

**DESIGNATION OF REGIONALLY
SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION AGGREGATE
RESOURCE AREAS IN THE
SAUGUS-NEWHALL AND PALMDALE
PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION REGIONS**

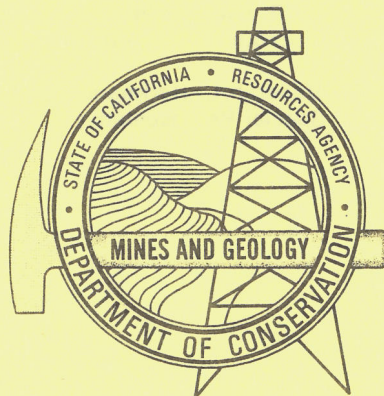
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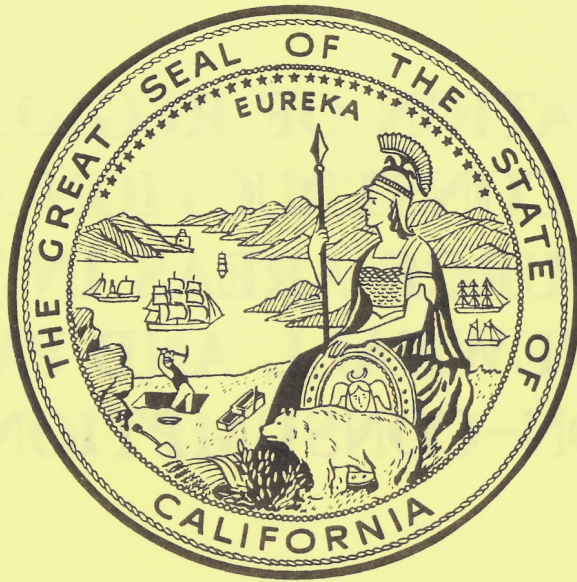
prepared by

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

under the direction of

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD





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DESIGNATION OF REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION
AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS IN THE
SAUGUS-NEWHALL AND PALMDALE PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION REGIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the construction aggregate deposits in the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale Production-Consumption (P-C) Regions that have been designated as being of regional significance by the State Mining and Geology Board. Designation of 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 potentially available and are needed to meet future demands in these regions.

Maps displaying the areas designated as being of regional significance are provided on Plates 1 through 9, and are included as part 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. The second objective 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 local general plan mineral resource management policies.

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. By statute, land-use 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 potentially 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.

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 have also been classified or are in the process of being classified. These areas include Bakersfield, Fresno, Sacramento, San Luis Obispo-Santa Barbara, and Palm Springs.

Designation of regionally significant construction aggregate resource areas has been completed in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles, the Ventura County region, the Orange County-Temescal Valley and San Gabriel P-C Regions and the in the Western San Diego County P-C Region. Designation of the Claremont-Upland, San Bernardino, North San Francisco Bay, South San Francisco Bay, and Monterey Bay P-C Regions was completed concurrently with the designation of the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale P-C Regions.

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 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 are required to submit them to the Board for review and comment (Section 2762[b] and [c], SMARA). Any subsequent amendment to these resource management policies also require Board review and comment.

B. Goals and Policies

The Board has adopted interim criteria to guide local government in the development of mineral

resource management policies. The following advisory criteria shall apply until the formal adoption and approval of State regulations governing lead agency mineral resource management policies:

Data and Analysis

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) requires all affected cities and counties to incorporate into their general plans the mineral classification and designation information prepared by the State Geologist and approved and transmitted by the Board. Lead agencies shall incorporate into their general plan (1) a summary of the information provided by the classification and designation reports or incorporate SMARA and Board policy by reference, and (2) maps of mineral resource areas (or incorporate by reference the classification and designation maps provided by the Board).

Policy Statements

Lead agencies shall adopt statements of policy recognizing the importance of the identified mineral resources, clarifying the intent that this information is to be used when making land use decisions in areas designated to be of statewide or regional significance, and emphasizing the conservation and development of identified mineral deposits.

Implementation Measures

In addition to a summary of the data and the adoption of policies to protect the identified mineral resources, lead agencies shall develop implementation procedures. These shall include at least two of the following:

- o Reference in general plan to location of identified mineral deposits, and a discussion of those areas targeted for conservation and possible future extraction by the lead agency.
- o Use of overlay maps or inclusion of information on any appropriate planning maps to clearly identify mineral resource areas, and those areas targeted by the lead agency for conservation and possible future extraction.
- o Use of special purpose overlay zones, mineral resource/open space zoning, or any other appropriate zoning that would: (1) identify the

presence of important mineral resources, and (2) restrict the encroachment of incompatible land uses, in those areas that are to be conserved.

- o Record on property titles in the affected mineral resource areas a notice identifying the presence of important mineral resources.
- o Impose conditions upon incompatible land uses in and surrounding mineral resource zones for the purpose of mitigating the significant land use conflicts prior to approving a use that would otherwise be incompatible with mineral extraction.

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 SAUGUS-NEWHALL AND PALMDALE P-C REGIONS

A. Actions Leading to Designation

On August 27, 1984 the Board accepted the classification report for the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale P-C Regions, and in mid-October 1984, transmitted the report to the lead agencies.

A public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the P-C regions was held on March 7, 1985 in the City of Claremont. The Final Environmental Impact Report was distributed on July 26, 1985 and was certified by the Board on August 19, 1985.

Two public hearings were held to receive testimony concerning the designation of the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale P-C Regions and several other P-C regions. The first meeting was held in Palm Desert on November 15, 1985, the second in Santa Rosa on January 31, 1986.

Regulations describing the areas designated as being of regional significance in the two P-C Regions were formally adopted October 2, 1986, by Resolution #86-7. After review and approval by the Office of Administrative Law, these regulations were incorporated into the California Administrative Code as Section 3550.9 (Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, Article 2), effective January 3, 1987.

B. Areas of Regional Significance in the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale P-C Regions

Classification. Information on the construction aggregate resources of this area are provided in California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) Special Report 143, Part V, classification report for the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale P-C Regions.

The Saugus-Newhall P-C Region is one of seven P-C regions in the greater Los Angeles area and encompasses approximately 651 square miles. This region includes the population centers of Saugus and Newhall. Physiographic features of the region include the Santa Clara River Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains. The population of this region is approximately 90,000.

The Saugus-Newhall P-C Region is bordered on the north and east by the Palmdale P-C Region, on the south by the San Fernando Valley P-C Region, and on the west by the Western Ventura P-C Region.

The Palmdale P-C Region encompasses an area of about 1,103 square miles and is also one of the seven P-C regions in the greater Los Angeles area. This region includes the desert population centers of Palmdale and Lancaster. The major physiographic features of the region are the Mojave Desert and the northern front of the San Gabriel Mountains. The population of this region is approximately 140,000. The Palmdale P-C Region is bordered on the southwest by the Saugus-Newhall P-C Region.

Several areas within the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale P-C Regions 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, alluvial fans, and in hillside or hard-rock deposits. While some resources are located in urbanized areas near the cities of Saugus and Newhall, a substantial portion of the available resources are located in more rural, outlying parts of the study area such as upper Santa Clara River and adjacent mountains in the Saugus-Newhall P-C region and the Little Rock Creek and Big Rock Creek alluvial fans in the Palmdale P-C Region.

Within the areas classified as MRZ-2, Special Report 143, Part V, identified 5 resource sectors in the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale P-C Regions that contain aggregate resources that remain potentially available from a general land-use perspective. These 5 resource sectors, (identified alphabetically in the report, A through E) are the areas the Board considered for designation as being of regional significance. Resource Sectors A, B, and C are within the Saugus-Newhall P-C Region and Resource Sectors D and E are within the Palmdale P-C Region.

Designated Areas. Based upon information in Special Report 143, Part V, 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 E. These areas are described as follows:

Sector A - Portions of the Santa Clara River and its immediate flood plain extending from the Los Angeles County line to Bee Canyon, parts of Castaic Creek, and Oak Spring Canyon. (Saugus-Newhall P-C Region)

Sector B - An area bounded by Bee Canyon on the northwest, the Santa Clara River to the south, and extending approximately one mile east of Agua Dulce Canyon; and a triangle-shaped area with a boundary extending from the mouth of Pole Canyon west along an old railroad grade, south to Oak Spring Canyon then northeast back to the mouth of Pole Canyon.
(Saugus-Newhall P-C Region)

Sector C - A triangular area beginning at the mouth of Pole Canyon, running southeast along the canyon to Oak Spring Canyon, then southwest to Coyote Canyon, turning northeast to close the triangle back at the mouth of Pole Canyon. (Saugus-Newhall P-C Region)

Sector D - An area north of the California Aqueduct whose eastern boundary is along Little Rock Wash then turns west approximately one mile north of Boundary Avenue. The western boundary runs south near 47th Street and Fort Tejon Road. (Palmdale P-C Region)

Sector E - An area of the Big Rock Wash bounded by the aqueduct on the south, North 165th Street on the east, Palmdale Boulevard on the north, and 116th Street on the west. (Palmdale P-C Region)

TABLE I

DATA ON RESOURCE AREAS AND SECTORS
OF THE SAUGUS-NEWHALL P-C REGION

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Million Short Tons Resources*, (Reserves)</u>
Santa Clara River	A-1	228
	A-2	67
	A-3	85
	A-4	4
	A-5	133
	A-7	83
	A-8	23
	A-9	18
	A-10	37
	A-11	57 (**)
	A-12	30 (**)
	Total:	765 (**)
	Mint Canyon Formation	B-1
B-2		451 (**)
B-3		726
Total:		1,600 (**)
Anorthosite-Gabbro Group	C	5,288 (**)
	Total:	5,288 (**)
GRAND TOTAL:		7,653 (**)

*Includes Reserves.

**Cannot be shown individually due to confidentiality; however, amount is included in total of both P-C Regions on Table II.

TABLE II

DATA ON RESOURCE AREAS AND SECTORS
OF THE PALMDALE P-C REGION

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Million Short Tons Resources*, (Reserves)</u>
Little Rock Creek Fan	D-1	289
	D-2	514 (**)
	D-3	60 (**)
	D-4	120 (**)
	D-5	11
	Total:	994 (**)
Big Rock Creek Fan	E-1	132
	E-2	177
	E-3	124
	E-4	512
	E-5	216
	Total:	1,161
GRAND TOTAL		2,155 (**)
TOTAL OF BOTH SAUGUS-NEWHALL AND PALMDALE REGIONS:		9,808 (510)

*Includes Reserves.

**Cannot be shown individually due to confidentiality; however, amount is included in total of both P-C Regions.

As noted earlier, this designation was incorporated into the California Administrative Code as Section 3550.9 (Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1). The locations of these sectors is provided on Plates 1 through 9. The complete text of Section 3550.9 and the accompanying maps are provided in Appendix A of this report.

There were no changes made to the resource sector boundaries as originally proposed for the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale 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, telephone (916) 322-1082.

Copies of the classification report for the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale P-C Region are available from the Department's Division of Mines and Geology. The title of this publication is Special Report 143, Mineral Land Classification of the Greater Los Angeles Area, Part V, Classification of Sand and Gravel Resource Areas, Saugus-Newhall Production-Consumption Region and Palmdale Production-Consumption Region, 1984, California Division of Mines and Geology, by S. Joseph, R. Miller, S. Tan, and R. Goodman.

Address mail orders to the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, Post Office Box 2980, Sacramento, California 95812. Copies of the classification reports are also available in select public libraries in the Saugus, Newhall and Palmdale areas.

Title 14. Natural Resources
Division 2. Department of Conservation
Chapter 8. Mining and Geology
Subchapter 1. State Mining and Geology Board

Article 2. Areas Designated to be of Regional Significance

Section 3550.9 Construction Aggregate Resources, Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale Regions.

A set of maps identifying the exact locations of the designated resource areas entitled "Regionally Significant Construction Aggregate Resource Areas in the Saugus-Newhall and Palmdale Production-Consumption Regions" is incorporated by reference into this regulation. These maps are available from the State Mining and Geology Board's office in Sacramento.

The construction aggregate deposits in the following areas are designated as being of regional significance:

Sector A - Portions of the Santa Clara River and its immediate flood plain extending from the Los Angeles County line to Bee Canyon, parts of Castaic Creek, and Oak Spring Canyon.

Sector B - An area bounded by Bee Canyon on the northwest, the Santa Clara River to the south, and extending approximately one mile east of Agua Dulce Canyon; and a triangle-shaped area with a boundary extending from the mouth of Pole Canyon west along an old railroad grade, south to Oak Spring Canyon then northeast back to the mouth of Pole Canyon.

Sector C - A triangular area beginning at the mouth of Pole Canyon, running southeast along the canyon to Oak Spring Canyon, then southwest to Coyote Canyon, turning northeast to close the triangle back at the mouth of Pole Canyon.

Sector D - An area north of the California Aqueduct whose eastern boundary is along Little Rock Wash then turns west approximately one mile north of Boundary Avenue. The western boundary runs south near 47th Street and Fort Tejon Road.

Sector E - An area of the Big Rock Wash bounded by the aqueduct on the south, North 165th Street on the east, Palmdale Boulevard on the north, and 116th Street on the west.

NOTE: Authority Cited: Section 2790, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 2726, 2761-63, and 2790-92, Public Resources Code.

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