

Mineral Resources Policies and the Construction Aggregate Industry.
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The extraction of construction aggregates is one of the largest mining activities in the United States. It is also an urban land use. While general policies governing the protection and extraction of these resources exist at the state level, typically the lead agencies responsible for planning, permitting and regulating aggregate mining are local units of government. However, few local agencies have established policies and procedures aimed at the protection and exploitation of these resources. This urban proximity and the lack of local mineral resources policies has resulted in the sterilization of significant reserves in regions of the United States where they are in highest demand. Concerned about the loss of these reserves for future exploitation a few state and local agencies have enacted policies for their protection. It appears there are three conditions common to these resources protection policies: 1) an accurate resources inventory; 2) some form of local agency control over the administration of the resources protection policy; and 3) incorporation into the local planning and zoning documents some form of mineral resources districts within which aggregate extraction is the primary use and other uses are permitted only under conditions that do not sterilize existing reserves. A review of these documents suggests that the protection of aggregate reserves can be an effective and compatible part of the local comprehensive planning process.

ADDITIONAL KEY WORDS: Mineral resources districts; Mineral resources inventories; Resources protection policies; California; Ontario, Canada