



Source: Mintier & Associates, 2004.

## REGULATORY CONTEXT

Federal, State and local governments have developed laws and regulations designed to protect significant cultural resources that could be affected by actions that they undertake or regulate. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National History Preservation Act (NHPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are the basic federal and State laws governing preservation of historic and archaeological resources of national, regional, State, and local significance.

### *Federal Regulations*

Federal regulations for cultural resources are governed primarily by Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966. Section 106 of NHPA requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertaking on historic properties and affords the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The Council's implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties," are found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. The goal of the Section 106 review process is to offer a measure of protection to sites which are determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The criteria for determining National Register eligibility are found in 36 CFR Part 60. Amendments to the Act (1986 and 1992) and subsequent revisions to the implementing regulations have strengthened the provision for Native American consultation and participation in the Section 106 review process. While federal agencies must follow federal regulations, most projects by private developers and landowners do not require this level of compliance. Federal regulations only come into play in the private sector if a project requires a federal permit or if it uses federal money.

### ***State Regulations***

Historical resources are recognized as part of the environment under CEQA statutes and guidelines (Public Resources Code sections 21001(b), 21083.2 and 21084.1; and section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines). CEQA requires lead agencies to carefully consider the potential effects of a project on historical resources. Properties of local significance, including those identified in a local historical resource inventory, are presumed to be significant for the purposes of CEQA unless a preponderance of evidence indicates otherwise (PRC sections 5024.1, 14 CCR section 4850).

Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines specifies criteria for evaluating the importance of cultural resources. Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be an historical resource (Public Resources Code section 5020.1). A resource may be considered to be "historically significant" if it meet the criteria for listing on the California Register, including:

1. The resource is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of California history;
2. The resource is associated with the lives of important persons from our past;
3. The resource embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method construction, or represents the work of an important individual or possesses high artistic values; or
4. The resource has yielded, or may be likely to yield, important information in prehistory or history.

Integrity is the authenticity of the historical resource's physical identity as evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. The property must meet at least one of the criteria as described above and retain enough of its historic character or appearance to be recognizable as an historical resource and also to convey the reasons for its significance. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

CEQA also applies to effects on archaeological sites. When a project will impact an archaeological site, the lead agency shall determine if the site is an historical resource as defined above. Advice on procedures to identify such resources, evaluate their importance, and estimate potential effects is given in several agency publications, such as the series produced by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).<sup>193</sup> The technical advice series produced by OPR strongly recommends that Native American concerns and the concerns of other interested

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<sup>193</sup> CEQA and Archaeological Resources, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State of California © 1994.

persons and corporate entities, including, but not limited to, museums, historical commissions, associates and societies be solicited as part of the process of cultural resources inventory. In addition, California law protects Native American burials, skeletal remains and associated grave goods regardless of the antiquity and provides for the sensitive treatment and disposition of those remains.<sup>194</sup>

### California Historic Register

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) also maintains the California State Register of Historic Resources (CRHR). The CRHR, or California Register, is an authoritative guide to the State's historical resources and to which properties are considered significant for purposes of CEQA. The California Register includes resources listed in, or formally determined eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, as well as some California landmarks and Points of Historical Interest. The California Register can also include properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

Even if a resource is not listed in or determined eligible for listing in the California Register, is not included in a local register of historical resources, or is not identified in an historical resources survey, the resource can still be determined by a lead agency to be an historical resource. Any project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.

### **Local Regulations**

The City of Wheatland has not enacted formal heritage preservation policies. As such, ordinances adopted by Yuba and Placer Counties can serve as guidelines for the consideration of heritage resources in the planning process. As expressed in the *Yuba County General Plan*:<sup>195</sup>

*“The legal protection of archaeological sites is necessary to preserve the scientific, historical, cultural, educational, recreational, and aesthetic values embodied in the heritage resources. The need for laws to preserve the scientific and other values of heritage resources is recognized by elected officials at the local, State, and national levels. These laws have been formulated with the understanding that our heritage is shared equally by all Americans.”*

To accomplish this, Yuba County is committed to:

1. Preserve and restore cultural resources, including historic sties and buildings; and to the
2. Public awareness and appreciation of historic and cultural resources.

<sup>194</sup> California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 et seq.

<sup>195</sup> Yuba County General Plan, Volume I: Environmental Setting and Background, May 1994

Yuba County encourages property owners to treat heritage resources as assets and to support their preservation, and the Placer County General Plan maintains a similar commitment to the consideration of heritage resources.<sup>196</sup> County legislation is modeled after State and national heritage preservation mandates such as CEQA, NHPA, and NEPA.

### ***Native American Consultation***

Peak & Associates (2004) sent a letter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a check of the Sacred Lands files for the plan area. Their reply indicates that there are no sites or traditional cultural properties listed. The NAHC provided a list of contacts of Native American groups and individuals who may have knowledge or concerns within the plan area. Letters have been sent to several of these groups; no replies have been received to date.

Little of the Study Area has been subjected to systematic survey and the short list of inventoried heritage sites may not reflect the true archeological sensitivity of the area. All locales designated for future development within the Study Area should be subjected to a heritage resource study involving archival research, an archeological field reconnaissance, pertinent architectural evaluations, and consultations with appropriate federal, State, and local agencies and/or Maidu representatives. In this way, the unique and varied heritage resource to be found within the Study Area can be incorporated into community planning studies, just like any other natural resource. Benefits result, as tourism is encouraged and real estate values in and around the historic district appreciate. The integration of the unique presence of the past into new construction ultimately enhances the opportunity, security, and economy of a community. A contemporary development which reflects the rich local heritage will not only stand apart as a tribute to local and regional historical events, but it may also greatly enhance its own economic base and marketing appeal.

## **6.7 | GLOSSARY**

### **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

#### **Adjacent**

Having a common endpoint or border. Immediately preceding or following

#### **Alkali**

A soluble salt or a mixture of soluble salts present in some soils of arid regions in quantity detrimental to agriculture.

#### **Amphibian**

Amphibious organism; especially any of a class (Amphibia) of cold-blooded vertebrates (as frogs, toads, or salamanders) intermediate in many characters between fishes and reptiles and having gilled aquatic larvae and air-breathing adults.

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<sup>196</sup> City of Wheatland. *Environmental Setting for the City of Wheatland General Plan Update*. April 1996.

**Anadromous fish**

Ascending rivers from the sea for breeding.

**Annual**

Occurring or happening every year or once a year, completing the life cycle in one growing season.

**Arid**

Excessively dry; specifically: having insufficient rainfall to support agriculture.

**Avian**

Of, relating to, or derived from birds.

**Brambles**

Any of a genus (*Rubus*) of usually prickly shrubs of the rose family including the raspberries and blackberries; broadly: a rough prickly shrub or vine.

**Burrow**

Hole or excavation in the ground made by an animal for shelter and habitation.

**Chaparral**

An ecological community composed of shrubby plants adapted to dry summers and moist winters.

**Coniferous**

Any of an order (*Coniferales*) of mostly evergreen trees and shrubs including forms (as pines) with true cones and others (as yews) with an arillate fruit.

**Contiguous**

Being in actual contact: touching along a boundary or at a point.

**Crustacean**

Any of a large class (*Crustacea*) of mostly aquatic arthropods that generally have a chitinous exoskeleton. The class includes the lobsters, shrimps, crabs, wood lice, water fleas, and barnacles.

**Cultivate**

To prepare or prepare and use for the raising of crops; also: to loosen or break up the soil about (growing plants).

**Deciduous**

Falling off or shed seasonally or at a certain stage of development in the life cycle.

**Disc**

To cultivate with an implement (as a harrow or plow) that turns and loosens the soil with a series of discs.

**Ecosystem**

The complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit.

**Ecotones**

A transition area between two adjacent ecological communities.

**Emergent**

A plant rooted in shallow water and having most of the vegetative growth above water.

**Ephemeral**

Lasting a very short time.

**Estivate**

To pass the summer in a state of torpor.

**Evergreen**

Having foliage that remains green and functional through more than one growing season.

**Extinct**

No longer existing.

**Foliage**

A cluster of leaves, flowers, and branches.

**Foraging**

To wander in search of forage or food.

**Gabbroic**

Granular igneous rock composed essentially of calcic plagioclase, a ferromagnesian mineral, and accessory minerals.

**Gradient**

The rate of regular or graded ascent or descent.

**Grassland**

Land on which the natural dominant plant forms are grasses and forbs; an ecological community in which the characteristic plants are grasses.

**Habitat**

The place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.

**Herbaceous**

Of, relating to, or having the characteristics of an herb b of a stem: having little or no woody tissue and persisting usually for a single growing season: having the texture, color, or appearance of a leaf.

**Hibernacula**

A shelter occupied during the winter by a dormant animal.

**Hydric**

Characterized by, relating to, or requiring an abundance of moisture.

**Hydrophyte**

Perennial vascular aquatic plant having its overwintering buds under water: a plant growing in water or in soil too waterlogged for most plants to survive.

**Inundate**

To cover with a flood.

**Invertebrate**

Lacking a spinal column; also: of or relating to invertebrate animals.

**Legumes**

Any of a large family (Leguminosae syn. Fabaceae) of dicotyledonous herbs, shrubs, and trees having fruits that are legumes (sense 3) or loment, bearing nodules on the roots that contain nitrogen-fixing bacteria, and including important food and forage plants (as peas, beans, or clovers).

**Mammal**

Any of a class (Mammalia) of warm-blooded higher vertebrates (as placentals, marsupials, or monotremes) that nourish their young with milk secreted by mammary glands, have the skin usually more or less covered with hair, and include humans.

**Mesic**

Characterized by, relating to, or requiring a moderate amount of moisture.

**Migrate**

To pass usually periodically from one region or climate to another for feeding or breeding.

**Montane**

Of, relating to, growing in, or being the biogeographic zone of relatively moist cool upland slopes below timberline dominated by large coniferous trees.

**Perennial**

Present at all seasons of the year: persisting for several years usually with new herbaceous growth.

**Playa**

The flat-floored bottom of an undrained desert basin that becomes at times a shallow lake.

**Reconnaissance**

A preliminary survey to gain information; especially : an exploratory military survey of enemy territory.

**Reptile**

Any of a class (Reptilia) of air-breathing vertebrates that include the alligators and crocodiles, lizards, snakes, turtles, and extinct related forms (as dinosaurs and pterosaurs) and are characterized by a completely ossified skeleton with a single occipital condyle, a distinct quadrate bone usually immovably articulated with the skull, ribs attached to the sternum, and a body usually covered with scales or bony plates.

**Riparian**

Relating to or living or located on the bank of a natural watercourse (as a river) or sometimes of a lake or a tidewater.

**Ruderal**

Growing where the natural vegetational cover has been disturbed by humans: ruderal weeds of old fields and roadsides.

**Saline**

Consisting of or containing salt.

**Serpentine**

A mineral or rock consisting essentially of a hydrous magnesium silicate usually having a dull green color and often a mottled appearance.

**Snag**

A standing dead tree.

**Species**

A class of individuals having common attributes and designated by a common name; specifically: a logical division of a genus or more comprehensive class.

**Terrestrial**

Of or relating to the earth or its inhabitants.

**Upland**

Ground elevated above the lowlands along rivers or between hills.

**Vegetation**

Plant life or total plant cover.

**Vernal**

Of, relating to, or occurring in the spring.

**Wetland**

Land or areas (as tidal flats or swamps) containing much soil moisture.

**Woodland**

Land covered with woody vegetation

**AIR QUALITY**

**Air Basin**

A land area with generally similar meteorological and geographic conditions throughout. To the extent possible, air basin boundaries are defined along political boundary lines and include both the source and receptor areas. California is currently divided into 15 air basins.

**Air Quality Management District (AQMD)**

A group of counties or portions of counties, or an individual county specified in law with authority to regulate stationary, indirect, and area sources of air pollution within the region and governed by a regional air pollution control board comprised mostly of elected officials from within the region.

**California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS)**

A legal limit that specifies the maximum level and time of exposure in the outdoor air for a given air pollutant and which is protective of human health and public welfare (Health and Safety Code section 39606b). CAAQSs are recommended by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and adopted into regulation by the CARB. CAAQSs are the standards which must be met per the requirements of the California Clean Air Act (CCAA).

**California Clean Air Act (CCAA)**

A California law passed in 1988 which provides the basis for air quality planning and regulation independent of federal regulations. A major element of the Act is the requirement that local air districts in violation of the CAAQS must prepare attainment plans which identify air quality problems, causes, trends, and actions to be taken to attain and maintain California's air quality standards by the earliest practicable date.

**Criteria Air Pollutant**

An air pollutant for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which an ambient air quality standard has been set. The term "criteria air pollutants" derives from the requirement that the U.S. EPA must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of these pollutants. The U.S. EPA and CARB periodically review new scientific data and may propose revisions to the standards as a result.

**Entrained**

Suspended, as in a current.

**Exceedance**

A measured level of an air pollutant higher than the national or state ambient air quality standards.

**Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA)**

A federal law passed in 1970 and amended in 1974, 1977 and 1990 which forms the basis for the national air pollution control effort. Basic elements of the act include national ambient air quality standards for major air pollutants, mobile and stationary control measures, air toxics standards, acid rain control measures, and enforcement provisions.

**Indirect Source**

Any facility, building, structure, or installation, or combination thereof, which generates or attracts mobile source activity that results in emissions of any pollutant (or precursor) for which there is a state ambient air quality standard. Examples of indirect sources include employment sites, shopping centers, sports facilities, housing developments, airports, commercial and industrial development, and parking lots and garages.

**Inversion**

A layer of warm air in the atmosphere that prevents the rise of cooling air and traps pollutants beneath it.

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**

Standards established by the United States EPA that apply for outdoor air throughout the country. There are two types of NAAQS. Primary standards set limits to protect public health and secondary standards set limits to protect public welfare.

**Nonattainment Area**

A geographic area identified by the U.S. EPA and/or CARB as not meeting either NAAQS or CAAQS standards for a given pollutant.

**Photochemical Reaction**

A term referring to chemical reactions brought about by the light energy of the sun. The reaction of nitrogen oxides with hydrocarbons in the presence of sunlight to form ozone is an example of a photochemical reaction.

**Ozone Precursors**

Chemicals such as non-methane hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen, occurring either naturally or as a result of human activities, which contribute to the formation of ozone, a major component of smog.

**Smog**

A combination of smoke and other particulates, ozone, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and other chemically reactive compounds which, under certain conditions of weather and sunlight, may result in a murky brown haze that causes adverse health effects. The primary source of smog in California is motor vehicles.

**Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC)**

An air pollutant, identified in regulation by the ARB, which may cause or contribute to an increase in deaths or in serious illness, or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. TACs are considered under a different regulatory process than pollutants subject to CAAQs. Health effects to TACs may occur at extremely low levels, and it is typically difficult to identify levels of exposure which do not produce adverse health effects.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Artifacts**

Objects that represent a cultural period.

**Character defining feature**

A prominent or distinctive aspect, quality, or characteristic of a cultural landscape that contributes significantly to its physical character.

**Collection**

Material remains removed during a study of a historic resource and associated records prepared or assembled in connection with the study.

**Component landscape**

A discrete portion of the landscape that can be further subdivided into individual features.

**Cultural landscape**

A geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

**Cultural resources**

Those parts of the physical environment, natural and built, that have cultural value to some kind of sociocultural group, and including non-material human social institutions. Cultural resources include historic sites, archeological sites and associated artifacts, sacred sites, traditional cultural properties, cultural items (human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony), and buildings and structures.

**Cultural resources survey**

A systematic set of field investigations that may range in scope from a reconnaissance survey to an intensive survey.

**Ethnographic landscape**

A landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources. Examples are contemporary settlements, sacred religious sites, and massive geological structures.

**Ethnology**

The branch of anthropology that deals with the origin, distribution, and characteristics of human racial groups.

**Feature**

The smallest element(s) of a landscape that contributes to the significance and that can be the subject of a treatment intervention.

**Habitation sites**

Locations of human use or residence including, but not limited to house, village, quarry, hunting, fishing and other work sites.

**Historic character**

The sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and spaces associated with a cultural landscape's history, i.e. the original configuration together with losses and later changes.

**Historic designed landscape**

A landscape that was consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, engineer, or horticulturist according to design principles, or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition.

**Historic property**

Any prehistoric or historic building, structure, object, site, or district included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

**Historic site**

A landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity or person.

Historic vernacular landscape A landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it. Function plays a significant role in vernacular landscapes.

**Integrity**

The authenticity of a property's historic identity, evinced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period.

**Material culture**

Artifacts; objects that represent a cultural period.

**Material remains**

Artifacts, objects, specimens, and other physical evidence removed in connection with efforts to locate, evaluate, document, study, preserve, or recover a historic resource.

**Midden**

A mound or deposit containing shells, animal bones, and other refuse that indicates the site of a human settlement.

### **National Historic Landmark**

A historic property that meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated by the Secretary of the Interior for its special national importance in the history of the United States.

### **National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)**

The Nation's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts which meet the criteria and are worthy of preservation because of their importance in American history, prehistory, architecture, archeology, and culture. The NRHP is maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under the authority of Section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

### **Records**

Field notes, artifact inventories and oral histories, deeds, survey plats, historical maps and diaries, and items related to the identification, evaluation, documentation, study, preservation, or recovery of a resource.

### **Section 106 process**

The series of actions (including continuous consultation, background studies, surveys, resource identifications, assessments and treatments) that implement the section of the National Historic Preservation Act that requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on any cultural resources or historic properties that meet the National Register of Historic Places criteria. Part of this process involves taking action to avoid or minimize harm to eligible resources.

### **Section 110 guidelines**

Issued by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of Section 101(g) of the National Historic Preservation Act; provide guidance to Federal agencies in establishing, monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating their historic preservation program.

### **Significance**

The meaning or value ascribed to a cultural landscape based on the National Register criteria for evaluation.

### **Site**

The location of an event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or removed, where the location itself maintains historical, cultural, or archeological value and integrity.

### **Traditional cultural values**

Underlying beliefs and principles held in common by a cultural group that may be reflected in actions and behaviors that are sometimes associated with particular locations and settings.

### **Treatment**

Work carried out to achieve a particular historic preservation goal.

## **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Acre-foot**

The amount of water required to fill one acre (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot.

### **Aesthetics**

A conception of what is artistically valid or beautiful, or has a pleasing appearance.

### **Alluvium**

Sediment deposited by flowing water, as in a riverbed, flood plain, or delta.

### **Barren land**

A category used to classify lands with limited capacity to support life and having less than five percent vegetative cover.

### **Conservation practices**

Methods which reduce soil erosion and retain soil moisture. Major conservation practices include conservation tillage, crop rotation, contour farming, strip cropping, terraces, diversions, and grassed waterways.

### **Cropland**

A category that includes areas used for the production of adapted crops for harvest. Two subcategories of cropland are recognized: cultivated and noncultivated. Cultivated cropland comprises land in row crops or close grown crops and also other cultivated cropland. Noncultivated cropland includes permanent hayland and horticultural cropland.

### **Erosion**

The wearing away of the land surface by running water, waves, or moving ice and wind, or by such processes as mass wasting and corrosion (solution and other chemical processes).

### **Fallow land**

Land that has been plowed but left unseeded during a growing season.

### **Farmland of Local Importance**

The fourth most productive type of farmland as designated by California's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program; it may have importance to the local economy due to its productivity.

### **Farmland of Statewide Importance**

The second most productive type of farmland as designated by California's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Similar to prime farmland, but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or with less ability to hold and store moisture.

### **Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

A California Department of Conservation program which maintains inventories of Important Farmland throughout the State.

### **Grazing Land**

Land on which the existing vegetation, whether grown naturally or through management, is suited to the grazing of livestock.

### **Important Farmland**

Land classified as significantly contributing to the production of agricultural commodities by the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). The four categories of Important Farmland, from most productive to least productive, are: Prime Farmland; Farmland of Statewide Importance; Unique Farmland; and Farmland of Local Importance.

### **Land capability classification (class and subclass)**

Land capability classification is a system of grouping soils primarily on the basis of their capability to produce common cultivated crops and pasture plants without deteriorating over a long period. Land capability classification is subdivided into capability class and capability subclass nationally.

### **Land Inventory and Monitoring (LIM) criteria**

A series of definitions originally developed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service which classifies the land's suitability for agricultural production; suitability includes both the physical and chemical characteristics of soils and the actual land use.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

A U.S. Department of Agriculture agency whose mission is to "provide leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment." Formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service.

### **Open space**

Lands which are unimproved and devoted to the preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, or public health and safety.

### **Pastureland**

A category of land managed primarily for the production of introduced forage plants for livestock grazing.

### **Prime farmland**

The most productive type of farmland as designated by California's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program; land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses.

### **Productivity**

The rate at which agricultural activities produce goods or commodities, especially output per unit of labor.

**Rangeland**

A category on which the climax or potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grasslike plants, forbs or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland.

**Riverwash**

Barren alluvial areas, usually coarse-textured, exposed along streams at low water and subject to shifting during normal high water.

**Soil association**

A grouping of soil types commonly found in juxtaposition to one another.

**Soil Capability Classification System**

One of two systems used by the NRCS to determine a soil's agricultural productivity. Soil capability classes range from Class I soils, which have few limitations for agriculture, to Class VIII soils, which are unsuitable for agriculture.

**Soil capability subclass**

Class codes e (erosion problems), w (wetness problems), s (root zone limitations), and c (climatic limitations) are used for land capability subclasses.

**Soil erodibility factor (K factor - USLE)**

An erodibility factor which quantifies the susceptibility of soil particles to detachment and movement by water. This factor is used in the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) to calculate soil loss by water.

**Soil expansiveness**

The degree to which a soil containing certain clay minerals will expand or contract based on moisture content.

**Soil limitations**

Any factors which may limit the productivity of soil.

**Soil permeability**

The degree to which moisture is able to percolate through soil; linked to porosity.

**Soil survey**

The systematic examination, description, classification, and mapping of soils in an area.

**Soil type**

A number of soils considered as a group or class based on their commonly held general character or structure.

**Storie Index Rating System**

One of two systems used by the NRCS to determine a soil's agricultural productivity; ranks soil characteristics according to their suitability for agriculture from Grade 1 soils (80 to 100 rating),

which have few or no limitations for agricultural production to Grade 6 soils (less than 10), which are not suitable for agriculture.

**Unique Farmland**

The third most productive type of farmland as designated by California's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program; land of lesser quality soils used for the production of "high value economic crops" such as olives, avocados, or grapes. Usually irrigated.

**Universal soil loss equation (USLE)**

An erosion model designed to predict the long-term average soil losses in runoff from specific field areas in specified cropping and management systems.

**Urban and Built-Up Land**

Lands which have been improved and are no capable of agricultural production.

**Williamson Act**

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act) enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value.

**Wind erosion**

The process of detachment, transport, and deposition of soil by wind.

**MINERAL RESOURCES**

**Aggregate**

A general term referring to the mineral materials, such as sand or stone, used in making concrete.

**Auriferous**

A term describing gold-bearing rock.

**Element**

A substance composed of atoms having an identical number of protons in each nucleus. Elements cannot be reduced to simpler substances by normal chemical means.

**Mineral**

A substance, such as stone, sand, salt, or coal, that is composed of a combination of elements.

**Mineral commodity**

Any mineral that may be extracted or obtained from the ground or water and used in economic activities.