areas was initiated in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles. This designation was completed in January of 1981. The Ventura County designation, completed in January of 1982, is the second one undertaken by the Board.

The Board is scheduled to consider designation in other regions of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego in the near future.

III. Designation of Regionally Significant Resource Areas in Ventura County

A. Action Leading to Designation

The classification of construction aggregate (sand and gravel) resource areas in Ventura County was completed

by the California Division of Mines and Geology in November of 1979. This report was formally accepted by the Board in January of 1980 and was subsequently transmitted to lead agencies in March of 1980.

A combined public hearing on the Draft EIR and proposed designation was held by the Mining and Geology Board in the City of Ventura on November 19, 1981.

The Final EIR for the Ventura County designation was distributed on December 28, 1981. The Mining and Geology Board considered the Final EIR at a January 28, 1982, meeting and certified, by Resolution #82-4, that it was adequate and complete. A Statement of Findings, Resolution #82-9, was adopted by the Board on March 19, 1982; and a Notice of Determination was filed with the Resources Agency on March 22, 1982. On April 6, 1982, the designation was filed with the Office of Administrative Law; and on May 8, 1982, the Ventura County designation was subsequently incorporated into the California Administrative Code.

B. Aggregate Resources of Ventura County

For the purposes of classification, Ventura County has been divided into two production-consumption (P-C) regions. These two regions, as well as the resources available in each, are described in detail in Special Report 145, Appendix A.

Within the Western Ventura County and Simi P-C regions, areas containing significant deposits of sand and gravel have been classified as MRZ-2. A "Mineral Resource Zone-2" (MRZ-2) denotes areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists. This zone is applied to known mineral deposits or where well developed lines of reasoning, based upon economic geologic principles and adequate data, demonstrate that the likelihood for occurrence of significant mineral deposits is high.

A complete explanation of the system used for classification of a region, including the other types of mineral resource zones, is provided in Special Report 51, Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands, under Appendix B.

In the Western Ventura County P-C region, the areas classified as MRZ-2 are all located in the Santa Clara River Valley between the communities of Piru and El Rio. Alluvium transported by the Santa Clara River from the San Gabriel Mountains, located to the east of Ventura County, has been deposited in the river valley to form a linear deposit ranging from one quarter to five miles in width and up to five hundred feet in depth.

Two areas within the Simi P-C region have been classified MRZ-2. The first of these deposits form a broad east-west band on the south side of Oak Ridge. This area, consisting of deltaic deposits of sandstone and conglomerate, has been uplifted to form a small range of hills bordering the north side of Simi Valley. In contrast to the Santa Clara River, the aggregate in these deposits are composed predominately of fine- to medium-grained material such as sandstone and pebbly sandstone. Coarse aggregate composes only ten to fifteen percent of these deposits.

The other MRZ-2 areas in the Simi P-C region consists of a moderately cemented conglomerate located in the Simi Hills. While this is a comparatively smaller deposit, it is the only large source of coarse material available in this P-C region.

C. Areas Designated to be of Regional Significance

The Mining and Geology Board completed designation of sand and gravel resource areas in Ventura County on January 28, 1982. Based upon information in the classification report, the EIR, and on public testimony, the Board designated as being of regional significance areas delineated as Sectors A through J in the Western Ventura P-C region and Sectors A through C in the Simi P-C region.

These areas are described as follows:

1. Western Ventura Production-Consumption Region (see Exhibit No. 1, rear map pocket)

Sector A Instream deposits of the Santa Clara River near the community of El Rio beginning approximately one mile downstream of the U. S. Highway 101 Bridge and extending to a point approximately two miles upstream of the Los Angeles Avenue Bridge.

Lead Agencies with land-use jurisdiction:
County of Ventura, City of Ventura

Sector B Offstream deposits located adjacent to Vineyard Avenue in the community of El Rio.

Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
County of Ventura

Sector C Offstream deposits located in and adjacent to the community of El Rio.

Lead Agencies with land-use jurisdiction:
City of Oxnard, County of Ventura

Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
County of Ventura

Sector I Instream deposits extending from the eastern boundary of Sector H upstream for approximately three miles.

Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
County of Ventura

Sector J Instream deposits extending from the eastern boundary of Sector I upstream to the Ventura County line.

Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
County of Ventura

2. Simi Production-Consumption Region (see Exhibit No. 2, rear map pocket)

Sector A Hillside deposits located on Oak Ridge and the Simi Hills.

Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
County of Ventura

Sector B Hillside deposits located along a portion of Oak Ridge extending from Long Canyon eastward to the Ventura County line.

Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
County of Ventura

- Sector D Offstream deposits located east of
 Los Angeles Avenue and south of Santa
 Clara River.
 Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
 County of Ventura
- Sector E Instream deposits of the Santa Clara
 River beginning at the eastern boundary
 of Sector A and extending upstream to
 the confluence of Santa Paula Creek.
 Lead Agencies with land-use jurisdiction:
 City of Santa Paula, County of Ventura
- Sector F Instream deposits extending from the
 eastern boundary of Sector E upstream to
 the confluence of Sespe Creek.
 Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
 County of Ventura
- Sector G Instream deposits extending from the
 eastern boundary of Sector F upstream to
 Cavin Road.
 Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
 County of Ventura
- Sector H Instream deposits extending from the
 eastern boundary of Sector G upstream
 to Piru.

Sector C Hillside deposits located above Meir
and Runkle Canyons in the Simi Hills.
Lead Agency with land-use jurisdiction:
County of Ventura

As required by Section 2790 of the Act, these designated areas will be incorporated by regulation into the State Administrative Code for surface mining and reclamation.

D. Market Region and Estimated Future Needs

To enable staff to estimate the future aggregate needs of a particular area, classification reports are prepared upon the basis of production-consumption (P-C) regions. In its simplest terms, a P-C region is the area where the resource is extracted and processed (production) and where it is marketed (consumption). A classification report also contains a 50-year forecast of the market demands for the subject commodity.

In the Western Ventura County P-C region, the Division has estimated that the 50-year demand for construction is 310 million tons. This estimate assumes an annual consumption rate of 11 tons per capita.

Based upon a per capita consumption rate of 5.5 tons per year, the 50-year aggregate demand in the Simi P-C region was estimated to be 130 million tons.

The amount of estimated aggregate resources available in each area designated by the Board as being of regional significance is provided in Tables I and II. The basis of the resource calculations for each sector is provided in Special Report 145, Parts II and III, respectively.

In selecting areas for designation, the Board recognizes that it is not reasonable to expect that all of the designated deposits in the two P-C regions of Ventura will be completely utilized. For example, the high waste factor and discontinuous nature of the aggregate resources in Sector B of the Simi P-C region will necessarily limit the total amount of usable construction aggregate that this deposit will provide. Other problems such as depth restrictions in some areas due to water quality concerns, an imbalance in the distribution of fine and coarse material in both regions, and increasing operational costs due to overburden and accessibility may hamper complete recovery of the resources in these areas. The Board also recognizes that shortages of aggregate resources in adjacent P-C regions may cause an additional drain on these resources in Ventura County. The Board concluded that to assure the continuing supply of construction aggregate in Ventura County, measures should be taken to protect all of the resources contained in the designated sectors.

TABLE 1

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCE AREAS
WESTERN VENTURA COUNTY P-C REGION

(IN MILLIONS OF SHORT TONS, CALCULATED BY
CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY STAFF, 1982)

RESOURCES COVERED BY USE PERMIT (Inferred Reserves)		RESOURCES COVERED BY USE PERMIT (Inferred Resources)												TOTAL RESOURCES
RESOURCE DEPTH INTERVAL	REGULATED EXTRACTION LIMIT	RESOURCES CONTAINED BETWEEN SURFACE AND BOTTOM OF DEPOSIT		RESOURCES CONTAINED IN DEPTH INTERVAL 30' BELOW SURFACE		RESOURCES CONTAINED BETWEEN SURFACE AND 0' ELEVATION (sea level)		RESOURCES CONTAINED IN DEPTH INTERVAL BELOW SEA LEVEL		RESOURCES CONTAINED IN TOTAL DEPTH INTERVAL		PCC + MISC		
		PCC	MISC	PCC	MISC	PCC	MISC	PCC	MISC	PCC	MISC			
HIGHEST AGGREGATE USE**														
SECTOR														
A	*	180	60	90	50	210	110	130	40	50	180	60	240	
B	*			190	60	730	210	270	90	30	170	70	240	
C		70	20	150	20	480	60				300	100	400	
D				120	20	800	100				70	20	90	
E				70	-	340	-				300	160	460	
F				10	-	-	-				920	270	1190	
G											630	80	710	
H											920	120	1040	
I											410	-	410	
J											10	-	10	
COLUMN TOTAL		30	10	630	150	2560	480	400	130	80	3910	880	4790	

**Cannot be shown due to confidentiality of producer data.
 ***Aggregate is divided into amount of material suitable for use in Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) and
 remaining material useable only in miscellaneous aggregate products (Misc) - asphaltic concrete, road
 base, and railroad ballast. Normally material suitable for use in Portland Cement Concrete is also used
 in miscellaneous aggregate products.
 ****Includes 265 million tons located under producer properties.
 *****Includes 100 million tons located under producer properties.

TABLE 2

REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCE AREAS
SIMI P-C REGION

(IN MILLIONS OF SHORT TONS, CALCULATED BY
CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY STAFF, 1982)

SECTOR	RESOURCES								TOTAL
	RESOURCES COVERED BY USE PERMIT (Inferred Reserves)				RESOURCES NOT COVERED BY USE PERMIT (Inferred Resources)				
	Fine aggregate suitable for base & asphaltic concrete	Fine aggregate suitable for PCC	Coarse aggregate suitable for PCC	Coarse aggregate suitable for PCC	Fine aggregate suitable for base & asphaltic concrete	Fine aggregate suitable for PCC	Coarse aggregate suitable for PCC	Coarse aggregate suitable for PCC	
A	40	80	50	50	none	none	10	10	180
B	none	none	none	none	80	none	430	430	510
C	none	none	none	none	140	290	110	110	540
TOTAL	40	80	50	50	200*	300*	550*	550*	1200**

* Figures rounded off to nearest 50 million.

** Figures rounded off to nearest 100 million.
PCC Portland Cement Concrete.

E. Alternative Sources of Construction Aggregate

Potential sources of aggregate, in addition to the alluvial sand and gravel deposits in Sectors A through J of the Western Ventura County P-C region and A through C of the Simi P-C region, occur both within Ventura County and adjacent to it. These sources include aggregate deposits in adjacent P-C regions such as the San Fernando Valley, Saugus-Newhall, San Gabriel Valley, and various regional sedimentary and volcanic formations within Ventura County that are not presently being used for aggregate.

Reliance on sources outside Ventura County to fulfill required aggregate needs would involve increased travel time and distance resulting in additional costs. Three important associated impacts of such reliance are the increased costs of construction which would be passed on to the consumer, increased energy use and costs, and increased traffic hazards. In addition, utilization of outside sources will tend to accelerate depletion of limited reserves in adjacent regions.

A substantial portion of the study area within Ventura County has been classified as MRZ-3. An MRZ-3 area contains mineral deposits, but the significance of these deposits cannot be evaluated from available data. These formations include material of sedimentary and volcanic

origin that could possibly be used as construction aggregate. A brief description of these deposits is provided in Special Report 145, Parts II and III, respectively. At this time, it has not been determined if the aggregate materials in these deposits are suitable for use in Portland cement concrete quality aggregate.

Specific testing of these materials in each formation would be necessary before any of these deposits could be considered as alternative sources of material available to meet Ventura County's needs.

IV. Lead Agency Responsibilities

A. Affected Local Jurisdictions

Local jurisdictions affected by designation are those with primary land use decision-making authority for the purpose of SMARA. Land-use jurisdiction for each of the sectors in both the Western Ventura County and Simi P-C regions is provided on pages 8 through 11 of this report.

B. Designation Responsibilities

According to the Act (Section 2762) and Mining and Geology Board guidelines, an affected lead agency within 12 months of receiving this designation shall:

- Recognize and include in its general plan the designated areas of regional significance as described in this report and accompanying maps transmitted to it by the Board.
- Develop and adopt policies for the management of land uses in and adjacent to designated areas to protect those areas from premature development incompatible with mining.
- Emphasize the conservation and development of the sand and gravel deposits designated by the Board.

Prior to the adoption of mineral resource management policies, lead agencies shall submit them to the Board for review and comment. The Board shall comment within 60 days of receipt of the proposed policies. Any subsequent amendment to these resource management policies shall also require Board review and comment.

In addition, pursuant to Section 2763 of SMARA, lead agency land-use decisions involving designated areas, Sectors A through J in the Western Ventura County P-C region and Sectors A through C in the Simi P-C region, shall be in accord with the lead agency's mineral resource management policies. The lead agency shall also, in balancing the value of the sand and gravel resources in

these sectors against alternative land uses, consider the resource's importance to the Ventura County P-C regions as a whole and not just their importance to the lead agency's area of jurisdiction.

V. Mineral Resource Management Policies

A. Goals

To aid in the management of sand and gravel resources in the designated areas, the following resource management goals are recommended:

- Designated mineral resource areas should be protected from preclusive and incompatible land uses so that the sand and gravel deposits within these areas are available when needed.
- Surface mining within these designated areas should be controlled to assure that:
 - Adverse environmental effects are prevented or minimized and that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition which is readily adaptable for alternative land uses.
 - The production and conservation of minerals are encouraged, while giving consideration to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, aesthetic enjoyment, and other environmental factors.

- Residual hazards to the public health and safety are eliminated.

B. Policies

Mineral resource management policies developed by local government pursuant to the Act and Board guidelines should:

- Establish land-use categories which will allow for timely mineral extraction to meet projected regional demand in areas designated to be of regional significance, and establish regulations for these land-use categories which will protect them from land uses which would preclude mineral extraction.
- Develop and implement regulations to insure that adequate supplies of mineral commodities are developed under a diversity of ownership to protect the consumer against the effects of restricted competition.
- Develop and implement regulations which will buffer land-use categories permitting mineral extraction from uses incompatible with mining.
- Develop and implement regulations to insure that after mitigative measures are taken, a proposed mining operation will not create any significant nuisances, hazards, or adverse environmental impacts.

- Develop and implement regulations to insure that all mining operations provide for adequate reclamation of mined lands before issuing mining permits.

C. Land-use Compatibility Categories

The following land-use categories are provided as a guide to local government in establishing compatible land uses on or adjacent to the designated areas:

- Incompatible - Land uses inherently incompatible with mining and/or which require a high public or private investment in structures, land improvements, and landscaping, and which would prevent mining because of the higher economic value of the land and its improvements.

Examples of such uses include:

- High density residential
- Low density residential with high unit value
- Public facilities
- Intensive industrial
- Commercial

- Compatible - Land uses inherently compatible with mining and/or which require a low public or private investment in structures, land improvements, and landscaping, and which would allow mining because of the low economic value of the land and its improvements.

Examples of such uses include:

- Very low density residential (for example: 1 unit per 10 acres)
 - Extensive industrial
 - Recreation (public/commercial)
 - Agricultural
 - Silvicultural
 - Grazing
 - Open space
- Interim - Land uses which require structures, land improvements, and landscaping of a limited useful life and from an economic and political standpoint can be converted to mining at the end of that limited life.