



OS 12.4 Permit geothermal heat utilization for space heating in buildings.

Biomass Resources

Biomass resources refer to organic materials, either wastes, residues, or specific crops, that can be converted to an energy fuel to replace conventional sources or directly used in combustion processes. Due to agricultural production in the County, resources exist that enable this technology to be more widely employed.

Policies:

OS 13.1 Encourage economic biomass conversion under sensible environmental controls. (AI 71)

NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES



SMARA mandates the classification of valuable lands in order to protect mineral resources within the State of California subject to urban expansion or other irreversible actions. SMARA also allows the state to designate lands containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance. The California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) has identified a number of significant aggregate resource areas throughout Riverside County.

The non-renewable resources discussed in this element are mineral resources and energy resources. The Mineral Resources section of this element addresses those resources that are classified under the State Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). The Energy Resources section addresses petroleum resources as well as energy conservation.

Mineral Resources

In addition to agricultural production, mineral extraction is an important component of Riverside County's economy. The County has extensive deposits of clay, limestone, iron, sand, and aggregates. Classification of land within California takes place according to a priority list that was established by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) in 1982, or when the SMGB is petitioned to classify a specific area. The SMGB has also established Mineral Resources Zones (MRZ) to designate lands that contain mineral deposits. The State of California has also designated Aggregate Mineral Resource areas within the County. These mineral resource zones are mapped in Figure OS-5.

The classifications used by the state to define MRZs are as follows:

- **MRZ-1:** Areas where the available geologic information indicates no significant mineral deposits or a minimal likelihood of significant mineral deposits.
- **MRZ-2a:** Areas where the available geologic information indicates that there are significant mineral deposits.
- **MRZ-2b:** Areas where the available geologic information indicates that there is a likelihood of significant mineral deposits.
- **MRZ-3a:** Areas where the available geologic information indicates that mineral deposits are likely to exist, however, the significance of the deposit is undetermined.
- **MRZ-4:** Areas where there is not enough information available to determine the presence or absence of mineral deposits.