

## 4.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

---

---

### INTRODUCTION

---

This section focuses on various mineral characteristics of the Wheatland General Plan Update study area. Information for this analysis was based on information from the *Yuba County General Plan*<sup>1</sup>, and review of literature and air photos to determine minerals on the project site.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

---

The City of Wheatland is located within the northeastern portion of the Sacramento Valley, which is within the Great Valley geomorphic province. The Great Valley, an elongated lowland, extends 500 miles north and south, separating the Sierra Nevada from the Coast Ranges. This elongated asymmetric structural basin or trough was formed by the westward tilting of the Sierra Nevada block against the eastern flank of the Coast Ranges. The basement rock complex of the Sierra extends westward, beneath the Valley, on a gentle slope reaching points near the Coast Ranges. Elevation in the Valley is generally several hundred feet above sea level, but ranges from a low point below sea level to approximately 1,000 feet above sea level.

The Great Valley is filled with thick sedimentary rock sequences or strata, which began deposition approximately 200 million years ago. Large alluvial fans have developed on each side of the Valley. The larger and more gently sloping fans are located on the east side of the Valley and overlie metamorphic and igneous basement rocks. This basement rock is exposed in the Sierra Nevada Foothills and consists of metasediments, volcanics, and granites. The sediments that form the Valley floor were largely derived by erosion of the Sierra Nevada. The smaller and steeper slopes on the west side of the Valley overlie sedimentary rocks more closely related to the Coast Ranges.

### Mineral Resources

According to the *Yuba County General Plan Environmental Setting and Background Report (YCGP-ESBR)*, raw or manufactured mineral products are used every day in developed nations. Unlike most natural resources, minerals are not renewable. A mineral resource is a concentration of elements in a particular location in such a form that a usable mineral commodity can be extracted from the deposit.

Mineral resources present in Yuba County include precious metals (gold, platinum, molybdenite), copper, zinc, Fullers earth, sand and gravel, and crushed stone. Most of Yuba County lies within the Sierra Nevada gold belt districts with sparse seam-type auriferous deposits. Each of these unique resources should be carefully managed to meet the current and future requirements of the County.

The mineral resources under greatest urbanization pressure are the construction materials, especially sand and gravel, and crushed stone. Increasing urbanization in the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento areas has resulted in the depletion or obliteration of local aggregate resources. These areas are looking to more remote areas to meet their resource requirements. The *Yuba County General Plan* stresses that planning should be undertaken to ensure continued access to the mineral resources present in Yuba County.

### Study Area

The California Geological Survey (formerly California Division of Mines and Geology [CDMG]) has not identified the potential for mineral resources within the proposed Wheatland General Plan Update study area. Approximately three miles to the northwest, mineral resources have been evaluated, as described in CDMG *Special Report 132* (1988) which delineated the Yuba City-Marysville production-consumption region for Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) grade aggregate. However, the information given in the report is not adequate to identify the potential for resources in close proximity to the study area. Borings from drill holes less than one mile outside the northwestern boundary of the study area indicate the potential for commercial grade aggregate deposits.

The *YCGP-ESBR* identifies one mineral resource extraction site within the Wheatland General Plan Update study area (see Figure 2-11 of the *YCGP-ESBR*). The Wheatland Clay Pit is located approximately 2.5 miles north of downtown Wheatland in the Nichols Ranch area and is operated by Gladding McBean. The disturbed area is approximately one acre.

## **REGULATORY CONTEXT**

---

Existing policies, laws and regulations that would apply to the General Plan Update are summarized below.

### **California Building Standards Code / Uniform Building Code**

Site development and design are regulated in the State of California by the California Building Standards Code (CBC), based on the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and suited to the unique sensitivity of the state's geology and faultlines. CBC and UBC regulations must be adhered to with regard to expansive soils, drainage, erosion, earthquake resistance, and required safety measures during on-site development.

### **Wheatland General Plan Update**

The project involves establishment of goals and policies aimed at preserving mineral resources within the City of Wheatland. These applicable goals and policies have been included in the following impact discussions, where appropriate, in order to mitigate potential impacts.

## IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

---

### Standards of Significance

The proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment when it would:

- Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state;
- Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

### Method of Analysis

Determinations of impacts to mineral resources were based on information from the *Yuba County General Plan*, and review of literature and air photos to determine minerals on the project site.

### Project-Specific Impacts and Mitigation Measures

#### **4.10-1 Development associated with the proposed General Plan Update would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.**

According to the *Yuba County General Plan Environmental Setting and Background Report* (p. 2-24), mineral resources present in the county include precious metals, copper, zinc, Fullers earth, sand and gravel, and crushed stone. However, the City of Wheatland is located outside of the recognized Mineral land Classification Area as identified in the *Yuba County General Plan ESBR*. Therefore, the study area does not contain any significant quantities of mineral resources.

Because the study area does not contain any significant quantities of mineral resources, the General Plan Update does not contain goals and policies pertaining to regional mineral resources. Therefore, the General Plan Update would have *no impact* regarding loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

The General Plan Update includes the following goals and policies generally related to mineral resources.

Goals 8.D To preserve and enhance open space lands to maintain the natural resources of the Wheatland area.

Policy 8.D.1. The City shall support the preservation and enhancement of natural land forms, natural vegetation, and natural resources as open space to the maximum extent feasible.

Mitigation Measure(s)

*None require.*

**4.10-2 Development associated with the proposed General Plan Update would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan**

As discussed above, the City of Wheatland is located outside of the recognized Mineral Resource Zones 3 as identified in the *Yuba County General Plan Environmental Setting and Background Report*.

Because the study area does not contain any significant quantities of mineral resources, the General Plan Update does not contain goals and policies pertaining to regional mineral resources. Therefore, the General Plan Update would have ***no impact*** regarding loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

The General Plan Update includes the following goals and policies generally related to mineral resources.

Goals 8.D To preserve and enhance open space lands to maintain the natural resources of the Wheatland area.

Policy 8.D.1. The City shall support the preservation and enhancement of natural land forms, natural vegetation, and natural resources as open space to the maximum extent feasible.

Mitigation Measure(s)

*None required.*

---

**Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Yuba County, Yuba County General Plan, 1994.