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## MINERAL RESOURCES

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the mineral resources in the area as classified by the State Division of Mines and Geology and evaluates the Plan's potential to impact mineral resources.

### SETTING

#### STANISLAUS COUNTY MINERAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

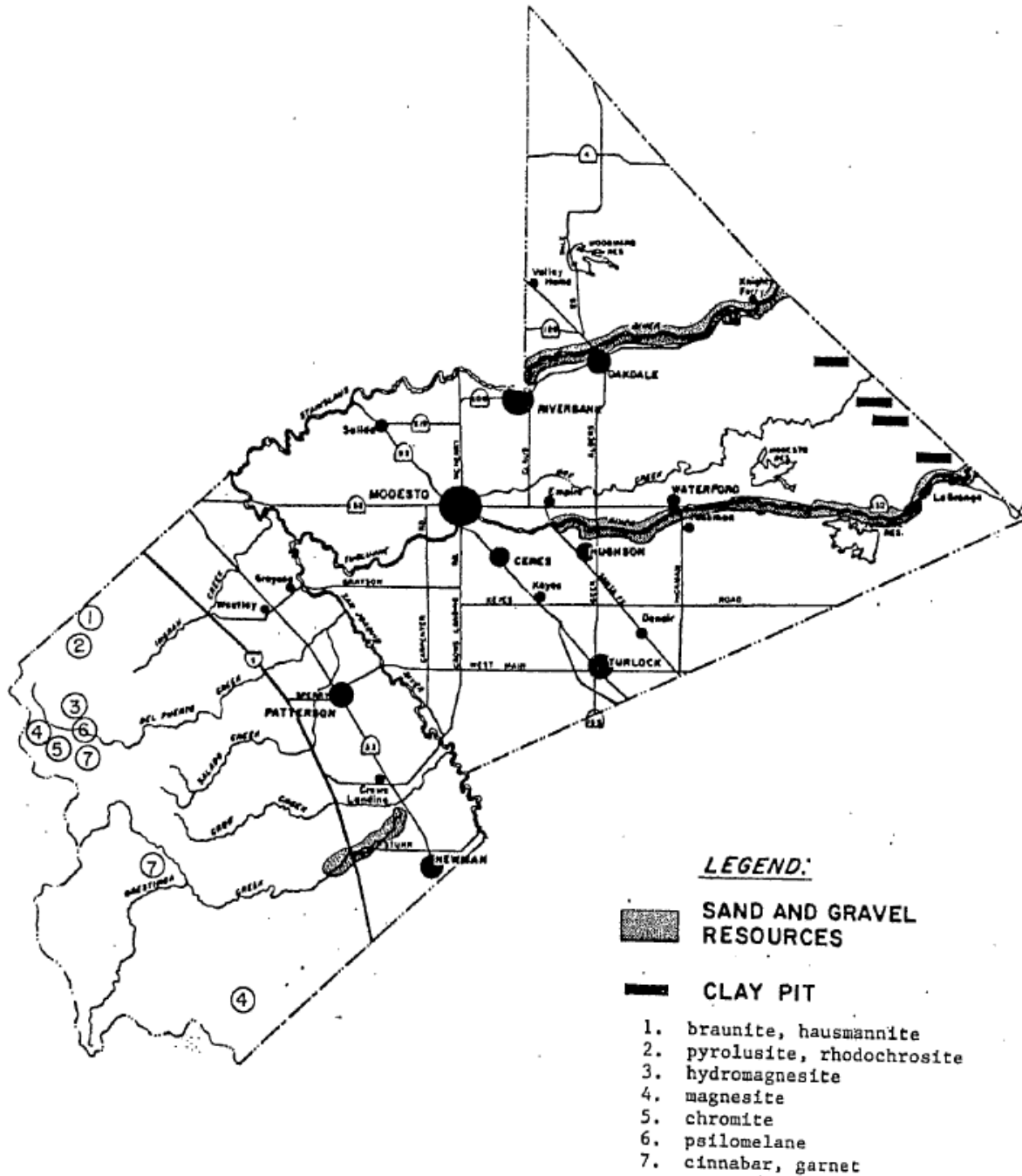
According to the Stanislaus County General Plan, which relies upon the State Division of Mines and Geology report, *Mineral Land Classification of Stanislaus County, California (Special Report 173)*, minerals found within the County include: bermentite, braunite, chromite, cinnabar, garnet, gypsum, hausmannite, hydromagnesite, inesite, magnesite, psilomelane, pyrobrsite, and rhodochrosite. Small deposits of gold, clay, and lead are also known to exist within the County. However, commercial extraction of these minerals is difficult or impossible. Although not commercially producing, numerous exploratory oil and gas wells have been drilled within the County and the underlying geological structure of the County indicates oil or gas may be present. Sand and gravel deposits currently constitute the only commercially significant extractive mineral resource in the region.<sup>1</sup> The location of mineral resources in the County can be seen in **Figure 14-1**.

The majority of sand and gravel deposits are a result of stream deposition or dredge tailings. The most significant deposits are found in old stream beds and along rivers and streams such as the San Joaquin River and Orestimba Creek.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Stanislaus County, *General Plan Support Documentation*, June 1987, as revised, p.162.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



**Figure 14-1: Stanislaus County Mineral Resources**

Source: Stanislaus County, *General Plan Support Documentation*, p. 163.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS

### STANDARDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following thresholds for measuring a project's environmental impacts are based on CEQA Guidelines thresholds:

1. Would the Project 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?
2. Would the Project 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?

### LOSS OF AVAILABILITY OF A MINERAL RESOURCE

The Plan area is not identified in the Stanislaus County General Plan as an area with mineral resources. The fact that it is not located along a waterways further suggests it is not a potential source of sand and gravel deposits. No mineral resource recovery sites are located on or in the immediate vicinity of the Plan area. Implementation of the proposed Plan would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or resource recovery site. The Plan will have *no impact* related to mineral resources.

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