Publication Date: Friday, July 3rd, 2026

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

Will Conduct a Critical Minerals Committee Meeting on:

Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

California Natural Resources Headquarters
715 P Street, First Floor Auditorium RM 1-302
Sacramento, California 95814

This meeting will be held in-person and via video conference and will be recorded.

To avoid any background noises while the meeting is in session, we ask that you mute your device. To join the meeting, please download the latest version of MS Teams by visiting their website at https://aka.ms/getteams or install the MS Teams app on your phone. After installing MS Teams on your device click on the Microsoft Teams Meeting link to join the meeting **Meeting ID: 297 419 680 828 294** and **Passcode: sN28Jc2a.** You may also join us by phone by dialing (916) 318-8892 and entering the **Phone Conference ID: 154 553 284#**

For questions or comments regarding this Agenda, please contact the Board by email at smgb@conservation.ca.gov. This Notice, the agenda, and all associated staff reports can be accessed at the SMGB's website at: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb.


CALIFORNIA STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD
EUREKA
EST. 1885

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

1. **Call to Order (Kenline)**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum**

4. **Review of the Agenda (Kenline)**

5. **Chair Report (Kenline)**

6. **Public Comment Period**
   This time is scheduled to provide the public with an opportunity to address non-agenda items. Those wishing to speak should do so at this time. Speaker testimony is limited to three minutes except by special consent of the Chair.

7. **Consent Items**
   All the items appearing under this section will be acted upon by the Board by one motion and without discussion; however, any Board member wishing to discuss any item may request the Chair to remove the item from the consent calendar and consider it separately.

   A. Consideration and approval of minutes for the Critical Minerals Committee Meeting held on:

      September 18, 2025

8. **Discussion Items**
   A. Review and Consideration of Draft Update to Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands

9. **Presentations, Reports, and Informational Items**

10. **Announcements and Future Meetings**

11. **Adjournment**

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

THE BOARD

The State Mining and Geology Board (Board) serves as a regulatory, policy, and appeals body representing the State's interests in the reclamation of mined lands, geology, geologic and seismologic hazards, and the conservation of mineral resources.

The Board was established in 1885 as the Board of Trustees to oversee the activities of the Sate Mineralogist and the California Division of Mines and Geology (now the California Geological Survey). It is second oldest Board in California. Today's Board has nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, for four-year terms. By statute, Board members must have specific professional backgrounds in geology, mining engineering, environmental protection, groundwater hydrology and rock chemistry, urban planning, landscape architecture, mineral resource conservation, and seismology, with one member representing the general public.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Board is to provide professional expertise and guidance, and to represent the State's interest in the development, utilization, and conservation of mineral resources, the reclamation of mined lands and the development and dissemination of geologic and seismic hazard information to protect the health and welfare of the people of California.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Board is an independent entity within the Department of Conservation under the Natural Resources Agency and is granted responsibilities and obligations under the following acts:

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Sections 2710 et seq. and its regulations at 14 California Code of Regulations Section 3500 et seq., the Board provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized, and mined lands are reclaimed. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the State's mineral resources.

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Section 2621 through Section 2630, and its regulations at 14 California Code Regulations Section 3600 et seq., the Board is authorized to represent the State's interests in establishing guidelines and standards for geological and geophysical investigations and reports produced by the California Geological Survey, public sector agencies, and private practitioners. The Board is also authorized to develop specific criteria through regulations to be used by Lead Agencies in complying with the provisions of the Act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Seismic Hazards Mapping Act

Under this Act, Public Resources Code Section 2690 through Section 2699.6 and its regulations at 14 California Code of Regulations Section 3720 et seq. the Board is authorized to provide policy and guidance through regulations for a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program to assist cities, counties, and State agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction or other ground failure, landslides and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes, including tsunami and seiche threats.

GENERAL PROCEDURAL INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD MEETINGS

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1) Publish an Agenda at least ten days in advance of any meeting
2) Describe in the Agenda specific items to be transacted or discussed
3) Refuse to add an item no later than ten days prior to any meeting and republishing of the agenda
4) Call a closed session by the Chair to discuss litigation and other matters
5) Make all testimony, files, and documents part of the administrative record

Other Agenda material and reports will be available approximately one week prior to the scheduled Board meeting. All Board related information is available at https://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb.

The Board encourages the submittal of comments, written material, or technical reports thirty days prior to the applicable Board meeting. All such material concerning any matters on the agenda can be submitted to: smgb@conservation.ca.gov or addressed to:

State Mining and Geology Board
715 P Street, MS 1909
Sacramento, CA 95814

Following the Board meetings, links to presentations and meeting recordings will be available upon request: smgb@conservation.ca.gov

Agenda Item No. 7A

July 16, 2026

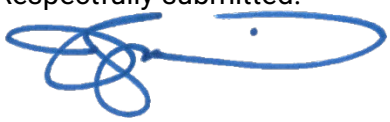
Consideration and Approval of Minutes for the September 18, 2025, Critical Minerals Committee Meeting

INTRODUCTION:
Approve the Conformed Minutes for the State Mining and Geology Board's September 18, 2025, Critical Minerals Committee Meeting.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Board Chair and Members, in light of the information before the State Mining and Geology Board today, I move that the Board approve the Conformed Minutes for the September 18, 2025, Critical Minerals Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey Schmidt,
Executive Officer

Publication Date: Friday, September 5th, 2025

DRAFT
CONFORMED MINUTES

THE STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

Will Conduct a Critical Minerals Committee Meeting on:

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

California Natural Resources Headquarters
715 P Street, Second Floor RM 2-302B
Sacramento, California 95814

This meeting will be held in-person and via video conference and will be recorded.

To avoid any background noises while the meeting is in session, we ask that you mute your device. To join the meeting, please download the latest version of MS Teams by visiting their website at https://aka.ms/getteams or install the MS Teams app on your phone. After installing MS Teams on your device click on the Microsoft Teams Meeting link to join the meeting **Meeting ID: 293 691 283 980 6** and **Passcode: xk3Py3XN.** You may also join us by phone by dialing (916) 318-8892 and entering the **Phone Conference ID: 377 214 307#**

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CALIFORNIA STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD
EUREKA
EST. 1885

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

1. **Call to Order (Kenline)**
   Meeting was called to order by Chair Kenline at 9:32 A.M.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Executive Officer Jeffrey Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum**
   Regulatory Analyst Natalie Decio called roll, confirming the presence of Member Driscoll, Ex Officio Member Sheingold, and Chair Kenline. A quorum was declared. At 9:36 a.m., a second roll call was taken following the arrival of Vice Chair Holst, confirming that all remaining committee members were present. Members Jung, Whyte, and Zafir were also noted as being in attendance.

4. **Review of the Agenda (Kenline)**
   Chair Kenline reviewed the agenda, noting that the Committee would discuss and consider the initial draft definition of critical minerals, as well as whether to recommend Board staff's collaborative work plan to update the Board's Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines to support the recognition and conservation of the state's critical mineral resources. He noted that the Committee's actions may include a recommendation to forward these items to the full Board for consideration and a subsequent public hearing.

5. **Chair Report (Kenline)**
   The Chair reported that the Committee is considering a new state policy to recognize critical minerals. At its meeting on May 15, 2025, the Board unanimously approved the creation of the Critical Minerals Committee in response to increasing federal attention and legislative interest. At the June 19, 2025, meeting, the Committee discussed creating a California-specific definition of critical minerals and received a staff presentation on rising demand, economic value, and the role of critical minerals in supporting the state's climate and energy goals.

   The Committee agreed to direct staff to develop a draft definition for California's consideration. The Committee also reviewed the need to update the Board's Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines to include critical minerals. Under SMARA and PRC Section 2790, the Board is authorized to designate important mineral resources to prevent incompatible land uses from precluding future access. The Committee recommended that staff work with the State Geologist to update these guidelines.

   Chair Kenline noted that today's meeting will include an update on the work plan to revise the guidelines and further discussion on the proposed definition of critical minerals.

6. **Public Comment Period**
   This time is scheduled to provide the public with an opportunity to address non-agenda items. Those wishing to speak should do so at this time. Speaker testimony is limited to three minutes except by special consent of the Chair.

   There were no public comments.

7. **Consent Items**
   All the items appearing under this section will be acted upon by the Board by one motion and without discussion; however, any Board member wishing to discuss any item may request the Chair to remove the item from the consent calendar and consider it separately.

A. Consideration and approval of minutes for the Critical Minerals Committee Meeting held on:

June 19, 2025

Vice Chair Holst motioned to approve the June 19, 2025, conformed minutes, and Chair Kenline seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion Items

A. Review and possible recommendation of initial definition of "critical minerals."
Chair Kenline introduced the item, noting that SMARA defines several mineral categories but does not currently define "critical minerals." Mallory Jones, Board Geologist, presented the staff's initial draft definition of critical minerals for Committee review and possible recommendation. She noted that at the June 19, 2025, meeting, the Committee directed staff to draft a California-specific definition, considering federal definitions and public input. Staff used federal definitions (from DOI Executive Order 13817 and the DOE Energy Act of 2020) as a baseline and collaborated with the California Geological Survey (CGS) and the Committee Chair to draft a definition that reflects California's economic security and energy transition priorities. After introducing the draft definition, Jones opened the floor for discussion.

Adam Harper of the California Construction and Industrial Materials Association (CalCIMA) expressed strong support for the Committee's work, emphasizing that defining critical minerals is a scientific and informational exercise—not a permitting decision. He noted that the process simply enables the State Geologist to identify and map critical minerals, providing transparency and data to inform future policy discussions. Harper urged the Committee to move forward without delay, reminding members that SMARA was created with industry support to ensure society could plan for essential mineral resources. He stressed that this effort is preliminary, adaptable, and focused on guidelines rather than regulations.

Jared Naimark (Earthworks), speaking on behalf of several environmental organizations, submitted a joint comment letter with recommended changes to the draft definition. He urged the Board to be more specific, clarifying that minerals should be highly vulnerable to supply chain disruption and tied to the state's energy transition goals. Naimark cautioned against simply replicating federal lists, citing potential political influence and methodological flaws. He recommended incorporating secondary production (e.g., recycling rates) into the methodology and warned against overly broad definitions that could lead to unintended incentives or permitting streamlining in the future.

Chair Kenline then engaged Naimark in discussion, questioning whether the definition should be limited to energy transition uses. He expressed concern that such constraints could overlook minerals with multiple societal benefits (e.g., defense, infrastructure, or transportation applications). Naimark responded that California's focus should remain on climate and renewable energy goals while maintaining flexibility for evolving technologies.

The committee then engaged in a detailed discussion about whether the proposed definition of "critical minerals" is too narrow or too broad. Vice Chair Holst raised concerns that the current language, which ties criticality to "manufacturing of a domestic product," might exclude direct medical or other essential uses that do not involve manufacturing. Holst also suggested clarifying the term "energy transition" to

explicitly reference California's climate and fossil fuel reduction goals. Chair Kenline and State Geologist Jeremy Lancaster emphasized that nearly all mineral extraction involves some level of processing or manufacturing and urged keeping the definition flexible to account for evolving technologies and societal needs.

Legal counsel Nicole Rinke reminded the Committee that the definition can be refined later during pre-rulemaking and formal rulemaking, and that today's recommendation is just a starting point.

Ultimately, Member Driscoll moved to recommend the definition to the Board for further consideration, with Chair Kenline seconding. The motion passed 2–1, with Vice Chair Holst voting "no," stating support for the effort but preferring improvements to the definition before advancing.

B. Proposal of plan for updating the Board's Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines to reflect the inclusion of conserving critical minerals.
Chair Kenline introduced Item 8B, noting the importance of modernizing the Board's Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines to include conserving critical minerals and to reflect current economic, technological, and policy considerations. Senior Geologist, Paul Fry, then presented a three phased approach to update the 2000 *Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands* with a focus on critical minerals. The first phase includes collaboration with CGS to review existing guidelines, identify necessary updates, and establish a timeline. The second phase is comprised of consultation with legal counsel, preparation of draft updates, and a presentation to the Critical Minerals Committee for review and refinement prior to Board consideration. The third phase includes conducting pre-rulemaking activities and public outreach, gathering interested parties' feedback, and initiating formal rulemaking to ensure the updated guidelines are legally defensible.

CalCIMA's Adam Harper expressed strong support and encouraged close coordination with CGS. He also raised considerations regarding economic thresholds for critical mineral classification, confidentiality of proprietary beneficiation data, and potential for a modular, phased approach given the complexity of critical mineral classification. Additionally, Vice Chair Holst suggested a future report from the State Geologist on CGS's capacity to perform additional classification work.

Following the comments made, Member Driscoll moved to recommend Board staff's proposed plan of action. Vice Chair Holst seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Presentations, Reports, and Informational Items
There were no presentations, reports, or informational items.

10. Announcements and Future Meetings
No announcements or future meetings planned at this time.

11. Adjournment
With a unanimous vote, the September 18, 2025, Critical Minerals Committee meeting was adjourned by Chair Kenline at 10:56 A.M.

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State Mining and Geology Board
715 P Street, MS 1909
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Agenda Item No. 8A July 16, 2026

Discussion Item: **Review and Consideration of Draft Update to Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands**

BACKGROUND:

The "Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands" (Guidelines) were previously formalized in Special Publication 51 and last updated in January 2000. The purpose of the Guidelines is to help implement the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) by providing the State Geologist with direction in carrying out mineral resource classification of lands in California that are threatened by uses that would be incompatible with or would preclude mining. In addition, these Guidelines describe how the State Mining and Geology Board (Board) may elect to designate mineral areas of statewide or regional significance. Classification is the process of identifying lands containing significant mineral deposits. Designation is the formal recognition by the Board, after consultation with lead agencies and other interested parties, of areas containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance. The objective of classification and designation processes is to ensure, through lead agency mineral resource management plans, that mineral deposits of statewide or of regional significance are conserved and available when needed.

During the last Critical Minerals Committee (CMC) meeting on September 18, 2025, Board staff proposed a plan of action for updating the Board's Guidelines. The proposal included the modernization of conserving critical minerals and to reflect current economic, technological, and policy considerations.

A three-phased approach to updating the 2000 Guidelines was proposed which included collaboration with the California Geologic Survey (CGS) to review existing guidelines, identify necessary updates, and establish a timeline during phase one, see attached. The second phase comprised of consultation with legal counsel, preparation of draft updates, and a presentation to the Critical Minerals Committee for review and refinement prior to Board consideration. The third phase included conducting pre-rulemaking activities and public outreach, gathering interested parties' feedback, and initiating formal rulemaking to ensure the updated guidelines are legally defensible. This proposed plan of action was approved by the CMC and brought before the Board at the September 18, 2025, regular business meeting (RBM) where the Board directed staff to proceed with implementation of the proposed plan of action for updating the Guidelines.

Since the regular business meeting, Board staff and CGS have initiated phase one and two of the plan of action. Board staff and CGS met and reviewed the existing guidelines, identified necessary updates, and prepared draft updates to three sections of the Guidelines - the preface, introduction, and the classification section (pages 1-11).

DISCUSSION:

Summary of comments/changes suggested for the following sections of the Guidelines:

- Preface
- Introduction
- Section I. Guidelines for Classification of Mineral Lands

Key Themes of the Revisions

1. Integration of Critical Minerals

- Critical minerals are added to the Guidelines, as discussed in previous CMC and RBM.

- Critical mineral reports may include priority commodities, known occurrences or districts, relevant datasets, and areas for further consideration.

2. Clarified Classification Approach

- Classification is clarified as a geologic determination based on available geologic information and technical data.
- Classification no longer relies on fixed threshold values or detailed marketability tests.
- Criteria are less prescriptive and more adaptable across commodities.
- The updated criteria focus on geologic significance, resource characteristics, and supporting evidence.
- The criteria allow different mineral resources to be evaluated using the evidence most appropriate to that commodity.
- Language, including references to "significance" is better aligned with SMARA and related statutes.
- The State Geologist's classification role is described more clearly.

3. Mineral Resource Types

- Construction, industrial, metallic, and critical minerals are more clearly distinguished.
- Criteria allow mineral types to be evaluated using evidence appropriate to that commodity.

4. MRZs and ARAs

- MRZs are retained as the standard classification framework.
- MRZ categories express confidence in the presence, absence, or uncertainty of significant mineral resources.
- MRZs apply across commodities.
- ARAs are clarified as construction aggregate tools.
- ARAs support long-term aggregate planning (generally over a 50-year horizon).

5. Responsibilities of Lead Agencies and State Entities

- Lead agency responsibilities are retained, including the 12-month mineral resource management policy timeline after receiving a report.
- Periodic review language now includes updated geologic information, new data, and changes in mineral resource understanding.

6. Updates to Reports, Maps, and Data Formats

- Reports and maps are updated for digital and GIS use.
- Reports and maps may be prepared in formats that support review and implementation by lead agencies and planning entities.
- Digital/GIS-compatible formats are acknowledged where practicable.
- Reports and maps are described as available through the CGS website.

7. Organizational and Editorial Improvements

- Revisions improve readability to make it easier for staff, lead agencies, the Board, and the public to use.
- Sections were reorganized so users can more easily find classification criteria, MRZ categories, ARAs, reports, and periodic review.
- Outdated agency names, contact information, appendices, and delivery language have been updated.
- Duplicative or dated language was removed.

The current changes are primarily informed by CGS feedback on the classification process, and the draft has not yet undergone legal review. Staff are seeking input from the Committee on the proposed language to guide ongoing updates, and both staff and the Committee will continue this iterative draft-and-review

cycle in preparation for future CMC meetings. At this stage, the CMC is being asked to review the outlined sections and provide comments.

Respectfully submitted:

_____
Jeffrey Schmidt,
Executive Officer

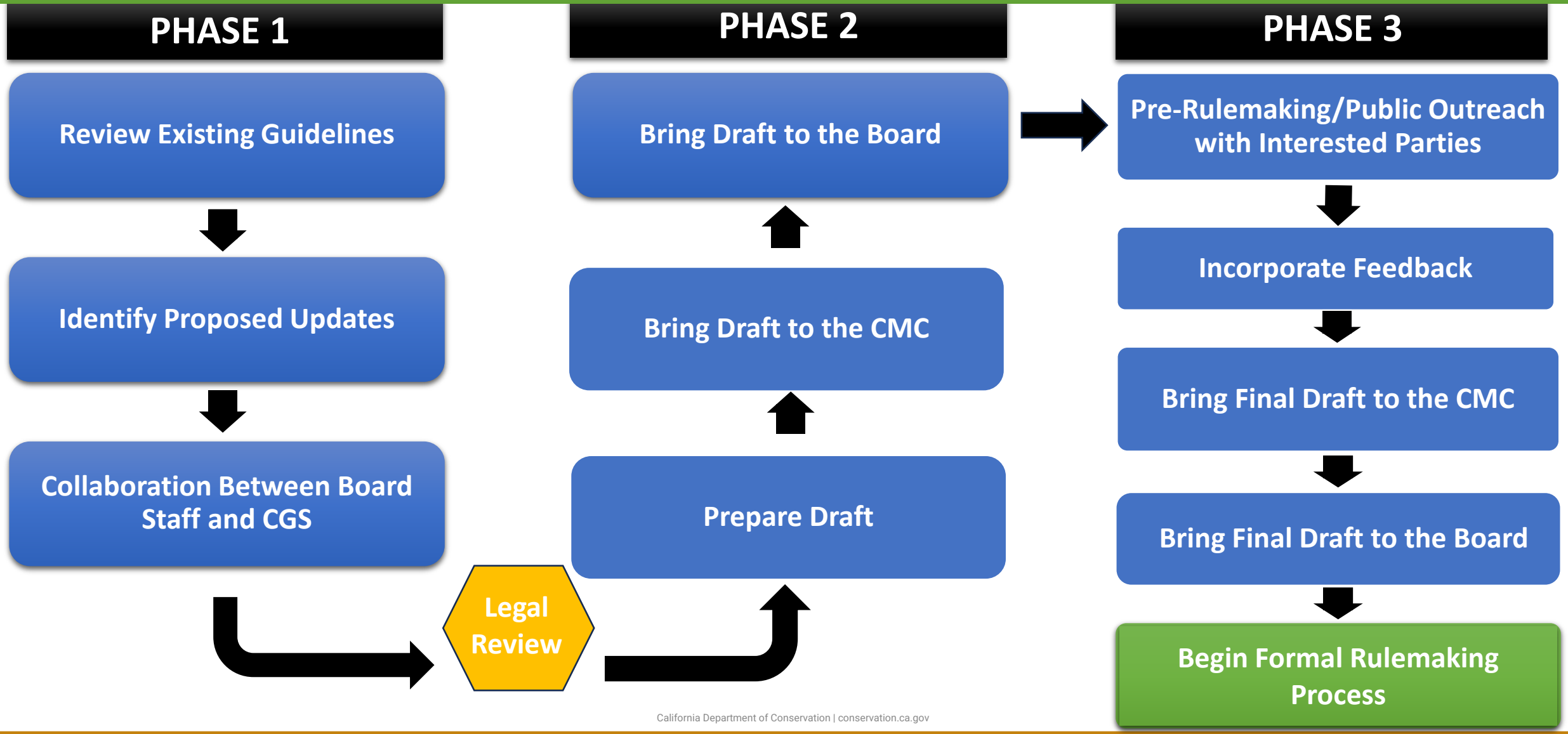
ATTACHMENTS:

- Plan of Action Flow Chart
- Draft Updates – Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands

REFERENCES:

- Guidelines For Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands, January 2000

Mineral Classification and Designation Guidelines Update: Plan of Action



GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFICATION AND DESIGNATION OF MINERAL LANDS

PREFACE

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) mandated the initiation of the mineral land classification by the State Geologist to help identify and protect mineral resources in areas within the State subject to urban expansion or other irreversible land uses which would preclude mineral extraction. SMARA also authorized the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), after receiving classification information from the State Geologist, to designate lands containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance.

Construction aggregate was selected by the SMGB to be the initial commodity targeted for classification because of its importance to society, its distinct resource characteristics, and the imminent threat that continuing urbanization poses to its availability.

In 1980, at the request of SMGB, SMARA was amended to provide for the classification of non-urban areas subject to land-use threats incompatible with mining. As a result, SMARA studies were begun during 1981 in the western Sierra Nevada foothills and in the California Desert Conservation Area, a large part of the desert in southeastern California. Studies in these regions focused on all mineral resources other than aggregate, common clay, and dimension stone.

In 2026, at the request of the SMGB, these guidelines were updated to recognize and include critical minerals and other mineral resources that are important to economic security, national defense, and California's long-term resource needs. This update reflects evolving resource needs and increased attention to supply chain considerations.

Currently, the State Geologist's SMARA classification activities are carried out under a single program for urban and non-urban areas of the state. Mineral lands are mapped according to jurisdictional boundaries (i.e., counties, groups of counties, or major parts of counties), and all mineral commodities in the area are evaluated at one time, including aggregate, common clay, and dimension stone, using the California Mineral Land Classification System. Priority is given to areas where future mineral resource extraction could be precluded by incompatible land use, or to mineral resources that must be conserved and remain available for California's evolving needs following their classification. The 2026 update provides a framework for applying this process to critical minerals and other mineral resources as future classification priorities are identified by the SMGB.

Maps showing areas classified and designated to date, as well as mineral land classification reports, are available through the California Geological Survey (CGS) website (see Appendix B). The SMGB and the State Geologist may be contacted at the addresses and telephone numbers below.

Department of Conservation
STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD
715 P Street, MS 1900
Sacramento, CA 95814-3528
Telephone: (916) 322-1082
https://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb

Department of Conservation
CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
715 P Street, MS 1900
Sacramento, CA 95814-3531
Telephone: (916) 445-1825
www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs

The purpose of these guidelines is to help implement SMARA by providing the State Geologist with direction in carrying out mineral resource classification of lands in California that are threatened by uses that would be incompatible with or would preclude mineral extraction. In addition, these guidelines describe how the SMGB may elect to designate mineral-bearing areas of statewide or regional significance.

Classification is the process of identifying lands containing significant mineral deposits. Designation is the formal recognition by the SMGB, after consultation with lead agencies and other interested parties, of areas containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance.

The objective of the classification and designation processes is to help ensure that mineral deposits of statewide or regional significance are identified, recognized in land use planning, and conserved for future use. These processes provide lead agencies with information needed to consider mineral resources for planning and land use decisions, particularly in areas where incompatible development could limit or permanently preclude access to those resources. Classification and designation support the long-term availability of important mineral resources while allowing land use decisions to be made through appropriate local policies and procedures, consistent with the responsibilities of local lead agencies under SMARA and applicable general plan requirements.

This update also expands the guidelines to address critical minerals and other mineral resources that are important to California's future economic, supply-chain, and energy needs.

SECTION I. GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFICATION OF MINERAL LANDS

1. Classification Priorities

The SMGB establishes priorities for mineral land classification. Priority areas are identified based on recommendations from the State Geologist, public input, and the need to conserve mineral resources that are important to California's infrastructure, economy, and long-term resource needs. Areas generally given highest priority are those within the State that are subject to incompatible or irreversible land uses that could preclude mineral extraction.

To support recommendations to the SMGB, the State Geologist may consider relevant geologic, economic, and land use factors. These considerations are intended to inform professional judgment and do not prescribe specific prioritization criteria.

(a) Considerations for Construction Mineral Resources

Construction mineral resources (or construction materials) are essential to California's infrastructure and development. Because these materials are typically high-bulk and low-unit-value, the availability of local and regional sources is important to maintaining reasonable construction costs and supporting sustainable development.

To inform recommendations, the State Geologist may consider factors such as:

(1) The presence of construction materials in proximity to existing or planned areas of growth.

(2) The importance of maintaining access to local and regional supplies.

(3) The role of identified resources in supporting long-term supply within a region.

(4) The potential for incompatible land uses to limit or preclude future access.

(b) Considerations for Other Mineral Resources, Including Critical Mineral Resources

The State Geologist may also recommend other mineral resources for classification, including those important to economic security, energy systems, or supply chains.

To inform recommendations, the State Geologist may consider factors such as:

(1) Whether a mineral is identified as critical by federal or state entities.

(2) The presence or potential for geologic occurrence within California.

(3) The statewide, national, or global economic, strategic, or supply chain importance of the commodity.

(4) The potential for future extraction, including new or emerging recovery methods.

(5) The potential for incompatible land uses to limit or preclude future access.

The State Geologist may periodically review and update information relevant to these considerations to reflect evolving scientific, economic, and policy conditions.

2. Classification Criteria

Classification is conducted by the State Geologist and results are expressed as a Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ), as defined in Section I.3. Classification is based solely on geologic factors, without regard to existing land use and land ownership. These activities are consistent with the statutory responsibilities of the State Geologist as described in Public Resources Code Section §2761(b).

This section describes the general criteria and types of evidence the State Geologist may use to evaluate whether mineral resources are present and whether available geologic information is sufficient to support an MRZ classification. The criteria vary by commodity type due to differences in geologic occurrence, uses, and data availability.

The categories described below are intended to reflect common groupings of mineral commodities and do not limit the ability of the State Geologist to classify other mineral resources where appropriate.

(a) General Determination of Significance

To be considered significant for the purpose of classification, a mineral deposit, or group of deposits that can be evaluated as a unit, must either be actively mined under a valid permit and approved reclamation plan, or be supported by geologic evidence indicating the presence of a significant mineral resource.

Classification is based solely on available geologic information and technical data, consistent with Public Resources Code §2761(b). Economic feasibility studies, proprietary financial data, and detailed market analyses are not required for classification.

Factors that may be considered include:

(1) Geologic significance: The presence of a mineral deposit of sufficient size, grade, continuity, quality, or geologic setting to indicate potential mineral resource significance. Evaluation may include comparison with known deposits of similar type.

(2) Resource characteristics: Physical, chemical, mineralogical, or geologic characteristics of the deposit that influence its potential suitability for recognized uses, including material quality, consistency, processability, or other commodity-specific characteristics.

(3) Supporting evidence: Available geologic, geochemical, geophysical, mineralogical, mining, production, or other technical information relevant to evaluating the presence, extent, quality, or significance of the mineral resource.

(b) Additional Criteria for Construction Minerals

Construction materials are used primarily for construction purposes and typically require minimal processing, such as washing, crushing, screening, or grading. These materials are commonly used close to their source because transportation distance strongly affects practical use.

Examples include:

- Sand and gravel
- Crushed rock

For construction materials, classification may consider geologic factors such as deposit extent, thickness, quality, continuity, overburden, and suitability for construction use based on standard industry practices.

(c) Additional Criteria for Industrial Minerals

Industrial minerals include non-metallic mineral materials valued primarily for their physical or chemical properties. These materials may require more specialized processing or may be used in manufacturing, agriculture, chemical production, environmental applications, or other industrial uses.

Examples include:

- Limestone, dolomite, and marble, except where used as construction aggregate
- Specialty sands
- Clays
- Diatomite
- Phosphate
- Salines and evaporites, including borates and gypsum
- Feldspar
- Talc
- Building and dimension stone
- Rock varieties used for mineral wool, pozzolans, expanded shale, rock flour, granules, or similar products

For industrial minerals, classification may consider geologic factors such as mineral composition, purity, physical or chemical properties, deposit size, continuity, and suitability for recognized industrial uses.

(d) Additional Criteria for Metallic and Other Minerals

Metallic and other mineral resources include mineral commodities that are valued for their metal content, rarity, or unique physical properties, and are not otherwise described under construction or industrial mineral categories. These resources often occur in discrete deposits formed by specific geologic processes and may have relatively high unit value compared to construction materials, such that transportation distance is generally not a limiting factor.

Examples include:

- Gold
- Silver
- Platinum
- Copper
- Zinc
- Minor and specialty metals (e.g. niobium, tantalum, cesium)
- Gemstones and semi-precious minerals
- Minerals with unique physical properties (e.g. optical-grade calcite)

For metallic and other mineral resources, classification may emphasize the deposit type, geologic setting, and broader mineral system characteristics, as well as the structural, stratigraphic, and geochemical controls on mineralization. Evaluation may also consider the grade, concentration, and continuity of mineralization, the relationship of the occurrence to known deposits, districts, or defined mineralized trends, and the surface or subsurface expression of mineralization, including alteration patterns, geochemical anomalies, and geophysical signatures.

(e) Additional Criteria for Critical Minerals

“Critical mineral”, as defined by the SMGB, means a non-fuel mineral or mineral material that is vital to the economic security and long-term resource interests of the State of California, and is vulnerable to

supply chain disruption, or serves an essential function in the manufacturing of a domestic product. Such a mineral may also be on current lists of critical minerals or materials designated by the federal government as essential to the economic security or national defense of the United States.

Critical minerals are not a separate geologic category, but may overlap with construction, industrial, metallic, or other mineral resource types. They are addressed separately in these guidelines because their significance may depend not only on geologic occurrence, but also on their importance to California's economy, energy systems, supply chains, manufacturing, or other strategic needs.

For critical minerals, classification remains based on geologic information and professional judgment. Strategic importance or criticality may help explain why a commodity is evaluated, but MRZ classification is based on geologic evidence for the presence, absence, or uncertainty of a significant mineral resource.

Factors that may be considered include:

(1) Criticality: Whether the commodity is identified as critical by federal, state, or other adopted frameworks.

(2) Strategic Importance: Whether the commodity has potential importance for California's economy, energy demands, supply chain security, manufacturing base, or national defense.

(3) Resource Potential: Whether the commodity may occur as a primary product, co-product, byproduct, or recoverable material from mine waste or other geologic materials.

(4) Supporting Data: Available geologic, geochemical, geophysical, mineralogical, mining, or analytical information relevant to evaluating the resource.

(f) Mineral Resource Assessments

To support the classification process, the State Geologist shall conduct mineral resource assessments. For purposes of these guidelines, assessment is the compilation, analysis, and interpretation of geologic and related scientific information used to evaluate the presence, distribution, and characteristics of mineral resources. Classification refers to the application of that information compiled during assessment to assign MRZ categories. Assessment may rely on some or all of the following:

(1) Existing geologic and mining literature

(2) Geologic maps and field observations

(3) Known mines, prospects, and occurrences

(4) Geochemical, geophysical, mineralogical, or remote-sensing datasets

(5) Shared proprietary information, where available

(6) Deposit models or other accepted geologic frameworks

(7) Modern assessment methods, where appropriate

Because critical mineral resources may be unevenly characterized across California, classification and assessment may be supported by phased inventory, screening, and evaluation efforts, as appropriate.

3. Determination of Mineral Resource Zones

To implement Public Resources Code Section §2761(b), the State Geologist developed the California Mineral Land Classification System, which defines the Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) nomenclature and provides a consistent basis for classification and communication of mineral resource potential.

The classification criteria described in Section I.2 are used to evaluate the presence, characteristics, and geologic significance of mineral resources. The results of this evaluation are expressed through assignment of MRZ classifications.

MRZ classifications represent the outcome of this evaluation and reflect the level of geologic knowledge and confidence in the presence or absence of significant mineral resources. MRZ classifications are applied consistently across all commodities and do not constitute separate evaluation frameworks.

(a) The California Mineral Land Classification System

The California Mineral Land Classification System is derived from mineral resource classification concepts developed by the U.S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey (1980) and has been adapted to support classification using current geologic data and analytical methods. The System applies to all mineral commodities, although the types of data and level of characterization may vary by commodity.

The California Mineral Land Classification System Diagram (below) illustrates the relationship between the degree of geologic knowledge and confidence in mineral resource significance. The terminology shown in the diagram is provided for descriptive purposes and is not intended to require independent economic analysis by the State Geologist.

The four major divisions on the diagram are:

(1) Areas of No Mineral Resource Significance, where lands classified MRZ-1 are areas where geologic information indicates no significant mineral resources are present.

(2) Areas of Identified Mineral Resource Significance, where lands classified MRZ-2 are areas that contain a significant mineral resource.

(3) Areas of Undetermined Mineral Resource Significance, where lands classified MRZ-3 are areas of undetermined mineral resource significance.

(4) Areas of Unknown Mineral Resource Significance, where lands classified MRZ-4 are areas of unknown mineral resource significance.

The following definitions are provided to support consistent use and interpretation of mineral resource classification terminology and MRZ categories. These terms are consistent with widely used industry terminology and are intended to aid communication of mineral resource potential.

These definitions are for descriptive purposes only and do not constitute an independent economic or marketability determination by the State Geologist. They do not require the level of data density, reporting standards, or economic analysis associated with formal reserve or resource reporting frameworks. Because the data available for different mineral commodities may vary, including for critical minerals, these terms are applied within the context of available geologic information and are not intended to imply a uniform level of economic characterization across all commodities.

(1) Economic: This term implies that profitable extraction or production under defined investment assumptions have been established, analytically demonstrated, or assumed with reasonable certainty.

(2) Resource: A concentration of naturally occurring solid, liquid, or gaseous material in and/or on the Earth's crust in such form and amount that economic extraction of a commodity from the concentration is potentially feasible.

(3) Identified resources: Resources whose location, grade, quality, and quantity are known or estimated from specific geologic evidence. Identified resources include economic, marginally economic, and sub-economic components. To reflect varying degrees of geologic certainty, these economic divisions can be subdivided into measured, indicated, and inferred.

(4) Inferred resources: Estimates are based on an assumed continuity beyond measured and/or indicated resources, for which there is geologic evidence. Inferred resources may or may not be supported by samples or measurements.

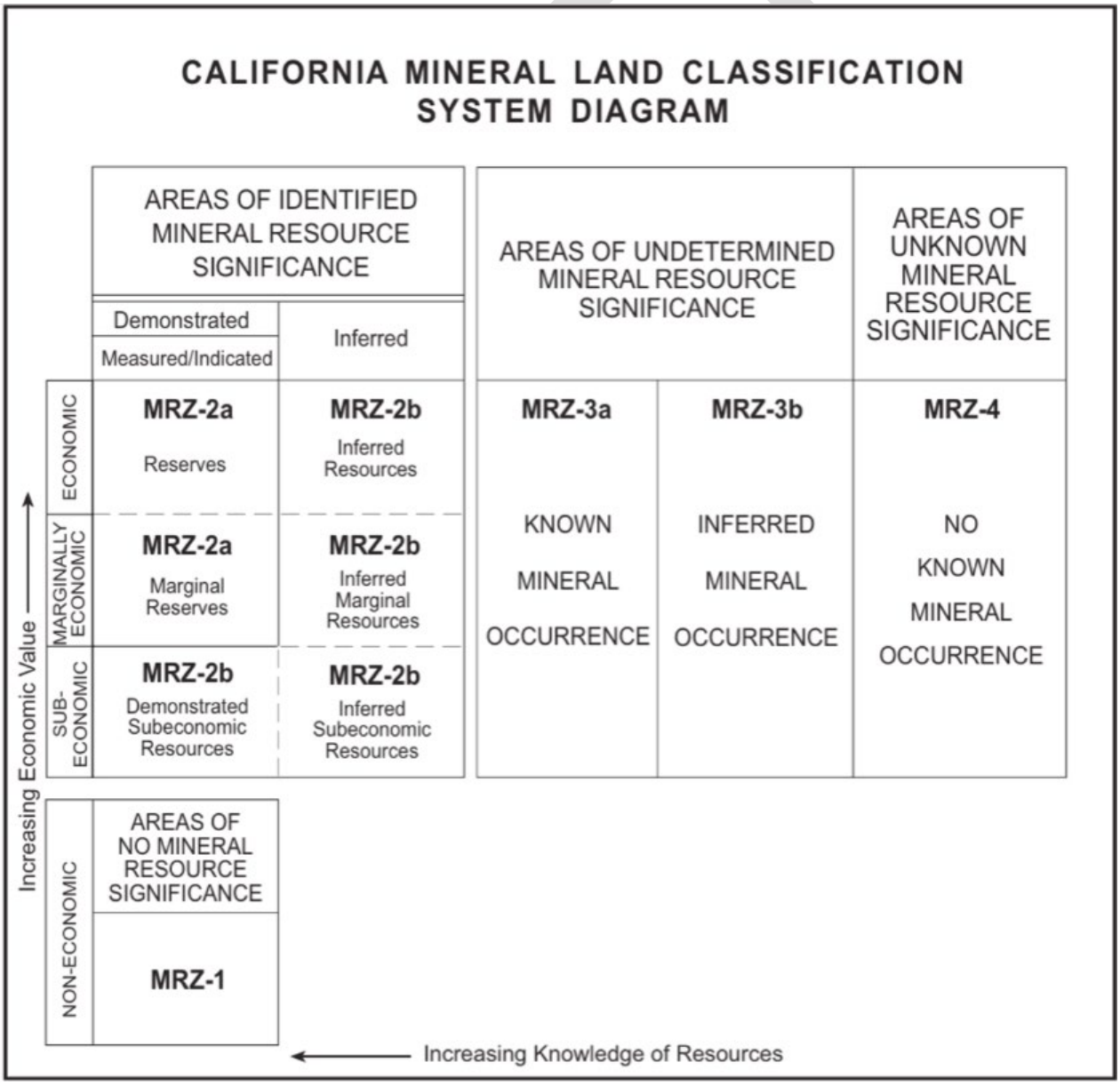
(5) Reserves: That part of the resource base which could be economically extracted or produced within the foreseeable future; usually used in reference to permitted resources. The term reserves need not signify that extraction facilities are in place and operative.

(6) Measured reserves: Quantity is computed from dimensions revealed in outcrops, trenches, workings, or drill holes; grade and/or quality are computed from the results of detailed sampling. The sites for inspection, sampling, and measurement are spaced so closely, and the geologic character is so well defined that size, shape, depth, and mineral content of the resource are well established.

(7) Indicated reserves: Quantity and grade and/or quality are computed from information similar to that used for measured resources, but the sites for inspection, sampling, and measurement are farther apart or otherwise less adequately spaced. The degree of assurance, although lower than that for measured resources, is high enough to assume continuity between points of observation.

(8) Demonstrated reserves: A term for the sum of measured plus indicated reserves.

(9) Marginal reserves: That part of the reserve base which, at the time of determination, borders on being economically producible. The essential characteristic here is economic uncertainty. Included are resources that would be producible, given postulated changes in economic or technological factors.



(b) Mineral Resource Zone Categories

The following MRZ categories are used by the State Geologist to classify lands based on the level of geologic knowledge and confidence in the presence or absence of significant mineral resources. The MRZ categories are derived from the California Mineral Land Classification System Diagram (above) and provide a consistent framework for communicating mineral resource potential. Subdivisions of MRZ categories (e.g., MRZ-2a, MRZ-2b, MRZ-3a, MRZ-3b) may be applied where sufficient geologic information supports a more refined level of classification. The MRZ categories are described below:

(1) MRZ-I - Areas where adequate geologic information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.

(2) MRZ-2a - Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data show that significant measured or indicated resources are present. Areas classified MRZ-2a contain discovered mineral deposits that are well defined by geologic evidence and available technical data such as drilling records, sample analysis, and surface exposure. An example of an MRZ-2a area would include an operating mine, or an area where extensive sampling indicates the presence of a significant mineral deposit.

(3) MRZ-2b - Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic information indicates that significant inferred mineral resources are present. Areas classified MRZ-2b contain discovered deposits that are supported by limited sample analysis, surface exposure, and past mining history or other geologic evidence. Further exploration work, additional data, or advances in technology could result in upgrading areas classified MRZ-2b to MRZ-2a. An example of an MRZ-2b area would include sites where there is reason to believe that an extension of an operating mine exists or where there is an exposure of mineralization indicating the presence of a significant mineral deposit.

(4) MRZ-3a - Areas underlain by known mineral occurrences that may qualify as mineral resources. Further exploration within these areas could result in the reclassification of specific localities into the MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b categories. An example of a MRZ-3a area would be where there is direct evidence of a surface exposure of a geologic unit, such as a limestone body, known to host mineral resources elsewhere but which has not been sufficiently sampled or evaluated at the current location.

(5) MRZ-3b - Areas of inferred mineral occurrences that may qualify as mineral resources. Further exploration work could result in the reclassification of all or part of these areas into the MRZ-3a category or specific localities into the MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b categories. An example of an MRZ-3b area would be one where there is indirect evidence such as a geophysical or geochemical anomaly along a permissive structure which indicates the possible presence of a mineral deposit or that an ore-forming process was operative.

(6) MRZ-4 - Areas where geologic information is insufficient to determine the presence or absence of mineral resources. The distinction between the MRZ-1 and MRZ-4 categories is important for land-use considerations. The MRZ-4 classification does not imply a low likelihood of mineral resources but rather reflects a lack of sufficient geologic information to evaluate their presence or absence.

(c) Determination of Aggregate Resource Areas (ARAs)

Aggregate Resource Areas (ARAs) are a planning and resource assessment tool specific to construction minerals and are not applied to all mineral commodities. ARAs are derived from areas classified as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b for construction aggregate (rock, sand, and gravel) and are used to provide a semi-quantified estimate of aggregate resources that are likely to be available to meet society's needs over a planning horizon of approximately 50 years following classification.

The identification and ranking of ARAs may consider land use and other factors affecting resource availability. In general, ARAs include areas with land uses similar to those historically associated with aggregate extraction. The specific land uses listed in the table below are considered incompatible with mining and have been excluded from ARAs.

The estimation of future resource availability in ARAs is not a precise analysis, but rather a reasonable estimate based on available data. Once identified, ARAs are grouped into three relative categories of significance: Immediately Significant, Highly Significant, and Significant. The criteria for these categories are as follows:

(1) Immediately Significant - All permitted lands within ARAs.

(2) Highly Significant - ARAs that contain a large, well-defined, and laterally extensive mineral resource, or that are associated with existing or permitted mining operations and are considered to be of particularly high importance for long-term resource supply.

(3) Significant - All remaining ARAs.

If conditions warrant, an ARA may be changed from Highly Significant to Significant or from Significant to Highly Significant. These conditions include but are not limited to, rarity of the commodity, proximity to an operating aggregate operation, and proximity to markets.

These estimates provide context for communities to plan for future aggregate supply in their land-use policies. This planning function is consistent with Government Code § 65302(d)(2)(F), which provides that the conservation element of a general plan may address the location, quantity, and quality of rock, sand, and gravel resources. The information is distributed by the SMGB to affected lead agencies. The establishment of the ARAs does not infringe on the authority of local governments to make land-use decisions. ARAs are also used by the SMGB in identifying areas that may be candidates for designation.

TABLE

Criteria for determining which MRZ-2a and MRZ-2b areas or parts of MRZ-2a and MRZ-2b areas are suitable as Aggregate Resource Areas.

There are two general categories of exclusion: I. Economic Exclusion, and II. Social Exclusion.

I. Economic Exclusion

- A. Residential areas, and areas committed to residential development, such as approved tracts
- B. Commercial areas with land improvements (buildings)
- C. Industrial areas (buildings and adjacent needed storage and parking facilities)
- D. Major public or private engineering projects
  1. Canals
  2. Freeways
  3. Bridges
  4. Airports and associated developments such as parking lots
  5. Dams
  6. Railroads
  7. Major pipelines
  8. Major power transmission lines
- E. Small areas isolated by urbanization (generally less than 40 acres).

II. Social Exclusion

- A. Cemeteries
- B. Public parks, developed historical sites and structures, and public recreation areas of all types
- C. Public or private schools, institutions, hospitals, and prisons, including adjacent developments such as parking lots
- D. Military bases, national parks, monuments or preserves, reservations, rancherias or Native American sacred sites

4. Mineral Land Classification Reports

(1) Report Contents - Areas assigned by the State Geologist to mineral resource zones are delineated on suitable maps at scales adequate for use on lead agency general plan maps. A summary report showing classification mapped according to jurisdictional boundaries (i.e., counties, groups of counties, or major portions of counties) is prepared after classification is complete. Maps also show the boundaries of each permitting authority in the report area. Where appropriate, the report may also identify areas that the State Geologist recommends for further consideration by the SMGB for possible designation. Reports and maps should be prepared in formats that support review and implementation by lead agencies and other planning entities, including digital and GIS-compatible formats where practicable. These reports and maps are prepared pursuant to the State Geologist's authority to publish information concerning the geology and mineral resources of the State (Public Resources Code §2205).

(2) Public Workshop - Before a report is finalized, a public workshop is conducted in the principal jurisdiction covered by the report. The workshop is an opportunity for interested parties and individuals (lead agency planners, mine operators, public interest groups, members of SMGB, and others) to comment on the findings of the report, and for preparers of the report to evaluate relevant comments when finalizing the report and maps. Subsequent to the workshop, the report and maps are finalized and submitted to the SMGB. The maps and report are then formally transmitted by the SMGB to those lead agencies which have areas classified as MRZ-2a, MRZ-2b, or MRZ-3a or MRZ-3b within their jurisdiction. The maps and reports are made available through the CGS website and may also be distributed to other interested parties and, where appropriate, to state, regional, and local planning entities.

(3) Lead Agency Responsibilities - Within 12 months of receiving a mineral lands classification report, the lead agency shall develop and adopt mineral resource management policies in accordance with Article 4. Section §2762(a) of SMARA.

(4) Reports on Construction Materials - Mineral land classification reports of regions containing deposits of construction aggregate classified as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b include the following additional information:

a. The identification of ARAs and their ranking by the categories Immediately Significant, Highly Significant, and Significant as explained in Section I.3(C).

b. An estimate of the amount of construction aggregate needed in the county or marketing region in which it occurs for the next 50 years. The marketing region is defined as the area within which such material is usually mined and marketed. The amount of construction aggregate needed for the next 50 years is projected using past consumption rates adjusted for anticipated changes in population. These estimates are periodically reviewed as provided in Section I.5.

(5) Reports on Critical Minerals - Mineral land classification reports of regions containing critical mineral resources may include additional information appropriate to the commodity and level of available data. Such information may include identification of priority commodities, known occurrences or districts of interest, relevant geologic and technical datasets, and areas that may warrant further consideration for classification or possible designation by the SMGB.

5. Periodic Review of Classified Lands

(1) Consistent with the responsibilities of the State Geologist under Public Resources Code §2205, the State Geologist may periodically review mineral land classification information in defined study regions to determine whether:

(a) Reclassification of the area is necessary.

(b) Updated geologic information, new data, or changes in understanding of mineral resource potential (including construction materials, industrial minerals, and critical minerals) warrant

revision of existing classifications or identification of additional areas of mineral resource significance.

(c) The projected requirements for construction materials for the next 50 years should be revised.

(d) Estimates of the quantity of construction aggregate needed to meet projected demand for the next 50 years should be updated.

The State Geologist will report the results of such review to the SMGB together with recommendations. The SMGB may direct the State Geologist to reexamine mineral lands already classified based on that recommendation, or for other reasons. Any resulting reclassification will be treated in the same manner as the original classification will apply the classification criteria in effect at the same time of reclassification.

SECTION II. DESIGNATION OF MINERAL LANDS

1. Designation Criteria

Areas considered for designation by the SMGB shall contain one or more mineral deposits believed to be of statewide or regional significance. Designation of mineral resource areas implements the State's policy to conserve mineral resources of statewide or regional significance pursuant to Public Resources Code §2761.

Ordinarily, classification of a mineral deposit as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b by the State Geologist provides adequate evidence that an area contains significant mineral deposits. However, the SMGB may also consider other relevant information in determining whether specific mineral deposits are of statewide or regional significance and whether designation is appropriate.

Such information may include geologic, resource, land use, planning, or strategic considerations, including those relevant to construction materials, industrial minerals, metallic minerals, critical minerals, or other mineral resources.

2. Designation Procedures

(1) Upon receipt from the State Geologist of a mineral land classification map and report delineating one or more areas classified as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b and a recommendation by the State Geologist that all or parts of the MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b areas be designated, the SMGB may:

   a. Review the map and report to determine the sufficiency of the submitted data as a basis for designation, and request such additional information as may be required from the State Geologist or other sources.
   b. Determine the need for, and the priority of, designation, taking into consideration the importance of the mineral deposits to the State or region thereof and the imminence of any threatened land-use changes that would be incompatible with mineral extraction.
   c. Notify the appropriate lead agencies of the decision to consider designation of mineral resource areas within their jurisdiction.
   d. Set a date and place for a public hearing to consider the areas which the SMGB proposes to designate as containing mineral deposits of statewide or regional significance. If feasible, the public hearing shall be held in or near the county in which the area proposed for designation occurs.
   e. Notify all known affected agencies and parties having an interest in the lands considered for designation.

(2) At the public hearing to consider proposed designations, the SMGB shall seek recommendations of concerned federal, state, and local agencies, educational institutions, civic and public interest organizations, and private organizations and individuals in the identification

of mineral deposits of statewide or regional significance, including those relevant to construction materials, industrial minerals, metallic minerals, critical minerals, or other mineral resources. Such review and comment should address:

a. The adequacy of the mineral lands classification data transmitted by the State Geologist and of any additional data transmitted to the SMGB, which together will constitute the principal basis for designation.
b. Additional data bearing on the presence, extent, and characteristics of mineral deposits proposed to be of statewide or regional significance in the area under consideration.
c. The need, amount, and location of mineral deposits of regional significance that should be designated, and, in the case of construction materials, the needs of the region for 50 years, as well as, where appropriate, other considerations relevant to the long-term availability and importance of mineral resources.
d. Values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife range and forage, and aesthetic enjoyment.

(3) Following the public hearing, the SMGB may designate to be of statewide or regional significance and for inclusion in state policy, all or part of the proposed areas classified as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b. The designation report will specify the following:

a. The boundaries of the designated areas.
b. The mineral deposits of statewide or regional significance contained in each designated area.
c. The basis for determining that each designated area is of statewide or regional significance, including the geologic, resource, planning, or other relevant considerations supporting designation.
d. Lead agencies having jurisdiction over the area.

(4) Upon designation of an area or areas containing significant mineral deposits, the SMGB will transmit a report of its action to the affected lead agencies. The report will include a map of the designated areas in a format suitable for general plan purposes.

(5) The SMGB shall monitor local government implementation of mineral resource management policies for designated areas as described in Section §3676 of Article 6 of the Public Resources Code.

3. Termination of Designation Status

(1) The status of mineral lands previously designated as being of statewide or regional significance may be terminated, either partially or wholly, by the SMGB upon a finding that the designation status is no longer necessary or appropriate. Such action shall be undertaken through a formal rulemaking process in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (California Government Code, Section §11340 et seq.). Upon termination of designation, the area shall no longer be subject to the policies and requirements applicable to designated mineral resource areas under SMARA.

(2) Prior to making such a finding, the SMGB shall hold a public hearing. If feasible, the hearing should be held in or near the county in which the designated area occurs. Such a finding may result from, but is not limited to, depletion of the mineral deposit or deposits within the designated area.

(3) Petitions may also be brought before the SMGB to terminate the designated status of mineral lands pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. Petitions submitted to the SMGB shall include the following information:

a. The petitioner's name, mailing address, and interest, such as owner, lessee, agent, or other, in the petitioned area.

b. A map, such as a USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle or other appropriate map, showing the boundaries of the petitioned area.
c. Reference to the specific SMGB action that designated the area.
d. The reasons and supporting data as to why direct SMGB involvement is no longer necessary.

(4) The SMGB shall evaluate the data submitted in the petition for accuracy and sufficiency. If the SMGB finds that the petition contains sufficient information and justification to warrant a public hearing on termination, the SMGB shall schedule such a hearing and proceed in accordance with this section.

4. Designation Appeals

The procedures for appealing the approval or denial by a lead agency of a permit to conduct surface mining in an area designated by the SMGB are set forth in the Public Resources Code §2775, and in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, Article 4. These appeals are conducted in accordance with applicable statutory and regulatory procedures.

SECTION III. GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFICATION AND DESIGNATION PETITIONS

1. Classification Petitions

Petitions may be submitted to the SMGB by any individual or organization to classify mineral lands that are claimed to contain significant mineral deposits. A petition form is provided in Appendix A.

Filing a petition does not result in immediate classification but rather initiates the classification process, which requires actions by the State Geologist, the SMGB, and lead agencies prior to a final land-use decision.

(a) Criteria for Consideration of Classification Petitions

(1) Petitions will be preliminarily reviewed by the State Geologist to determine whether the deposit meets the applicable classification criteria and whether sufficient information has been provided to support consideration of classification under Section I. If these criteria are met, the State Geologist will recommend acceptance of the petition by the SMGB. Upon acceptance by the SMGB, the State Geologist will conduct a study of sufficient scope to classify the mineral deposit areas that are the subject of the petition.

(2) The petitioner must provide sufficient geologic and other relevant supporting data to enable the State Geologist to classify the mineral deposit areas that are the subject of the petition. The State Geologist may rely on proprietary data supplied by the petitioner. Such data, when clearly identified and requested to be treated as confidential, shall remain proprietary.

(b) Priority Considerations for Classification Petitions

Prior to submitting a petition, the petitioner should contact the SMGB or the State Geologist to determine whether there are any current or pending classification studies in the the area of the petition and anticipated completion dates.

After acceptance of a petition by the SMGB, petitions shall be prioritized for classification based on the chronological order of acceptance unless otherwise specified by the SMGB. Preparation of the classification report will proceed in accordance with that priority following receipt of all required petition fees.

The SMGB will notify affected lead agencies after formal acceptance of a petition for classification and will provide notice of each petition's assigned priority. The SMGB will also provide them with a copy of the accepted petition.

(c) Classification Petition Fees

Fees are required to be paid by the petitioner as follows:

(1) A fee for conducting the preliminary review of the petition application, in an amount established by the SMGB.

(2) A processing fee for conducting the classification study. If the petition is accepted, prepayment of the processing fee sufficient to cover the estimated cost of the classification study shall be required. The petitioner will be provided with an estimate of the cost of conducting the study.

Any funds in excess of the amount required to complete the study shall be refunded to the petitioner. Any additional funds required to complete the study shall be submitted prior to the official release of the report.

2. Designation Petitions

(a) Prior to permitting a use that would threaten the potential to extract minerals in areas classified by the State Geologist as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b but not yet designated, a lead agency may petition the SMGB to initiate a designation hearing.

(b) Petitions for a designation hearing may also be brought before the SMGB by any other party, provided that the SMGB has received and approved mineral land classification information indicating that the area in question is classified as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b and that the SMGB has not yet considered designation. A petition form is provided in Appendix A for convenience; however, petitions are not required to be submitted using this form, provided that sufficient information is included to support consideration by the SMGB.

(c) The SMGB shall then forward the submitted data to the State Geologist, who will evaluate it as to its accuracy and sufficiency and make a recommendation to the SMGB for or against designation of all or part of the area petitioned for designation.

(d) If the SMGB determines that the petition contains sufficient information and justification to warrant a public hearing, the SMGB shall schedule such a hearing and proceed in accordance with Section II.2 and II.3.

Appendix A

Petition for Classification-Designation of Mineral Lands

Part I Mineral Information

1. The petitioner's name, mailing address and interest (owner, lessee, agent, or other) in the area to be considered for classification.

_____

_____

_____

2. Name and legal description of petitioned deposit. Attach map (USGS 7 1/2-minute quadrangle or other appropriate map) showing the boundaries of the area the petitioner wishes to have classified.

_____

_____

_____

3. A description of the significant mineral deposits claimed to occur within the area described, including sufficient geologic and economic data to support the claim that the mineral deposits are significant as defined in the "Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands."

_____

_____

_____

a. Geologic setting (Attach map)

_____

_____

_____

b. Mineral commodities

_____

_____

_____

c. Value of deposit -1, -2_____

Tonnage -2_____ Grade -2_____

Gross selling price of first marketable product (Estimated values) _____

The mineral information (Part I) of this petition and its supporting documentation are accurate and supportable by the supplied information, and the deposit is as stated.

Signature of Petitioner_____ Date_____

Part II
Land-Use Information

4. The name and mailing address of each recorded landowner and each recorded lessee in and adjoining the area described. (Attach separate sheet)

5. Action requested. If designation is requested in addition to classification, then the reasons for requesting designation should also be stated.

_____

_____

_____

The land-use information (Part II) of this petition and its supporting documentation are accurate and supportable by the supplied information.

Signature of Petitioner_____ Date _____

This form is to be used as a guide for content and format. Additional information sheets may be attached as necessary.

Appendix B

SMARA Mineral Land Classification Maps, Reports, and Data Resources

The California Geological Survey (CGS) maintains a publicly accessible collection of SMARA Mineral Land Classification (MLC) maps, reports, and related data products on its website.

These resources include Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) maps, mineral land classification reports (Special Reports and Open-File Reports), Aggregate Resource Area (ARA) information, and publication indices.

The primary access point for these materials is:

SMARA Mineral Land Classification Webpage
https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/mineral-land-classification-smara

This webpage provides access to current MLC publications, maps, and supporting program information. Because these materials are periodically updated, users should refer to the CGS website for the most current information.