

SMARA DESIGNATION
REPORT NO. 4

DESIGNATION OF REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT
CONSTRUCTION AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS
IN THE
WESTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY
PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION REGION

APRIL

1985

PREPARED BY

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

ERRATA

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page 13: line 18 should read "24. Sector V(1) - The extreme western portion called Goat Mesa was not designated. The remainder of V(1) known as Spooners Mesa was designated."

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I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the construction aggregate deposits in the Western San Diego County Production-Consumption (P-C) Region that has been designated as being of regional significance by the State Mining and Geology Board. The designation of the resource areas was undertaken by the Board pursuant to Section 2790 of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA), as amended.

The objective of this action is to identify construction aggregate deposits that remain available and are needed to meet future demands in this region.

A general map indicating the boundary of the study region is provided on Figure 1. Maps displaying the areas designated as being of regional significance are provided on Plates 1.1 through 1.6 enclosed at the end of this report.

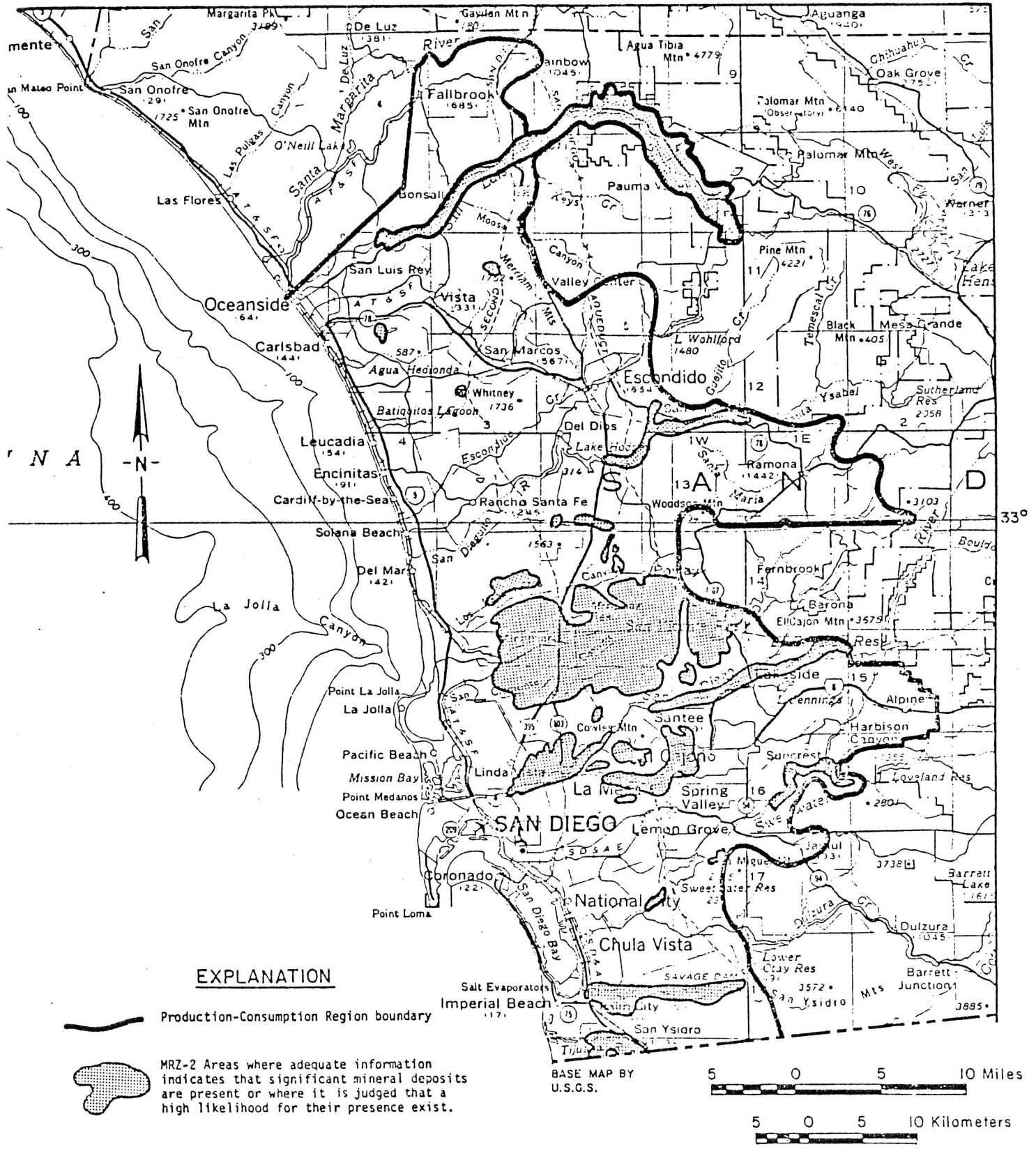
II. CLASSIFICATION-DESIGNATION PROCESS

A. Identifying Important Mineral Lands

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.

In an effort to remedy this problem, SMARA provides for a mineral lands inventory process termed classification-designation. The Department of Conservation, its Division of Mines and Geology, and the State Mining and Geology Board are the State agencies responsible for administering this process. The primary objective of this process is to provide local agencies -- such as cities and counties -- with information on the location, need, and importance of mineral resources within their jurisdiction. A second of this process is to assure that this information will be considered in local land-use planning decisions. This objective is implemented through the adoption of general plan mineral resource management policies.

Figure 1. Map of the Western San Diego County Production-Consumption Region Showing Significant Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ-2)



Map taken from Special Report 153, Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego county Production-Consumption Region 1982, California Division of Mines and Geology, by S. Kohler and R. Miller.

During the first phase of this program, classification, the State Geologist is responsible for preparing a geological inventory of select mineral commodities within a defined study region. Major objectives of a classification report include: (1) identifying the market area of the commodity (a production-consumption region); (2) projecting the future (50-year) needs for the commodity within the study region; and (3) geologically classifying the lands within the region as to the presence or absence of the commodity.

The State Geologist classifies mineral lands solely on the basis of geological factors. Existing land-use, by statute, is not considered. Classification of an area as Mineral Resource Zone-2 (MRZ-2) indicates the existence of a deposit that meets certain criteria for value and marketability. The classification report also describes other categories of mineral resource zones -- MRZ-1, 3, and 4. The first two of these categories are used to indicate if an area contains no resources (MRZ-1) or contains potential but presently unproven resources (MRZ-3). Areas where it is not possible to assign any of these three categories are classified MRZ-4.

In many regions, large portions of the areas classified as MRZ-2 are already committed to various urban uses, which limit access to the underlying resources. As an aid to local planning agencies, classification reports prepared for metropolitan areas also identify MRZ-2 areas that have not been urbanized. These nonurbanized areas, called resource sectors, are important because they contain resources that remain potentially available for future use.

Once the classification report has been completed, the State Mining and Geology Board may choose to proceed with the second step in SMARA's mineral lands identification process -- designation of those deposits that are of regional or statewide significance. In contrast to classification, which inventories mineral deposits without regard to land use, the purpose of designation is to identify those deposits that are available from a land-use perspective and are of prime importance in meeting future needs of the production-consumption region. The areas normally considered for designation are the deposits situated within the resource sectors.

The Board's guidelines for the classification and designation of mineral lands are provided in Part II of Special Publication 51, California Surface Mining and Reclamation Policies and Procedures. See Chapter V for information on the availability of this publication.

B. Construction Aggregate Resources

The first mineral commodity selected by the State Mining and Geology Board for classification by the State Geologist was construction aggregate -- sand, gravel, and crushed rock. 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 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 dependent, 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 construction aggregate deposits in the Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego metropolitan areas. Several other metropolitan areas are also slated for classification once these areas have been completed. These areas include Bakersfield, Fresno, Monterey, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, and the Coachella Valley.

The Department of Conservation also has a classification program for the identification of important mineral commodities -- such as precious and strategic metals, limestone, and clays -- in the rural areas of California. The focus of this program is presently on the Mother Lode Belt in the Sierra Nevada Foothills and the California Desert Conservation Area.

Designation of regionally significant construction aggregate resource areas was initiated in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles. The Ventura County region designation was completed in January 1982. The designation of the Orange County-Temescal Valley and San Gabriel P-C Regions was completed in September 1985. The designation of aggregate resource areas in the Western San Diego P-C Region was the fourth such action completed by the Board.

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

III. LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General Plan Recognition

Both the classification report and the designation information are transmitted to the appropriate lead agencies as they are completed. Within 12 months of the receipt of this information, local lead agencies are required by the Act (Section 2762[a]) to establish mineral resource management policies in their general plans that: (1) recognize the mineral information classified by the State Geologist and transmitted by the Board; (2) assist in the management of land use that affects areas of regional significance; and (3) emphasize the conservation and development of the identified mineral deposits.

SMARA also requires that a lead agency's land-use decisions involving designated areas are in accordance with its mineral resource management policies. In addition, a lead agency, in determining land use in designated areas, must balance mineral value against alternative land uses and consider the importance of the designated mineral resources to their market region as a whole and not just their importance to the lead agency's area of jurisdiction.

Prior to the adoption of mineral resource management policies, lead agencies shall submit them to the Board for review and comment (Section 2762[b] and [c], SMARA). 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.

B. Goals and Policies

The Board has adopted mineral resource goals and policies to guide local government in the use of the information developed by the classification-designation process. (See Part III, Special Publication 51). The Board's mineral resource management goals are as follows:

1. Mineral lands classified MRZ-2 or designated as areas of regional significance should be protected from preclusive and incompatible land uses so that the mineral resources within these lands and areas are available when needed.

2. Surface mining within these classified lands and designated areas should be controlled to assure that:

- (a) Adverse environmental effects are prevented or minimized and that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition that is readily adaptable for alternative land uses.
- (b) The production and conservation of minerals are encouraged, while giving consideration to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, aesthetic enjoyment, and other environmental factors.
- (c) Residual hazards to the public health and safety are eliminated.

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

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

C. Land-Use Categories

The Board has also developed land-use categories that are to serve as a guide to local government in

establishing land uses on or adjacent to lands classified as MRZ-2 that have been designated as being of regional significance. These land-use categories are as follows:

- o Incompatible - Land uses inherently incompatible with mining and/or that require a high public or private investment in structures, land improvements, and landscaping and that 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, and commercial.

- o Compatible - Land uses inherently compatible with mining and/or that require a low public or private investment in structures, land improvements, and landscaping and that 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, and open space.

- o Interim - Land uses that 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.

IV. DESIGNATION OF RESOURCE AREAS IN THE WESTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY P-C REGION

A. Actions Leading to Designation

A public workshop on the classification report for this region was held in the City of San Diego, California, by the Board in July 1982. Based upon comments received at this workshop, the Board determined that it should proceed with the designation of aggregate resource areas in the region.

Public hearings on the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) and proposed designation in the region were held by the Board in the City of San Diego, California, on April 27, 1984.

Regulations describing the areas designated as being of regional significance in the study region were adopted by the Board on August 27, 1984. After review and approval by the Office of Administrative Law, these regulations were incorporated into the California Administrative Code as Section 3550.6 (Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, Article 2), effective April 18, 1985.

B. Areas of Regional Significance in the Western San Diego County P-C Region

Classification. Information on the construction aggregate resources of this area are provided in California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) Special Report 153 classification report for the Western San Diego County P-C Region. Information on how to obtain a copy of Special Report 153 is provided in Chapter V of this report.

The Western San Diego County P-C Region encompasses one of the largest areas of the seven P-C regions in the southern California area. This region includes major population centers such as the cities of San Diego, National City, Chula Vista, La Mesa, Santee, Escondido, Vista, and Oceanside. Physiographic features of the region include the coastal plain, the western Peninsular Range Mountains, and the San Luis Rey, San Dieguito, San Diego, Sweetwater, Otay and Tijuana Rivers. The population of this region is approximately 1.9 million.

The Western San Diego P-C Region is not bordered by any other P-C regions. The Orange County-Temescal Valley P-C Region, to the north is the closest other P-C Region.

Several areas within the Western San Diego County P-C Region have been classified Mineral Resource Zone-2. Aggregate resources in these MRZ-2 areas are located in both existing stream channels and their respective flood plains and in hillside or mesa deposits. While some resources are located in highly urbanized areas -- City of San Diego, La Mesa, and Santee -- a substantial portion of the remaining available resources are located in more rural, outlying parts of the study area such as Temescal Valley, San Luis Rey River, San Pasqual Valley and upper Sweetwater River.

Within the areas classified as MRZ-2, Special Report 153 identified 22 resource sectors that contain aggregate resources that remain available

from a general land-use perspective. These 22 resource sectors, (identified alphabetically in the report, A through V) are the areas the Board considered for designation as being of regional significance.

Designated Areas. Based upon information in Special Report 153 the environmental impact report prepared for this action, and public testimony, the Board designated all or portions of the areas delineated as Resource Sectors A through V. These areas are described as follows:

Sector A - A granitic rock deposit located in eastern Oceanside, southwest of the intersection of Highway 78 and College Boulevard, near Buena Vista Creek Canyon.

Sector B - Channel and flood-plain deposits of the San Luis Rey River beginning near North River Road in Oceanside and extending upstream for approximately six miles.

Sector C - Channel and flood-plain deposits of the San Luis Rey River from near the Highway 78 bridge upstream to approximately the Interstate 15 bridge.

Sector D - Alluvial deposits of the upper San Luis Rey River, extending discontinuously from the Interstate 15 bridge upstream to the community of Rincon in Pauma Valley.

Sector E - A hillside alluvial fan deposit located northeast of the San Luis Rey River, extending from the community of Pala to Pauma Valley.

Sector F - An alluvial fan deposit located in upper Pauma Valley near the community of Rincon.

Sector H - A granitic rock deposit located in Twin Oaks Valley approximately three miles east of the City of Vista.

Sector I - An alluvial fan deposit extending eastward from Lake Hodges on the San Dieguito River to the upper end of San Pasqual Valley.

Sector J - A mesa-top conglomerate deposit consisting of 4 areas located in or near the communities of Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, Poway Mira Mesa, Tierra Santa, and Santee, and on the Miramar Naval Air Station.

Sector K - A metavolcanic rock deposit located in Mission Gorge on the San Diego River.

Sector M - Channel and flood-plain deposits of the upper San Diego River from Magnolia Avenue in the City of Santee to within one mile of El Capitan Dam.

Sector N - A channel deposit of the lower Sweetwater River located near the community of Sunnyside.

Sector O - A channel deposit of the Sweetwater River located at the upper end of Sweetwater Reservoir.

Sector P - A channel deposit of the Sweetwater River located in upper Jamacha Valley.

Sector Q - A channel deposit of the Sweetwater River that extends from near the Singing Hills Golf Course upstream for a distance of approximately four miles.

Sector R - Channel and adjacent mesa deposits of the Otay River extending from near Interstate 805 upstream to approximately the head of Otay Valley.

Sector S - A metavolcanic rock deposit on Rock Mountain located on the north side of upper Otay Valley.

Sector U - Flood-plain deposits of the Tijuana River extending from the international boundary downstream for a distance of approximately four miles.

Sector V - Conglomerate deposits located on the Border Highlands immediately south of the Tijuana River.

TABLE I

DATA ON RESOURCE AREAS AND SECTORS
OF THE WESTERN SAN DIEGO P-C REGION

(Taken from Table 2, California Division of Mines and Geology, Special Report 153, updated to reflect August 27, 1984 boundary changes of resource sectors).

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Million Short Tons Resources*, (Reserves)</u>
San Luis Rey River Area	A-H	
	A	10
	B	140
	C	190
	D	330
	E	690
	F	20
	H	**
	Total:	** (148.9)
San Pasqual Valley	I	40
	Total:	40 (.8)
Kearney Mesa-Mission Valley Area:	J-L	
	J	3,520
	K	20
	Total:	3,540 (150.7)
Upper San Diego River	M	90
	Total:	90 (26.8)
Sweetwater River	N-Q	
	N	10
	O	20
	P	30
	Q	**
	Total	** (22.8)
Otay Valley	R-T	
	R	10
	S	250
	Total:	260 (33.2)
Tijuana River	U	70
	Total:	70 (**)
Border Highlands	V	10
	Total:	10 (**)
GRAND TOTAL:		5,880 (430)

*Includes Reserves.

**Cannot be shown individually due to confidentiality; however, amount is included in totals at bottom of page.

As noted earlier, this designation was incorporated into the California Administrative Code as Section 3550.6 (Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1). The locations of these sectors is provided on Plates 1.1 through 1.6. The complete text of Section 3550.6 and the accompanying maps are provided in Appendix A of this report.

As a result of changes in existing land use and concern about the availability of aggregate resources in areas, the Board deleted all or portions of sixteen resource sectors during the designation process. The deletions to these areas are as follows:

1. Sector A - Boundaries of the sector were amended to delete the urbanized areas south of the South Coast Asphalt Company quarry.
2. Sector B - Boundaries of the sector were amended to delete urbanized area near Guajome.
3. Sector C - Boundary of the sector was amended to delete golf course near Rancho Viejo.
4. Sector D - Boundaries of the sector were amended to delete the golf course of the Pauma Valley Country Club and urbanized areas of the Rincon Indian Reservation.
5. Sector E - Boundaries of this sector were amended to delete urbanized area around the Pauma Valley School.
6. Sector F - Boundaries of the sector was amended to delete urbanized areas of the Rincon Indian Reservation.
7. Sector G - This deposit was not designated.
8. Sector H - Boundaries of this sector were amended to delete all of the area not permitted for mining.
9. Sector J(3) - This deposit was not designated.
10. Sector J(4) - These deposit were not designated.
11. Sector J(5) - Boundaries of this sector were amended to delete the urbanizing area.
12. Sector J(6) - Boundaries of this sector were amended to delete urbanized and urbanizing areas in Mira, Mesa, Mira Mar, and Santee.

13. Sector J(7) - This deposit was not designated.
14. Sector J(8) - This deposit was not designated.
15. Sector J(9) - This deposit was not designated.
16. Sector J(10) - This deposit was not designated.
17. Sector J(11) - This deposit was not designated.
18. Sector K - Boundaries of this sector were amended to delete areas with incompatible land uses.
19. Sector L - This deposit was not designated.
20. Sector M - Boundaries of this sector were amended to delete urbanized areas.
21. Sector R - Boundaries of this sector were amended to delete urbanized areas.
22. Sector T - This deposit was not designated.
23. Sector U - Boundaries of this sector were amended to delete areas with incompatible land uses.
24. Sector V(1) - This deposit was not designated.

Although the above described areas were not designated as being of regional significance, these deposits remain classified as MRZ-2 for construction aggregate. A comparison of the changes to the resource sector boundaries can be made by reviewing Plates 31, 33, 34, 36, and 37 in Special Report 153, the classification report for this P-C region.

V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Questions on this designation report, the Department of Conservation's classification-designation program, or the general planning requirements of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act should be directed to the State Mining and Geology Board, 1416 9th Street, Room 1326-2, Sacramento, California 95814, or (916) 322-1082.

Copies of the classification report for the Western San Diego County P-C Region are available from the Department's Division of Mines and Geology. The title and price of this publication are:

Special Report 153 Mineral Land Classification:
Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego County
Production-Consumption Region, 1982, by S. Kohler
and R. Miller. Price \$7.50 including tax.

Address mail orders to the California Division of Mines and Geology, Post Office Box 2980, Sacramento, California 95812. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the California Division of Mines and Geology. Please do not send stamps in payment.

Copies of the classification reports are available in select public libraries in the San Diego area.

Copies of this designation report are available at no charge from the Board's office in Sacramento.