

Chapter 3

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. Information on the various natural, cultural, recreational and aesthetic resources, along with safety issues are discussed in Chapter 3 of the "Stanislaus County General Plan - Support Documentation."

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: Planning Department, Assessor, Board of Supervisors

POLICY TWO

Assure compatibility between natural areas and development.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Review zoning regulations for compatibility between proposed development and natural areas.
Responsible Department: Planning Department
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: Planning Department, Public Works, 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 in the General Plan Support Document or by state or federal agencies shall be protected from development.

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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors*
2. In known sensitive areas, the State Department of Fish and Game 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 Department*
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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors*
4. Implementation of this policy shall not be extended to the level of an unconstitutional "taking" of property.
Responsible Departments: *Planning Department, 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 in the maps in Appendix III-A, to include a management plan for the protection and enhancement of oak woodlands and other native hardwood habitat.
Responsible Departments: *Planning Department, 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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors*

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 Department, 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. Eliminate reliance on 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. During the project and environmental review process, encourage new development to incorporate water conservation measures to minimize adverse impacts on water supplies. Possible measures include, but are not limited to, low-flow plumbing fixtures, use of reclaimed wastewater for landscaping when feasible, and use of drought-tolerant landscaping.
Responsible Departments: Environmental Resources, Building Inspections
5. Continue to implement the landscape provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, which encourage drought-tolerant landscaping and water-conserving irrigation methods.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, 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: Planning Department, Environmental Resources, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY SIX

Preserve vegetation to protect waterways from bank erosion and siltation.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. Development proposals 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, and the State Department of Fish and Game.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Public Works, 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: Planning Department, Environmental Resources

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 needs of the project without adversely impacting the quality and quantity of existing local water resources.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Environmental Resources, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

POLICY EIGHT

The County shall continue and, if necessary, expand the water monitoring program of the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

1. The County will consider applying for Community Development Block Grant Funds and other state and federal grants to improve water quality in the County.
Responsible Department: Planning Department, Environmental Resources, Board of Supervisors
2. The Department of Environmental Resources should continue to monitor groundwater quality by reviewing well water chemical and bacterial analysis results and overseeing investigations involving soil and groundwater contamination.
Responsible Department: Environmental Resources

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: Planning Department, Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Resources, Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee

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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County will continue to offer the financial benefits of the Williamson Act, consistent with Policy Sixteen, Implementation Measure 5 of the Land Use Element.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Assessor, Board of Supervisors
3. The County will continue to participate in the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. (Comment: The major purpose of this program is to monitor conversion of the state's agricultural land to and from agricultural use, and to report that conversion annually to the legislature, local government, and the public. The program began in 1980 to supplement the land inventory and monitoring activity of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Growing public concern over farmland losses in California, and a low federal priority for the mapping program in our State, were the basis for California's participation in the land inventory. The State's involvement in the SCS inventory program led to the passage of AB 966 in 1981. The primary purpose of the bill was to create a map inventory of the State's crop and grazing lands, and set up an ongoing monitoring system to document the quantity of land put into production and land converted to urban usage in California. As a result, three key areas of local governmental involvement in the State's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program are: (1) identifying farmland of local importance, (2) identifying land committed to nonagricultural use, and (3) advising the Department each year of lands which have been converted to urban use.)
Responsible Departments: U.C. Cooperative Extension, Planning Department
4. In designated areas of agricultural land, the County will encourage clustering, or grouping together, of allowable dwelling units on relatively small parcels instead of the dispersal of such dwelling units on larger parcels. Any changes to County zoning and/or subdivision regulations to allow clustering should be submitted by staff to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors by June 30, 1996.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

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 Department, 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: Planning Department, 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

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 by June 30, 1996 to require parkland dedication or park in-lieu fees to be paid by subdividers and developers.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Parks Department, Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County Department of Parks and Recreation shall prepare and implement a plan to identify, acquire and maintain future park site locations. The parks plan should be adopted by June 30, 1996 and should address neighborhood parks and open space in urban settings as well as regional parks that serve the entire County population.
Responsible Departments: Parks Department, Parks Commission, Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
3. The County shall adopt design standards for urban parks by June 30, 1996.
Responsible Departments: Parks Department, Parks Commission, Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
4. 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: Parks Department, Parks Commission, Planning Department, Planning Commission, Treasurer-Tax Collector, Auditor-Controller, Chief Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
5. 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 to the greatest extent possible.
Responsible Departments: Parks Department, Parks Commission, Planning Department, Planning Commission, Public Works, Board of Supervisors
6. The County Department of Parks and Recreation will cooperate with efforts by the State Parks Department to make Henry Coe State Park more accessible to Stanislaus County residents.
Responsible Department: Parks and Recreation

7. The County shall require at least three net acres of developed neighborhood parks to be provided for every 1,000 residents.
Responsible Departments: Parks Department, Parks Commission, Planning Department, 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 use 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 boat ramps 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 Department, 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.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning Department, 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, 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 the Stanislaus River, it shall be verified that the building site is outside of Army Corps of Engineers easements.
Responsible Department: Building Inspection
4. An inventory of recreational facilities shall be maintained for use in parks and recreation facilities planning.
Responsible Department: Parks and Recreation

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: Building Inspection, Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Development will not be permitted in floodways unless it meets the requirements of Chapter 16.40 of the County Code and is approved by the State Reclamation Board.
Responsible Departments: Public Works, Planning Department, 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, Building Inspection, Planning Department, 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 Department, 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: Emergency Services

2. In case of a disaster, the County will use the adopted emergency plan and the procedures established in that document.
Responsible Departments: Emergency Services, Sheriff, Fire Safety, 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 Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD), neighboring jurisdictions and other affected agencies for review and comment.
Responsible Department: Planning Department
2. Work with other agencies in the San Joaquin Valley to establish coordinated air quality programs and implementation measures.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, 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 Department, 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 Department, 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 Department, 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 Department, 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 Department, 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 SJVUAPCD to the greatest extent possible.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. Support education programs that increase public awareness of techniques to reduce fine particulate matter (PM-10) emissions.
Responsible Departments: U.C. Cooperative Extension, Agricultural Commissioner, Agricultural Advisory Board, Planning Department, Department of Environmental Resources, Public Health, Building Inspections, Board of Supervisors
3. Work with the local building industry, utilities, and the SJVUAPCD 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 Department, Building Inspections

GOAL SEVEN

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

(Comment: As urbanization spreads and populations increase, more and more refuse is produced. Public Resources Code Section 41780 requires Stanislaus County to reduce solid waste disposal 25% by the year 2000 through maximizing the use of all feasible source reduction, recycling and composting options. For wastes that cannot be feasibly reduced at their source, recycled, or composted, the practices of environmentally safe transformation or land disposal, or both, may be used. Barriers to siting such disposal facilities include environmental factors and costs.)

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 Department, Environmental Resources, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, SCEDCO*
2. Complete and adopt the state-mandated Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan by January 31, 1996.
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: *Planning Department, Environmental Resources, 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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors*
5. Encourage and promote activities, projects, legislation, businesses and industries that cause special wastes (e.g., food processing residue, demolition/construction waste, inert wastes, 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 Department, 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 Department, 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, Building Inspections, 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 historical and archeological 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 Department, 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 Department, 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 Department: Parks and Recreation
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 Department: Parks and Recreation
5. The County shall utilize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process to protect archaeological or historic resources. Most discretionary projects require review for compliance with CEQA. As part of this review, potential impacts must be identified and mitigated.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Parks and Recreation, 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.
Responsible Department: Planning Department

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 Inspection 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: Building Inspection
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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

GOAL NINE

Manage extractive mineral resources to ensure 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 Department, 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. The Legislature declares that in the event specific economic, social, or other conditions make infeasible such project alternatives or such mitigation measures, individual projects may be approved in spite of one or more significant effects.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors.
3. The County shall adopt the Mineral Resources land use designation for those areas designated by the state as significant deposits of mineral resources at such time as the State Division of Mines and Geology completes the countywide mineral resources designation process under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors.
4. The County shall consider adopting the Mineral Resources land use designation for those areas identified as significant deposits of mineral resources in the 1993 Mineral Land Classification of Stanislaus County prepared by the State Division of Mines and Geology.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, 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 Department, 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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors*
3. The classification maps and mineral information contained in the Mineral Land Classification of Stanislaus County, California (Special Report 173), together with Public Resources Code Section 2710 et seq. (SMARA) and state policy, are hereby incorporated in this General Plan by reference.
Responsible Departments: *Planning Department, 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 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 Department, 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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors*

GOAL TEN

Protect fish and wildlife species of the County.

POLICY TWENTY-NINE

Adequate water flows should be maintained in the County's rivers to allow salmon migration.

IMPLEMENTATION MEASURE

1. The County should continue to lobby the federal government to provide adequate water flow in the County's rivers to allow salmon migration.
Responsible Department: Board of Supervisors

POLICY THIRTY

Habitats of rare and endangered fish and wildlife species shall be protected. Information on rare and endangered species and habitats is constantly being updated in response to a 1982 state law by the California State Department of Fish and Game through various sources which include the Stanislaus Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, and the Sierra Club.

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 Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors
2. The County shall maintain information regarding fish and wildlife habitats and rare and endangered flora and fauna species.
Responsible Department: Planning Department
3. The County shall protect sensitive wildlife habitat and plant life through the strategies identified under Policy Three of this element.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors

GOAL ELEVEN

Conserve resources through promotion of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, ride-share 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-ONE

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 transformation facilities by June 30, 1997.
Responsible Departments: Planning Department, Environmental Resources, 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-TWO

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: County Executive Office, Building Inspection Division
2. Existing County facilities should be made to maximize energy efficiency where it is found to be economically reasonable.
Responsible Departments: County Executive Office, Building Inspection Division

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APPENDIX III-A

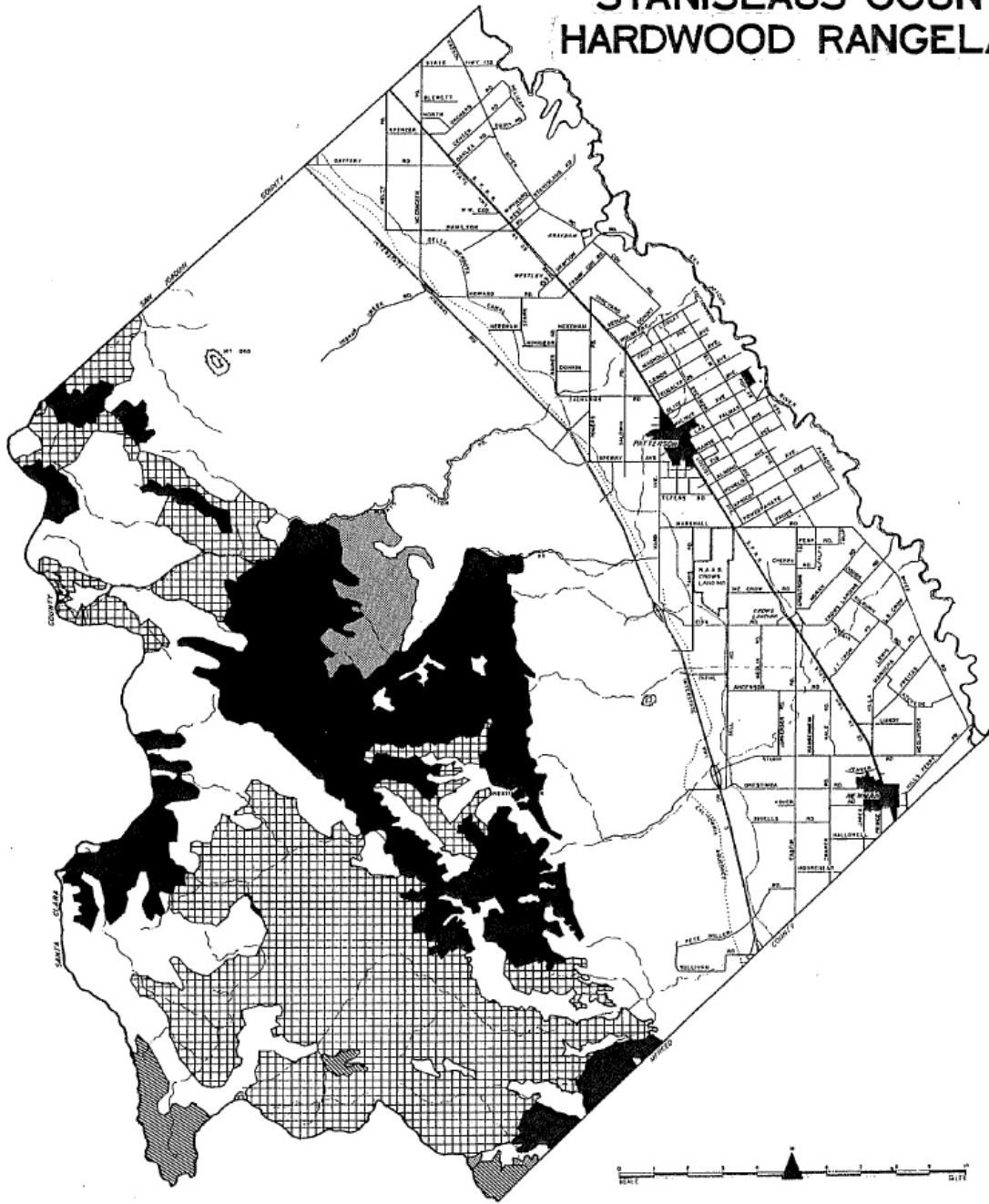
STANISLAUS COUNTY HARDWOOD RANGELANDS

Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) maps prepared by Pillsbury, N.H., et al. 1991. From 1981 1:24,000 CDF aerial photos. Hardwoods above 5,000 feet were not mapped.




Refer to Extent and Ownership of California's Hardwoods for additional information.

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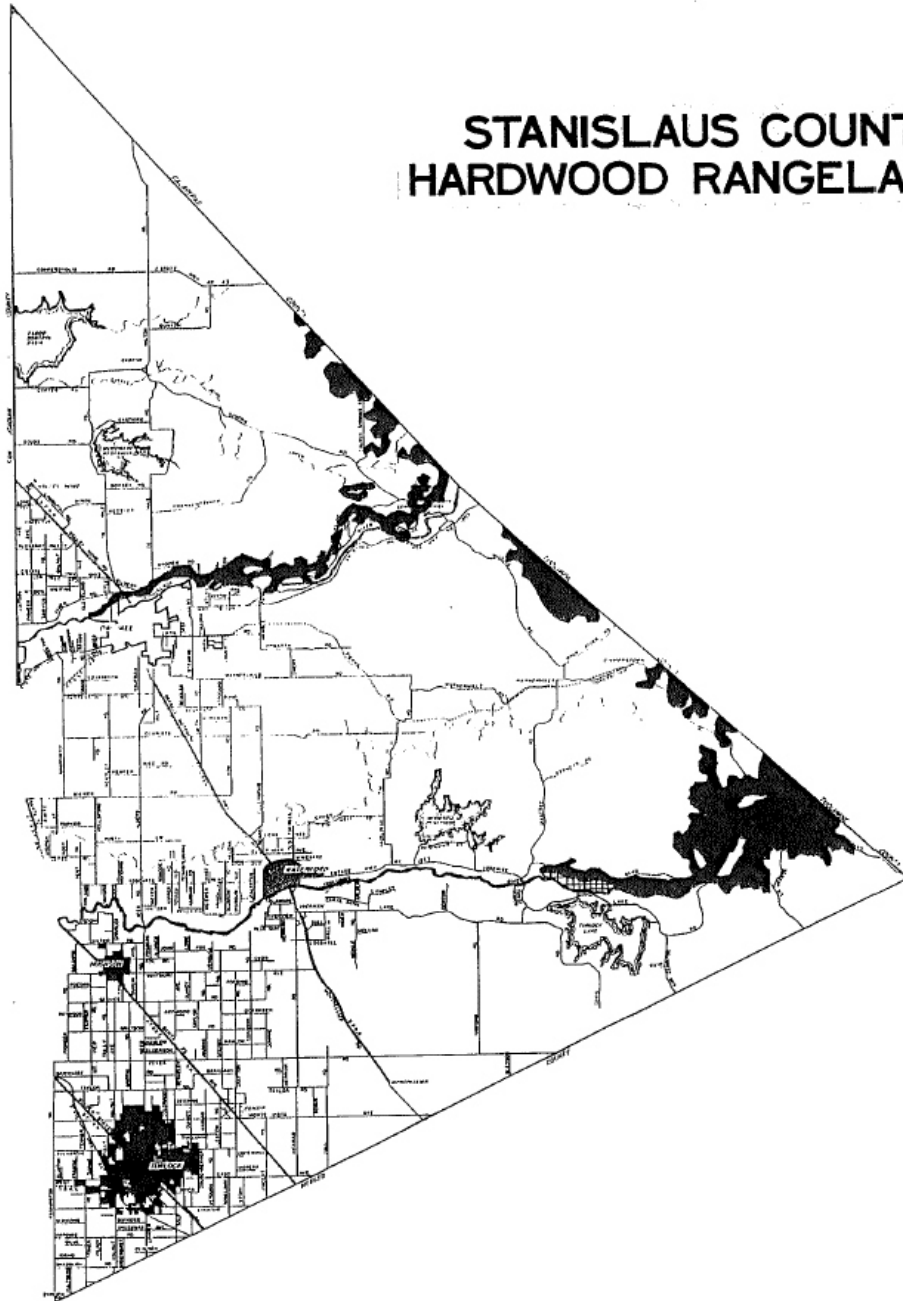
STANISLAUS COUNTY HARDWOOD RANGELANDS




SPECIES GROUP


- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | BLUE OAK WOODLAND |  | VALLEY OAK WOODLAND |
|  | BLUE OAK - FOOTHILL PINE WOODLAND |  | COASTAL OAK WOODLAND |


STANISLAUS COUNTY HARDWOOD RANGELANDS




SPECIES GROUP

 BLUE OAK WOODLAND

 BLUE OAK - FOOTHILL
PINE WOODLAND

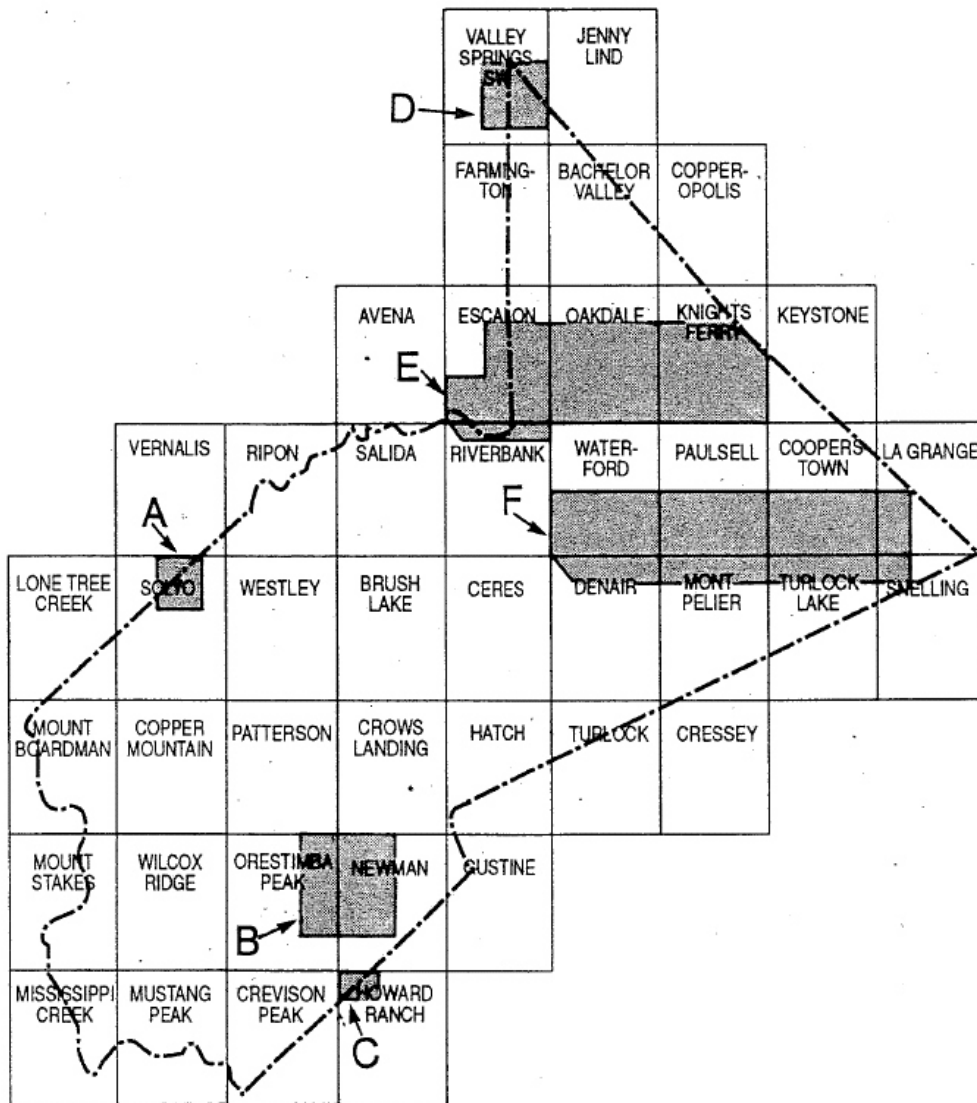
 VALLEY OAK
WOODLAND

 COASTAL OAK
WOODLAND

APPENDIX III-B

AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS OF
STANISLAUS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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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.

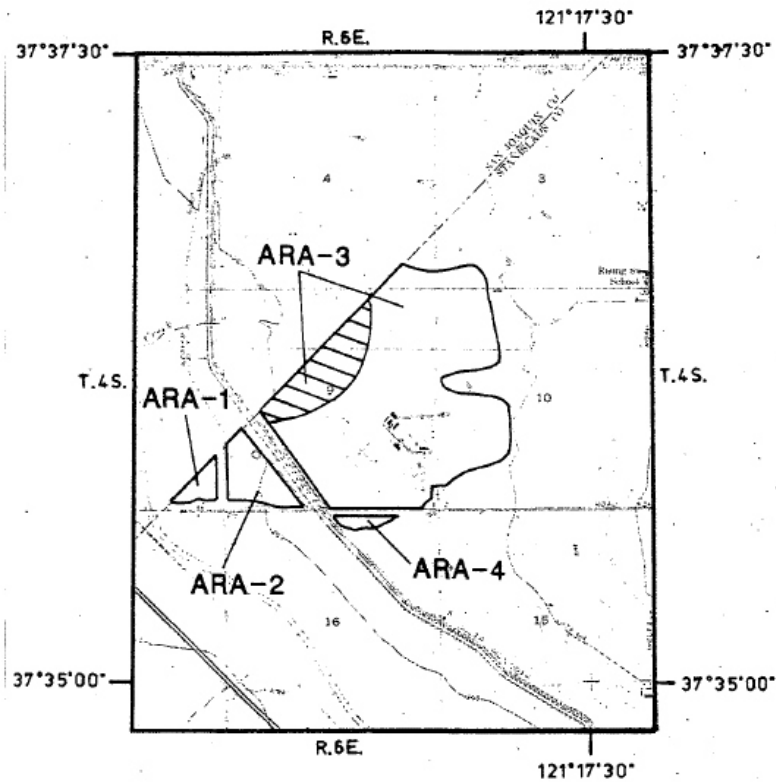


AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

State Division of Mines & Geology
Special Report 173 (1993)

AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

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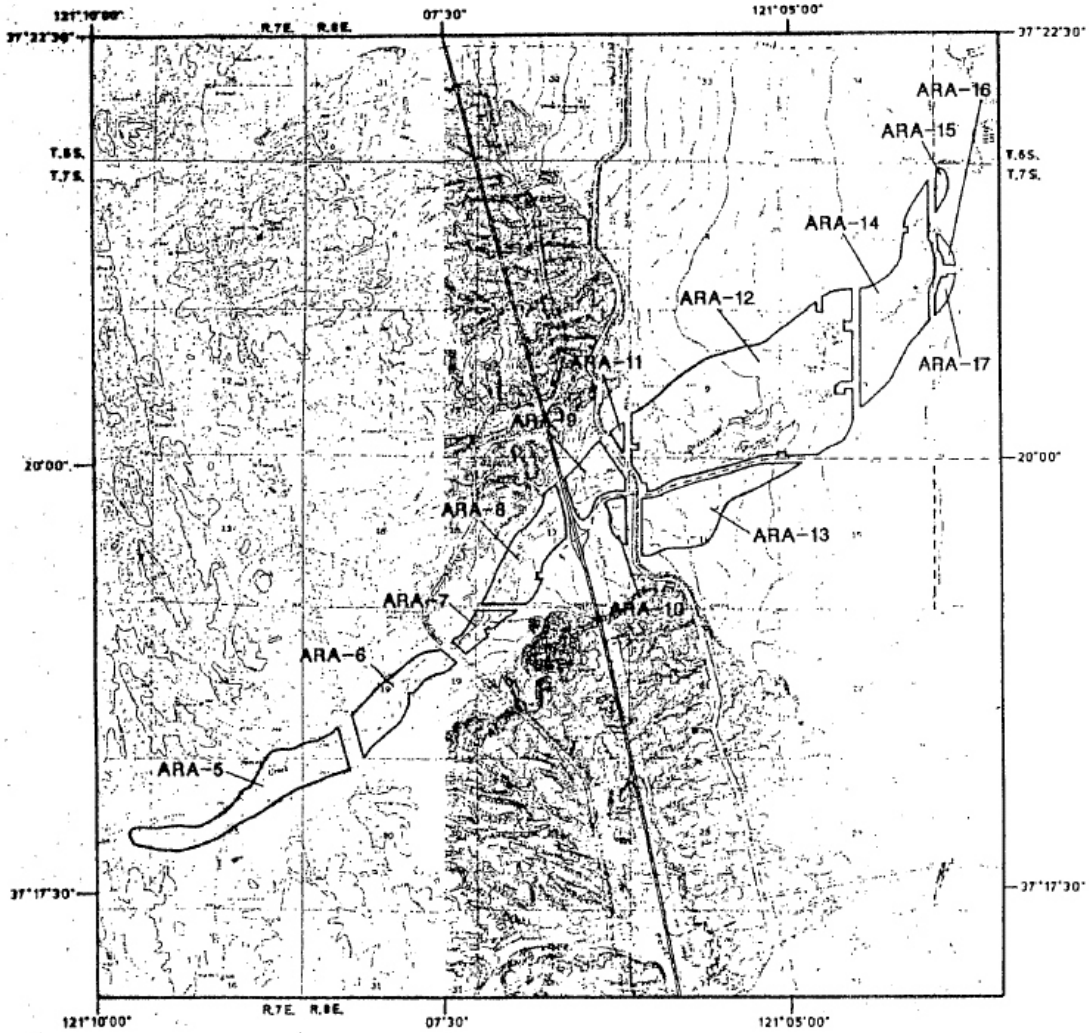


A-HOSPITAL CREEK FAN ARA'S



AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

State Division of Mines & Geology
Special Report 173 (1993)

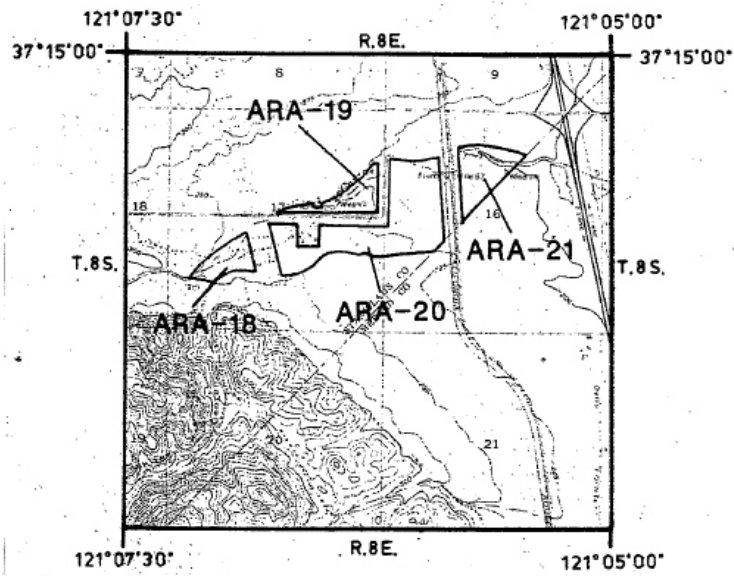


B-ORESTIMBA CREEK FAN ARA's



AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

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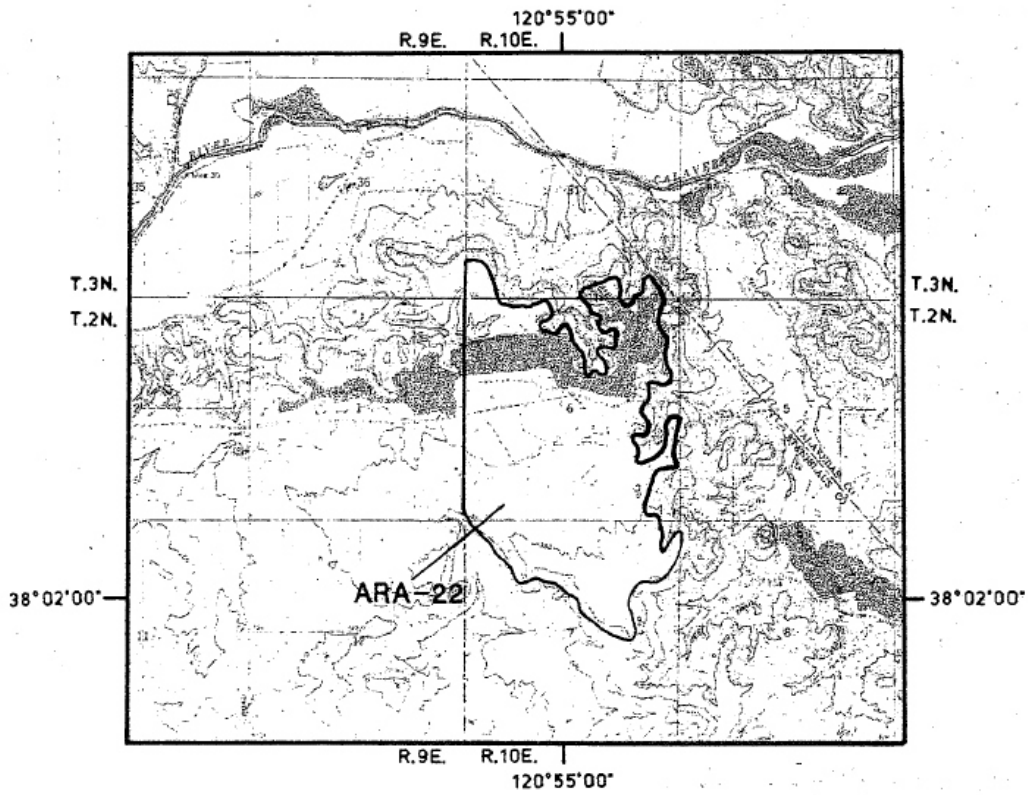


C-GARZAS CREEK FAN ARA's



AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREAS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

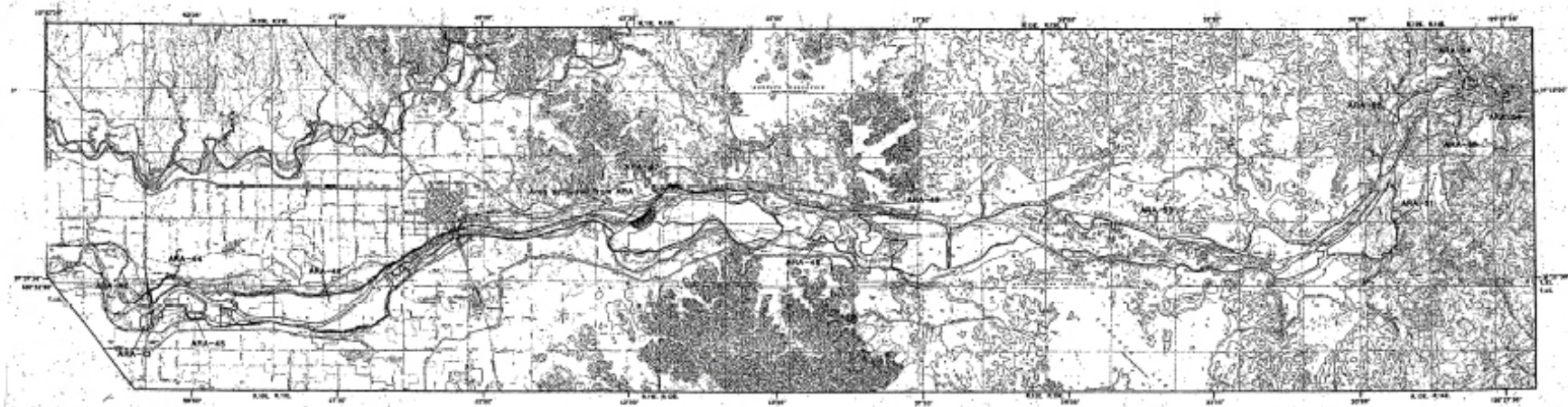
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D-CALAVERAS RIVER TERRACE ARA



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F-TUOLUMNE RIVER ARA's



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