

MINERAL RESOURCES POLICIES

The County will:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Mineral Resource Identification, Protection and Extraction

Identify Significant Mineral Resource Areas, protect the availability of mineral resources located within these areas and encourage their extraction in a manner which minimizes adverse environmental impacts.

3.2 Protection of Significant Mineral Resource Areas

Protect Significant Mineral Resource Areas from encroachment by incompatible land uses.

3.3 Prevention of Environmental Impacts

Minimize the impact of mineral extraction activities on the surrounding natural and built environment through the application of appropriate management practices including, but not limited to, minimizing surface disturbance, air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, vibration, and traffic impacts.

3.4 Reclamation of Mineral Extraction Areas

Plan for the rehabilitation and reuse of mineral extraction areas.

DEFINITIONS

3.5 Definition of Significant Mineral Resource Areas

Define Significant Mineral Resource Areas as lands in rural areas containing minerals capable of being extracted for commercial use, including, but not limited to:

- a. Lands on which minerals are being extracted for commercial use.
- b. Lands classified as Mineral Resource Zone 2 (MRZ-2) by the State Geologist, and designated by the State Mining and Geology Board as containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance.

3.6 Definition of Buffer Lands

Define buffer lands as lands which are used to protect public safety by providing sufficient distance and screening between mineral extraction activities and incompatible land uses.

DESIGNATIONS

3.7 Designation of Significant Mineral Resource Areas

Designate Significant Mineral Resource Areas as those meeting the definition in Policy 3.5, including, but not limited to, those areas shown as Significant Mineral Resource Areas on the Mineral Resources Map.

REGULATION OF DEVELOPMENT

3.8 Identify and Protect Significant Mineral Resource Areas from Incompatible Land Uses

Identify and protect Significant Mineral Resource Areas from preclusive and incompatible land uses both within and adjacent to the site to insure that mineral resources continue to be available as needed.

3.9 Permitted Uses Within Significant Mineral Resource Areas

Regulate development within Significant Mineral Resource Areas permitting only those land uses which are compatible with existing or potential mineral resource extraction operations.

3.10 Permitted Uses Adjacent to Significant Mineral Resource Areas

Regulate development adjacent to Significant Mineral Resource Areas (within the impact area) permitting only those land uses which are compatible with mineral extraction activities and other land uses which protect public safety.

3.11 Encourage the Extraction of Minerals Located Within Significant Mineral Resource Areas

Encourage the extraction of minerals located within Significant Mineral Resource Areas provided the mineral resource extraction would not be in serious conflict with existing land uses, land uses proposed in the General Plan and area plans, and sensitive habitats.

3.12 Extraction of Minerals Located Outside of Significant Mineral Resource Areas

Allow the extraction of minerals located outside of Significant Mineral Resource Areas provided the mineral resource extraction would not be in serious conflict with existing land uses, land uses proposed in the General Plan and area plans, and sensitive habitats.

3.13 Locating New Quarries

Allow new quarries to be located in areas where the resulting impacts, including, but not limited to, those on visual quality, noise levels (both absolute and relative to ambient noise levels), air quality and traffic can be mitigated to levels compatible with existing land uses, land uses proposed in the General Plan and area plans, and sensitive habitats.

3.14 Establishing Buffer Lands Adjacent to Quarry Operations

Establish buffer lands adjacent to existing and new quarry operations to protect them from incompatible land uses and to assure that existing land uses, particularly residential uses, are protected from the negative impacts resulting from the extraction operation.

3.15 Regulation of Quarrying and Dredging Operations

Regulate the quarrying for crushed and broken stone or limestone and the dredging for shells to encourage the development of these resources and to protect the environment, including, but not limited to, minimizing air pollution, impedance of groundwater movement and water quality degradation, damage to wildlife habitats, flooding, erosion, degradation of scenic quality, noise pollution, and traffic impacts.

3.16 Regulation of Onshore Oil and Gas Operations

Regulate onshore oil and gas operations, including, but not limited to, the regulation of the exploration, production, removal, storage and transportation of oil and gas and other incidental operations in a manner which encourages the development of onshore oil and gas resources and protects natural resources, freshwater sources and agriculture.

3.17 Amending Onshore Oil and Gas Well Regulations

Prior to amending County regulations governing onshore oil and gas development, consider both the costs to the applicant to meet the proposed new or revised requirements and the environmental and land use benefits.

3.18 Compatibility of Onshore Oil and Gas Development with the Productive Use of Surface Resources

Permit the extraction of onshore oil and gas on lands designated for the productive use of surface resources such as agriculture and timber harvesting provided that the overall productivity of the surface resource is not significantly diminished and feasible alternative extraction sites are not available.

3.19 Protection of Natural Resources

Regulate land uses and require environmental review of extraction operations in a manner which fosters protection of natural resources.

3.20 Onshore Facilities for Offshore Oil Development

Prohibit onshore facilities for offshore oil development.

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE OF THE COUNTY

3.21 Update Significant Mineral Resources Map

Periodically update the map identifying Significant Mineral Resource Areas in San Mateo County as new information is made available by the State Geologist, State Board of Mining and Geology, or other sources.

3.22 Opposition to the Development of Offshore Oil Resources Which Could Affect San Mateo County

Advise State and Federal agencies on the County's objections to the development of offshore oil resources.

3.23 Implementation of Reclamation Plans

At the time quarrying operations are terminated, develop and implement land use designations which are consistent with quarry reclamation plans.