

Chapter Three

CONSERVATION/OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Conservation/Open Space Element of the Stanislaus County General Plan emphasizes the conservation and management of natural resources and the preservation of open space lands (any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved). The element: (1) promotes the protection, maintenance, and use of the County's natural resources, with special emphasis on scarce resources and those that require special control and management; (2) prevents wasteful exploitation, destruction, and neglect of natural resources; (3) recognizes the need for natural resources to be maintained for their ecological values as well as for their direct benefit to people; (4) preserves open space lands for outdoor recreation including scenic, historic and cultural areas; and (5) preserves open space for public health and safety including areas subject to landslides, flooding, and high fire risk and areas required for the protection of water and air quality.

The Goals, policies and implementation measures of the Conservation/Open Space Element cover the various natural, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic resources found throughout the County. Complementary goals, policies, and implementation measures, along with support information, for these resources are also included in the Land Use and Agricultural Elements of the General Plan. Additional background information on resources not discussed in other elements of the General Plan is provided below:

Fish and Wildlife Inventory

Numerous species of plant and animal life are found in Stanislaus County which has aesthetic, recreational, economic, scientific or educational value to the citizens of the area. Thirteen land cover types, which provide wildlife habitat, can be found in Stanislaus County. These are Oak woodland, Blue oak-foothill pine, Valley foothill riparian, Chaparral, Diablan sage scrub, Annual grassland, Vernal pool/Annual grassland complex, Freshwater emergency wetland, Riverine, Lacustrine, Agriculture, Urban, and Barren. Special status wildlife species that have been identified occurring within Stanislaus County are primarily associated with the annual grassland/vernal pool complexes on the eastern side of the county, the riparian habitats along the San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne rivers, and the lands west of I-5. Critical habitat has been designated for 11 federally listed species within the limits of Stanislaus County.

Parks and Trails

The County presently maintains several regional parks with a total acreage of 16,820 acres. These parks provide a wide variety of recreational facilities and opportunities such as picnic areas, sports fields, campsites, equestrian facilities, swimming, waterskiing, fishing, boating and barbecue pits. In addition to regional parks, Stanislaus County operates several neighborhood parks with a total acreage of 73 acres, in the unincorporated areas surrounding Modesto and Ceres, and in the unincorporated communities of Salida, Keyes, Grayson, and Denair.

Historic and Cultural Sites

Within Stanislaus County, there are 20 National Registry of Historic Places listings, 5 state landmarks, and 7 points of historical interest. These records of known archaeological and historical sites are filed with the Office of Historic Preservation, Central California Information Center, California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock, California. Exact locations are kept confidential so as to protect these valuable resources. The two chief historical areas within Stanislaus County are in and around the gold rush towns of Knights Ferry and La Grange. Located in the community are a number of historic buildings considered worthy of preservation. The County, working closely with the residents of these communities, has established a historical site zone ensuring that all development within the two towns will be consistent with their historical nature.

GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

GOAL ONE

Encourage the protection and preservation of natural and scenic areas throughout the County.

POLICY ONE

Maintain the natural environment in areas dedicated as parks and open space.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Development of County parks shall include provisions for native vegetation conservation. Rare and endangered plants will be protected consistent with state and federal law and consistent with protection standards for private development as established in this General Plan.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Board of Supervisors
2. Continue to use Williamson Act contracts as a means for open space conservation.
Responsible Departments: Assessor, Planning, Board of Supervisors

POLICY TWO

Assure compatibility between natural areas and development.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Review zoning regulations and landscaping requirements for compatibility between proposed development and natural areas, including protection from invasive plants.
Responsible Department: Planning
2. Review all development requests to ensure that sensitive areas (e.g., riparian habitats, vernal pools, rare plants) are left undisturbed or that mitigation measures acceptable to appropriate state and federal agencies are included in the project.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
3. Require Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) review of the location, compatibility, and design of proposed parks, open space uses, and outdoor recreation areas within adopted Airport Influence Areas.
Responsible Department: Planning
4. Discourage the establishment of conservation areas or nature preserves within adopted Airport Influence Areas.
Responsible Department: Planning

5. Consider adoption of scenic corridors to protect and preserve natural scenic vistas located throughout the County.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY THREE

Areas of sensitive wildlife habitat and plant life (e.g., vernal pools, riparian habitats, flyways and other waterfowl habitats, etc.) including those habitats and plant species listed by state or federal agencies shall be protected from development and/or disturbance.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Review all development requests to ensure that sensitive areas (e.g., riparian habitats, vernal pools, rare plants, flyways, etc.) are left undisturbed or that mitigation measures acceptable to appropriate state and federal agencies are included in the project.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. In known sensitive areas, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be notified as required by the California Native Plant Protection Act; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also shall be notified.
Responsible Department: Planning
3. All discretionary projects that will potentially impact riparian habitat and/or vernal pools or other sensitive areas shall include mitigation measures for protecting that habitat.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
4. All discretionary projects within an adopted Airport Influence Area (AIA) that have the potential to create habitat, habitat conservation, or species protection shall be reviewed by the Airport Land Use Commission.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
5. Implementation of this policy shall not be extended to the level of an unconstitutional "taking" of property.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
6. Any ground disturbing activities on lands previously undisturbed that will potentially impact riparian habitat and/or vernal pools or other sensitive areas shall include mitigation measures for protecting that habitat, as required by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY FOUR

Protect and enhance oak woodlands and other native hardwood habitat.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Require all discretionary projects that will potentially impact oak woodlands and other native hardwood habitat, including but not limited to hardwood rangelands identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to include a management plan for the protection and enhancement of oak woodlands and other native hardwood habitat.

Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

2. Consider adoption of a tree protection ordinance to promote conservation of native trees or trees with historic significance.

Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

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GOAL TWO

Conserve water resources and protect water quality in the County.

POLICY FIVE

Protect groundwater aquifers and recharge areas, particularly those critical for the replenishment of reservoirs and aquifers.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Proposals for urbanization in groundwater recharge areas shall be reviewed to ensure that (1) as much water as possible is returned to the recharge area, (2) the development will not cause discharge of materials detrimental to the quality of the water, and (3) the development will not result in significant groundwater overdrafting or deterioration in quality. The Department of Environmental Resources shall require:
 - A. In those areas where groundwaters are susceptible to overdrafting, the project proponent shall perform a hydrogeological analysis and include appropriate mitigation measures in the proposal.
 - B. In those areas where groundwater quality is susceptible to deterioration or is already of reduced quality, the level of wastewater treatment shall be such that it will not cause further quality deterioration.

Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

2. The Department of Environmental Resources shall identify and require control of point sources for pollutants stored, handled, or disposed of on the surface of the soil or in the vadose zone that is located in the zone or aeration immediately above the groundwater level. Potential sources of pollutants to the groundwater may also include high densities of individual on-site sewage treatment units and/or the use of community package treatment plants. The Department of Environmental Resources shall require the adoption of groundwater monitoring programs for projects where hydrogeological assessments indicate the potential for groundwater deterioration is likely.

Responsible Department: Environmental Resources

3. Stanislaus County shall discourage the use of dry wells as a means of street drainage in urban areas. Dry wells collect and discharge toxic, hazardous and designated contaminants into aquifers having beneficial uses. New projects shall have storm water disposal systems that: (1) are designed not to pollute receiving surface or groundwaters, and (2) which could be integrated into an area-wide groundwater recharge program whenever feasible.

Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Public Works, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

4. Encourage new development to incorporate water conservation measures to minimize adverse impacts on water supplies.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning
5. Continue to implement the landscape provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, which encourage drought-tolerant landscaping and water-conserving irrigation methods.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
6. During the project and environmental review process, encourage new urban development to be served by community wastewater treatment facilities and water systems rather than by package treatment plants or private septic tanks and wells.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY SIX

Preserve natural vegetation to protect waterways from bank erosion and siltation.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Development proposals and mining activities including, or in the vicinity of, waterways and/or wetlands shall be closely reviewed to ensure that destruction of riparian habitat and vegetation is minimized. This shall include referral to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Department of Conservation.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Continue to encourage best management practices for agriculture and coordinate with soil and water conservation efforts of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, Resource Conservation Districts, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and local irrigation districts.
Responsible Departments: Agricultural Commissioner, U.C. Cooperative Extension

POLICY SEVEN

New development that does not derive domestic water from pre-existing domestic and public water supply systems shall be required to have a documented water supply that does not adversely impact Stanislaus County water resources.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Proposals for development to be served by new water supply systems shall be referred to appropriate water districts, irrigation districts, community services districts, the State Water Resources Board and any other appropriate agencies for review and comment.
Responsible Department: Environmental Resources, Planning

2. Review all development requests to ensure that sufficient evidence has been provided to document the existence of a water supply sufficient to meet the short and long term water needs of the project without adversely impacting the quality and quantity of existing local water resources.

Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY EIGHT

The County shall support efforts to develop and implement water management strategies.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE

1. The County will pursue state and federal funding options to improve water management resources in the County.

Responsible Department: Environmental Resources, Planning, Board of Supervisors

2. The Department of Environmental Resources should continue to monitor groundwater quality by reviewing well water chemical and bacterial analysis results for public water systems under the department's supervision and by overseeing investigations involving soil and groundwater contamination.

Responsible Department: Environmental Resources

3. The County will coordinate with water purveyors, private landowners and other water resource agencies in the region on data collection of groundwater conditions and in the development of a groundwater usage tracking system, including well location/construction mapping (within the extent that prevailing law allows) and groundwater level monitoring, to guide future policy development.

Responsible Department: Environmental Resources

4. The County shall promote efforts to increase reliability of groundwater supplies through water resource management tools ranging from surface water protection programs, demand management programs (conservation), continued public education programs, and expanded opportunities for conjunctive use of groundwater, surface water, and appropriately treated wastewater and stormwater reuse opportunities.

Responsible Department: Public Works, Environmental Resources, Agricultural Commissioner, Public Health, Planning

5. The County will support and where appropriate help facilitate the formation of an integrated and comprehensive county-wide, and where appropriate, regional water resources management plan which incorporates existing water management plans and identifies and plans for management within the gaps between existing water management plans.

Responsible Department: Environmental Resources, Planning

6. The County will cooperate with other pertinent agencies, including cities and water districts, in the preparation and adoption of a groundwater sustainability plan pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and any subsequent legislation. The County will use its regulatory authority, as appropriate, to implement the requirements of the groundwater sustainability plan.

Responsible Department: Environmental Resources, Planning

7. The County will obtain the technical information, and develop the planning and policy needs to improve groundwater recharge opportunities and groundwater conditions in the County.
Responsible Department: Environmental Resources, Planning
8. As information becomes available, the County will adopt General Plan changes to protect recharge areas and manage land use changes that have an impact on groundwater use and quality.
Responsible Department: Environmental Resources, Planning

POLICY NINE

The County will investigate additional sources of water for domestic use.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE

1. The County will work with irrigation and water districts, community services districts, municipal and private water providers in developing surface water and other potential water sources for domestic use.
Responsible Departments: Chief Executive Office, Environmental Resources, Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee, Planning

GOAL THREE

Provide for the long-term conservation and use of agricultural lands.

POLICY TEN

Discourage the division of land which forces the premature cessation of agricultural uses.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Use of the 40-acre or larger parcel size or agricultural Planned Developments with average residential densities equivalent to those allowed by parcel sizes of at least 40 acres shall be continued throughout most of the area designated Agriculture on the Land Use Element of the General Plan.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County will continue to participate in the Williamson Act, consistent with the Policies of the Land Use and Agricultural Elements.
Responsible Departments: Assessor, Planning, Board of Supervisors
3. The County will continue to participate in the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.
Responsible Departments: U.C. Cooperative Extension, Planning

POLICY ELEVEN

In areas designated "Agriculture" on the Land Use Element, discourage land uses which are incompatible with agriculture.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. All development proposals that require discretionary approval shall be reviewed to ensure that the project will not adversely affect an existing agricultural area.
Responsible Department: Planning, Agricultural Commissioner, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors.
2. The County shall continue to implement the strategies identified in the Agricultural Element to ensure that new development is compatible with agricultural uses.
Responsible Department: Agricultural Commissioner, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors.
3. The County shall continue to work with LAFCO to ensure that expansion of urban boundaries minimizes the area of conflict between urban and agricultural uses.
Responsible Department: Planning Department

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GOAL FOUR

Provide for the open-space recreational needs of the residents of the County.

POLICY TWELVE

Provide a system of local and regional parks which will serve the residents of the County. (Comment: The County should acquire future park sites in areas where growth is planned when funding is available).

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County shall consider adoption of an amendment to the Subdivision Ordinance to require parkland dedication, park in-lieu fees, public facility fees, or other methods acceptable to the Parks Department, to be paid by subdividers and developers.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Parks and Recreation, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County shall continue to implement the Parks Master Plan. The Plan shall be comprehensively updated as found necessary by the Board of Supervisors.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Parks Commission, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
3. The County shall consider establishing appropriate funding mechanisms for park operations and maintenance, including benefit assessment districts and County Service Areas (CSAs), with appropriate exemptions included for those landowners that provide open space amenities.
Responsible Departments: Chief Executive Office, Treasurer-Tax Collector, Auditor-Controller, Parks and Recreation, Parks Commission, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
4. The County shall encourage the interconnection of recreational areas, open spaces and parks that are oriented to pedestrian and bicycle travel along public highway rights-of-way, while protecting private property and river corridors, to the greatest extent possible.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Parks Commission, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
5. The County shall require dedication and improvement of parks and open space in accordance with the Stanislaus County Parks Master Plan, as amended from time to time.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Parks Commission, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY THIRTEEN

Promote the use of water reservoirs for multiple recreational purposes, where appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County shall encourage the multiple uses of reservoirs as flood control devices, recreational facilities, and wildlife habitats.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Board of Supervisors
2. The County shall, when funds become available, install and maintain boating facilities, where appropriate.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Board of Supervisors
3. The County shall encourage the development of on-site resort services and accessory sales designed to enhance recreational opportunities, where appropriate.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Board of Supervisors

POLICY FOURTEEN

Provide for diverse recreational opportunities such as horseback riding trails, hiking trails, and bikeways.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. In areas where appropriate, equestrian facilities may be provided. (The County should consider equestrian facilities when developing new parks. Also, in large land subdivisions where horses are permitted, the County should encourage the development of equestrian facilities.)
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Bikeways and pedestrian paths shall be considered when constructing or improving the road and street system within the sphere of influence of cities or other urban areas, consistent with the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan adopted by StanCOG.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY FIFTEEN

Coordinate the provision of recreation needs with other providers such as the Army Corps of Engineers, the State Resources Agency, school districts, local cities, river rafters, horse stable operators, and private organizations such as the Sierra Club and Audubon Society.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County will pursue various funding options for providing recreational opportunities.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Board of Supervisors
2. The County will assume responsibility for parks, when financially feasible, dedicated to them by state or federal agencies.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Board of Supervisors

3. Prior to the issuance of any building permit on parcels fronting on rivers and streams, it shall be verified that the building site is outside of Army Corps of Engineers easements.
Responsible Department: Planning
4. An inventory of recreational facilities shall be maintained for use in parks and recreation facilities planning.
Responsible Department: Parks and Recreation
5. Proposals to establish new or expanded recreational areas shall be reviewed for consistency with policies of the Safety Element when located within an adopted Airport Influence Area as a means to prevent the creation of potential wildlife strike hazards or other hazards to park users, aviators, and the traveling public.
Responsible Department: Parks and Recreation

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GOAL FIVE

Reserve, as open space, lands subject to natural disaster in order to minimize loss of life and property of residents of Stanislaus County.

POLICY SIXTEEN

Discourage development on lands that are subject to flooding, landslide, faulting, or any natural disaster to minimize loss of life and property.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Enforce the provisions of the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Development will not be permitted in floodways unless it meets the requirements of Chapter 16.50 of the County Code and is approved by the State Reclamation Board.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
3. Development proposals in an area identified as having unstable soils (bluff, landslide areas in the foothills, etc.) shall include measures for mitigating possible hazards.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
4. The County shall enforce the subdivision ordinance requirement for soils reports, which may be required to include a geologic report.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
5. The County shall utilize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process to ensure that development does not occur that would be subject to natural disasters.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
6. Development proposals shall be reviewed for conformance with all applicable Hazard Mitigation Plans and consistency with policies of the Safety Element.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY SEVENTEEN

Develop a plan to minimize the impacts of a disaster.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County Office of Emergency Services will continue to work with other jurisdictions to develop evacuation routes to be used in case of a disaster. Evacuation routes will serve all of the jurisdictions in the County. Plans for evacuation routes must be coordinated with the cities.
Responsible Department: Office of Emergency Services
2. In case of a disaster, the County will use the adopted emergency plan and the procedures established in that document (Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan).
Responsible Departments: Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff, Fire Warden's Office and the Local Fire Agency Having Jurisdiction, Board of Supervisors
3. The County will provide information to anyone interested in forming a flood control district in Stanislaus County.
Responsible Department: Public Works

GOAL SIX

Improve air quality.

POLICY EIGHTEEN

The County will promote effective communication, cooperation, and coordination among agencies involved in developing and operating local and regional air quality programs.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Refer discretionary projects under CEQA review to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), neighboring jurisdictions and other affected agencies for review and comment.
Responsible Department: Planning
2. Work with other agencies in the San Joaquin Valley to establish coordinated air quality programs and implementation measures.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY NINETEEN

The County will strive to accurately determine and fairly mitigate the local and regional air quality impacts of proposed projects.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Require all development proposals, where appropriate, to include reasonable air quality mitigation measures.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Minimize case-by-case analysis of air quality impacts through the use of standard criteria for determining significant environmental effects, a uniform method of calculating project emissions, and standard mitigation methods to reduce air quality impacts.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY TWENTY

The County shall strive to reduce motor vehicle emissions by reducing vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled and increasing average vehicle ridership.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Through strategies identified in the Circulation Element, ensure that circulation systems are designed and maintained to minimize traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Support a broad range of transportation modes, including public transit, bicycling and pedestrian travel, through the strategies identified in the Circulation Element.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
3. Help achieve a jobs/housing balance by working with appropriate organizations to attract employers to Stanislaus County.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY TWENTY-ONE

The County will support efforts to increase public awareness of air quality problems and solutions.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Support and participate in the air quality education programs of the SJVAPCD to the greatest extent possible.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Support education programs that increase public awareness of techniques to reduce particulate matter emissions.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources Public Health, U.C. Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Commissioner, Agricultural Advisory Board, Planning, Board of Supervisors
3. Work with the local building industry, utilities, and the SJVAPCD to educate developers and builders on the benefits of energy-efficient designs and the use of low-emission equipment for new residential and commercial construction.
Responsible Departments: Planning

GOAL SEVEN

Support efforts to minimize the disposal of solid waste through source reduction, reuse, recycle, composting, and transformation activities.

POLICY TWENTY-TWO

The County will support the solid waste management hierarchy established by the California Public Resources Code, Section 40051, and actively promote the goals and objectives specified in the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Encourage and promote activities, projects, legislation, business, and industries that cause solid waste to be reduced at the source, reused, recycled, and/or composted.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Environmental Resources, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Maintain an up to date Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Board of Supervisors
3. Encourage the use of transformation facilities (such as waste-to-energy plants) as a component of the County's integrated waste management system.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
4. Actively pursue the identification, siting, permitting, and operation of additional landfill capacity to receive solid wastes that are not diverted from disposal and for the disposal of ash from transformation facilities.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
5. Encourage and promote activities, projects, legislation, businesses, and industries that cause special wastes (e.g., food processing by-products, demolition/construction waste, inert wastes, e-waste/universal waste, tires, de-watered sludge, household hazardous waste, etc.) to be safely diverted from landfills or transformation facilities, including composting and co-composting operations.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
6. Permitting and operation of recycling facilities that receive waste materials diverted from landfills or transformation facilities shall be evaluated for compatibility with surrounding land uses.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY TWENTY-THREE

The County will protect existing solid waste management facilities, including the waste-to-energy plant and the Fink Road landfill, against encroachment by land uses that would adversely affect their operation or their ability to expand.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Do not approve any discretionary projects within 1,000 feet of existing solid waste management facilities, including the Fink Road landfill and the waste-to-energy plant, unless such projects will have no adverse impact on those facilities or vice versa.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Explore the possibility of establishing an appropriate mechanism to preclude issuance of any building permits within 1,000 feet of solid waste management facilities, including the Fink Road landfill and the waste-to-energy plant.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, County Counsel, Planning, Board of Supervisors

GOAL EIGHT

Preserve areas of national, state, regional, and local historical importance.

POLICY TWENTY-FOUR

The County will support the preservation of Stanislaus County's cultural legacy of archeological, historical, and paleontological resources for future generations.

(Comment: Landmarks of historical consequence not only include old schoolhouses and covered bridges, but also such sites as Native American burial grounds, cemeteries, pottery, rock carvings, and rock paintings. Normally, "sensitive" areas are often located near natural watercourses, springs or ponds, or on elevated ground. However, due to the silt build-up in the valley and the meandering of rivers, archaeological and historical sites may be found in unsuspected areas.)

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County shall continue to utilize the HS (Historical Site) zone in Knight's Ferry and La Grange to protect the historical character of the communities.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County shall seek input from the Knight's Ferry Municipal Advisory Council concerning any development proposals in the HS zone in Knight's Ferry.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Historical Sub-Committee of the Planning Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
3. The County shall work with the County Historical Society, and other organizations and interested individuals to study, identify and inventory archeological resources and historical sites, structures, buildings and objects.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Planning
4. The County will cooperate with the State Historical Preservation Officer to identify and nominate historical structures, objects, buildings and sites for inclusion under the Historical Preservation Act.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Planning
5. The County shall utilize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process to protect archaeological, historic, or paleontological resources. Most discretionary projects require review for compliance with CEQA. As part of this review, potential impacts must be identified and mitigated.
Responsible Departments: Parks and Recreation, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
6. The County shall make referrals to the Office of Historic Preservation and the Central California Information Center as required to meet CEQA requirements and require.
Responsible Department: Planning

7. The County will work with all interested individuals and organizations to protect and preserve the mining heritage of Stanislaus County.
Responsible Department: Parks and Recreation

POLICY TWENTY-FIVE

"Qualified Historical Buildings" as defined by the State Building Code shall be preserved.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Whenever possible, the County Building Permits Division shall utilize the provisions of the State Building Code that allow historical buildings to be restored without damaging the historical character of the building.
Responsible Department: Planning
2. The County shall continue to utilize the HS (Historical Site) zone in Knight's Ferry and La Grange to protect the historical character of the communities.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

GOAL NINE

Manage extractive mineral resources to endure an adequate supply without degradation of the environment.

POLICY TWENTY-SIX

Surface mining in areas classified by the State Division of Mines and Geology as having significant deposits of extractive mineral resources shall be encouraged.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County shall encourage and support the State Division of Mines and Geology or other public or private organizations in designating the County's sand and gravel resources.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County shall utilize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process to protect mineral resources as well as the environment. Most discretionary projects require review for compliance with CEQA. As a part of this review, environmental impacts and alternatives must be identified and the manner for such significant effects to be avoided or mitigated must be indicated.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
3. Areas identified in Special Reports prepared by the California Geological Survey, shall be covered by the Mineral Resource land use designation of the Land Use Element.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
4. As necessary, the County shall update and maintain the Mineral Resources land use designation for those areas, within Stanislaus County, identified as significant deposits of mineral resources in Special Reports prepared by the California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY TWENTY-SEVEN

The County shall emphasize the conservation and development of lands having significant deposits of extractive mineral resources by not permitting uses that threaten the potential to extract the minerals.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Requests for conversion of lands with significant deposits of extractive mineral resources (e.g., sand and gravel) to urban uses shall not be approved unless provisions are made for extraction prior to development.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

2. Any approval of potentially incompatible land uses in and surrounding areas containing significant deposits of extractive mineral resources shall include conditions mitigating the significant land use conflicts.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
3. Special Reports identifying mineral resources within Stanislaus County and prepared by the California Geological Survey (See Appendix III-A - Special Report 173, and III-B – Special Report 199), are hereby incorporated in this General Plan by reference.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY TWENTY-EIGHT

Lands used for the extraction of mineral resources shall be reclaimed as required by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) to minimize undesirable impacts.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Approval of any excavation permits shall include requirements for reclamation of the land consistent with the land use designation.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Mineral excavation on productive agricultural land should have a reclamation plan that retains or restores a maximum amount of agricultural or open space land.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

GOAL TEN

Protect fish and wildlife species of the County.

POLICY TWENTY-NINE

Habitats of rare and endangered fish and wildlife species, including special status wildlife and plants, shall be protected.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County shall utilize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process to ensure that development does not occur that would be detrimental to fish, plant life, or wildlife species.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County shall utilize the California State Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Data Base and the California's Native Plant Society plant lists as the primary sources of information on special status wildlife and plants.
Responsible Department: Planning
3. The County shall protect sensitive wildlife habitat and plant life through the strategies identified under Policy Three of this element.
Responsible Departments: Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

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GOAL ELEVEN

Conserve resources through promotion of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, ride-sharing programs, and alternative energy sources such as mini-hydroelectric plants, gas and oil exploration, and transformation facilities such as waste-to-energy plants.

POLICY THIRTY

The County shall provide zoning mechanisms for locating material recovery facilities, recycling facilities, composting facilities, and new energy producers when the proposed location does not conflict with surrounding land uses.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County shall include provisions in its zoning ordinance for siting material-recovery facilities, recycling facilities, composting facilities, mini-hydroelectric plants, and alternative energy sources.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Planning, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County shall actively pursue and implement projects, plans, and programs that will effectively protect and conserve existing and future landfill capacity.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Board of Supervisors

POLICY THIRTY- ONE

New construction by the County shall meet or exceed code requirements for energy conservation.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. New County facilities should be designed to maximize energy efficiency.
Responsible Departments: Chief Executive Office, Planning
2. Existing County facilities should be made to maximize energy efficiency where it is found to be economically reasonable.
Responsible Departments: Chief Executive Office, Planning

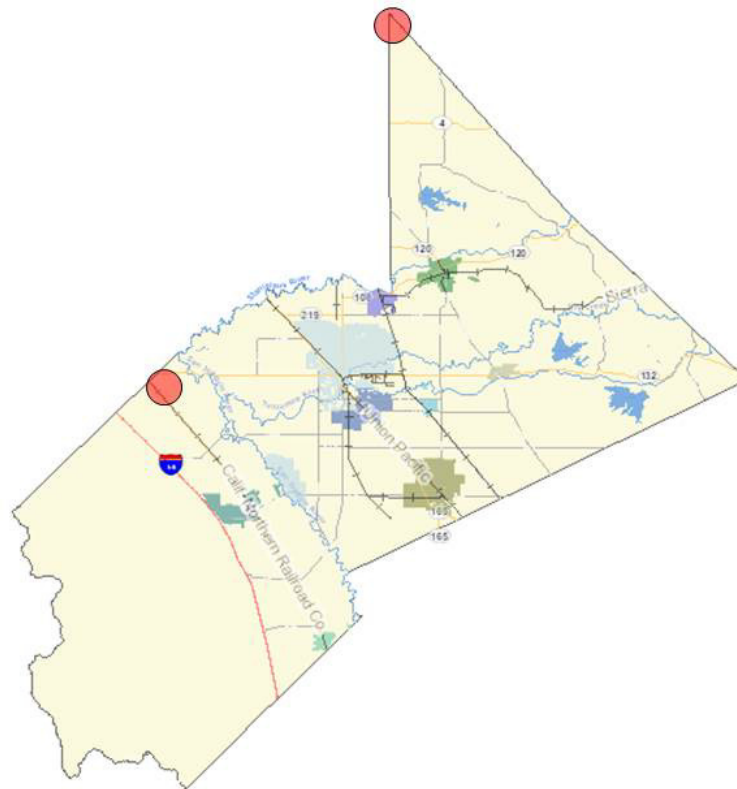
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APPENDIX III-A

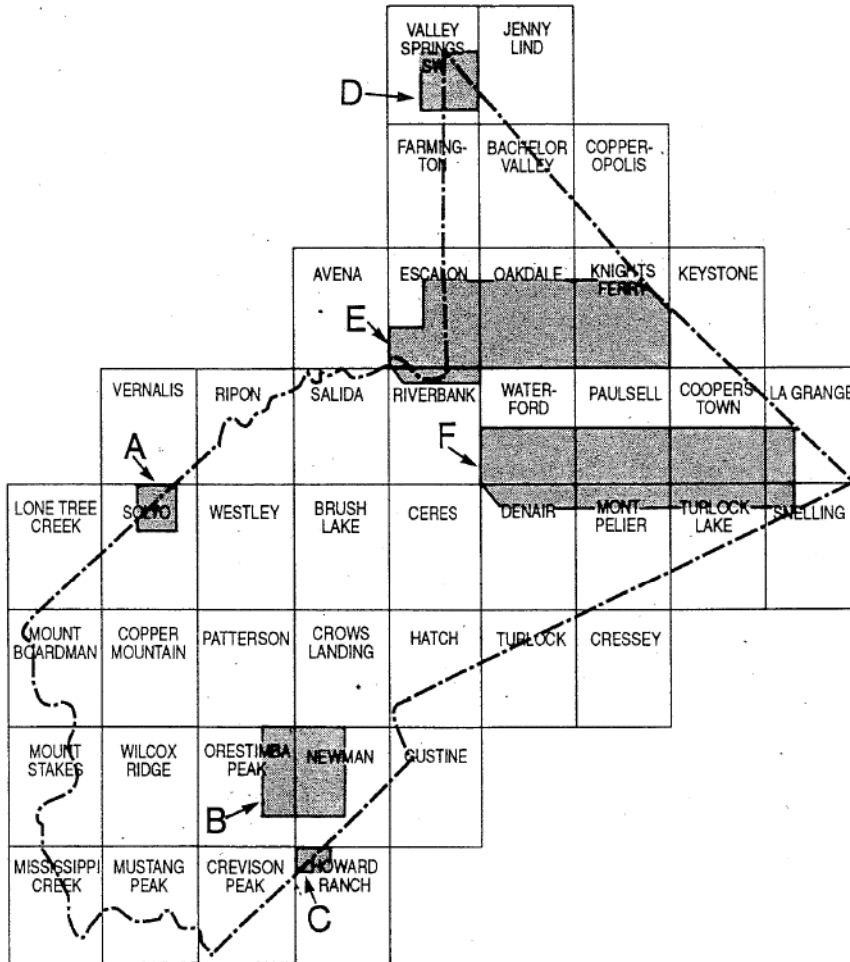
AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Special Report No. 173 - Stanislaus County Aggregate Resources

Special Report No. 91-03, 160, and 199 are incorporated by reference, and cover the area in Stanislaus County highlighted in the red circles on the County map below. Map and Special Reports are available through the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology.



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Index map of U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute quadrangles used to compile bases.

Topographic base maps by U.S. Geological Survey.



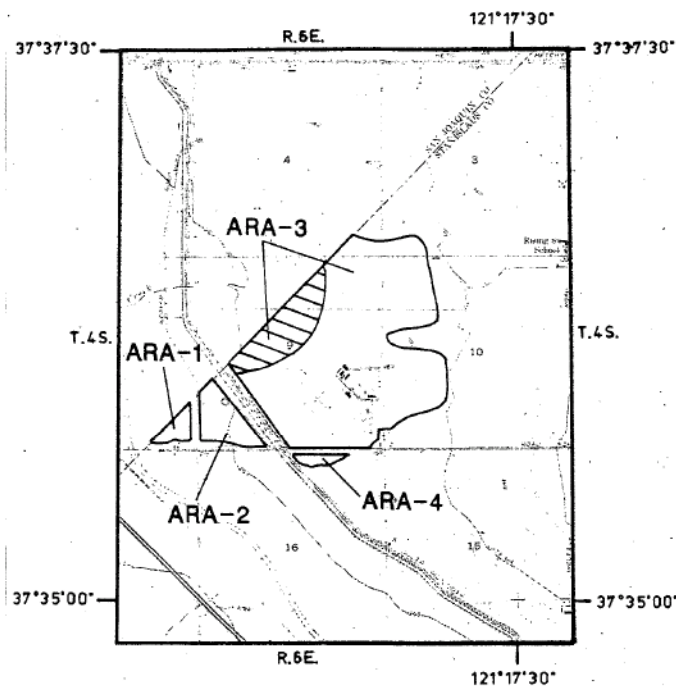
AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

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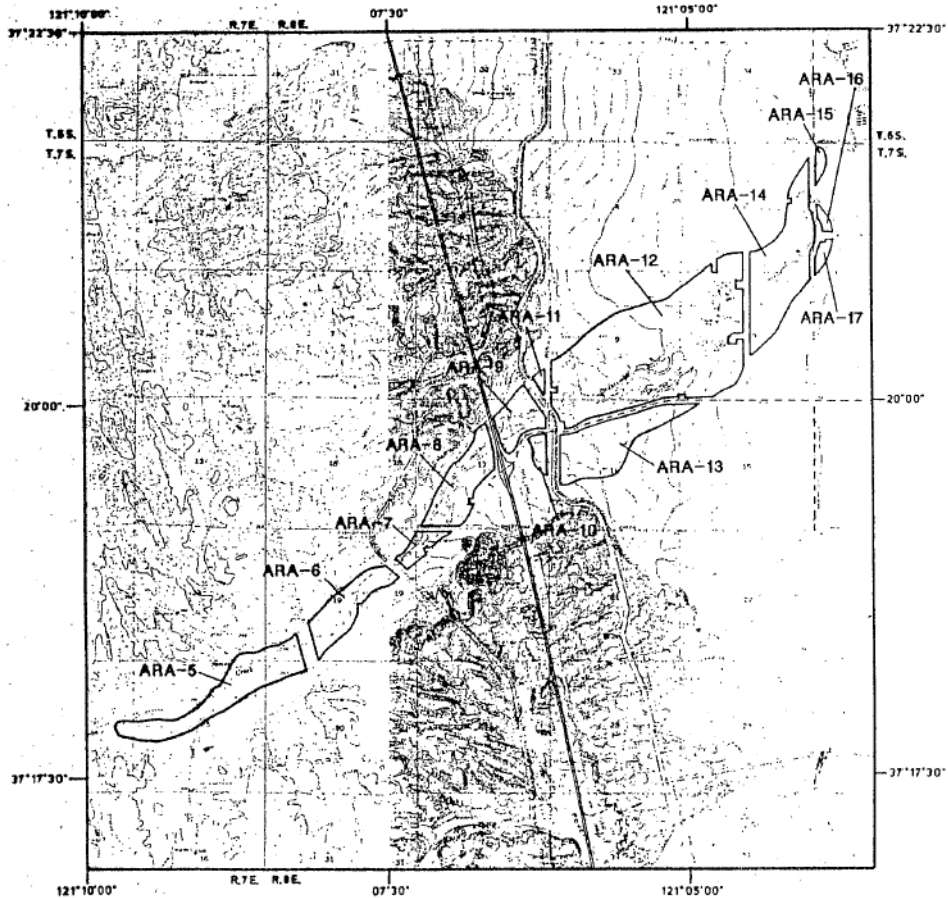
A-HOSPITAL CREEK FAN ARA's



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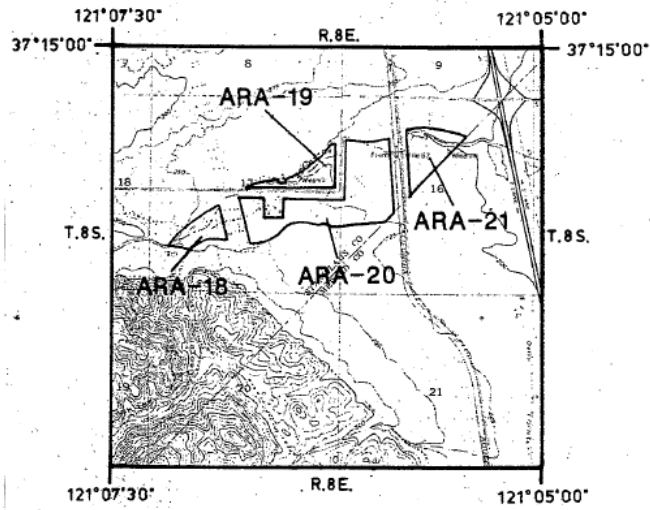
B-ORESTIMBA CREEK FAN ARA'S



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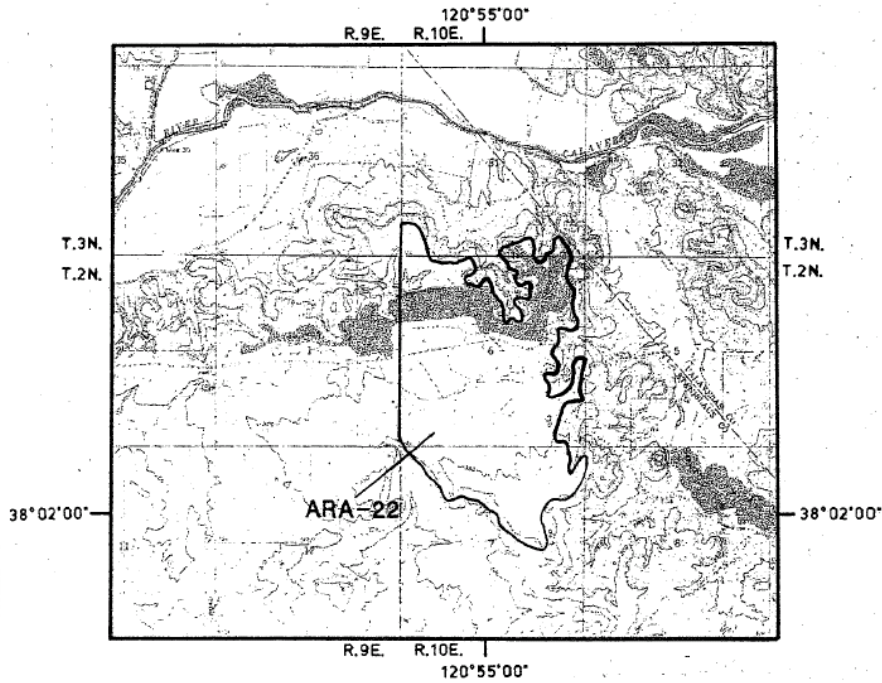
C-GARZAS CREEK FAN ARA'S



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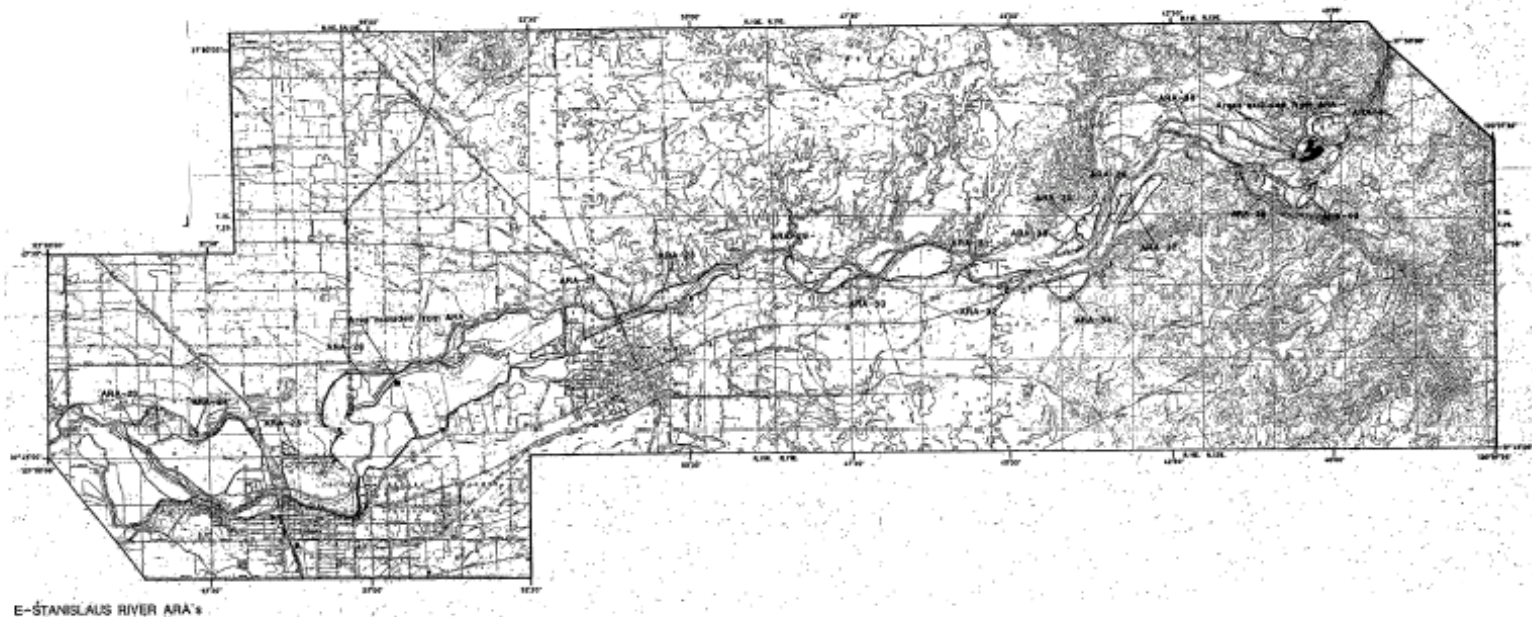
State Division of Mines & Geology
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D-CALAVERAS RIVER TERRACE ARA

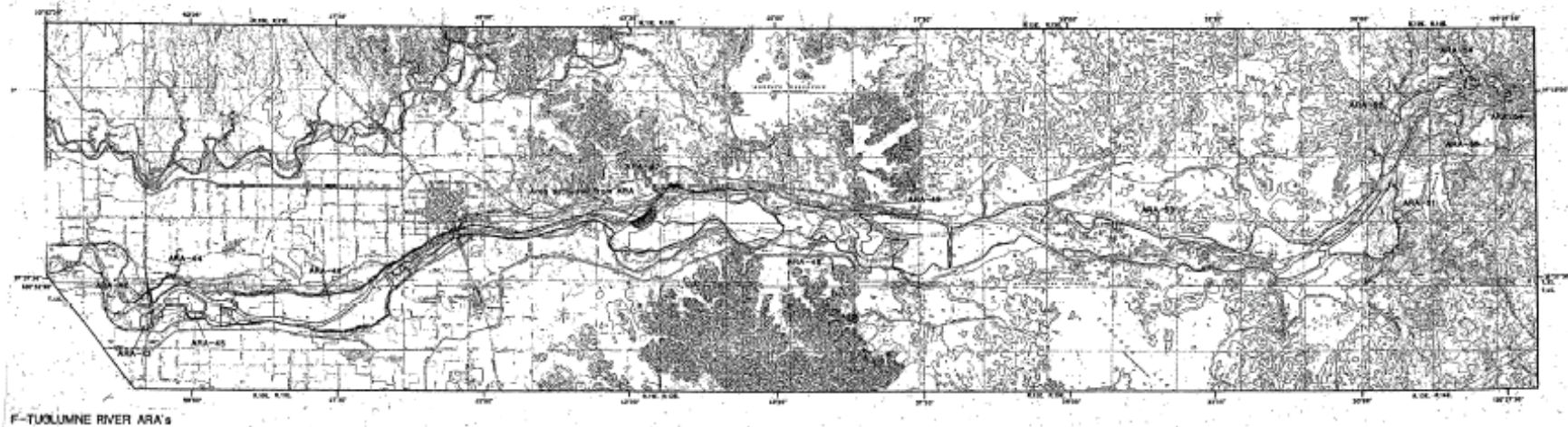


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