


Summary of Key Issues and Review of Alternatives




Section 10.4 Mineral Resources




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Key Topics and Issues	Plan Update Approach (Alternative B)	Existing Framework Plan (Alternative D)	Alternative A	Alternative C
<p>In-Stream Gravel Mining. River deposits are the main source of sand and gravel.</p> <p>How should in-stream gravel mining be conducted to avoid impacts; especially to aquatic habitat, endangered species and river bed elevations.</p> <p>Key Policies: MR-P4, MR-P5 (MR- IM1)</p>	<p>Adds a goal addressing in-stream sand and gravel extraction (MR-G2), adds policies addressing sustainable extraction levels (MR-P4, MR- P5) and supports scientifically based extraction through the CHERT program (MR-IM1).</p>	<p>Contains a policy limiting in-stream extraction to annual bedload levels (2533.9) otherwise largely silent on in-stream mining.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Would not impose County limits on in-stream gravel mining.</p>
<p>Land Use Compatibility. Mineral extraction can conflict with residential use.</p> <p>Given the increased construction of housing</p>	<p>Adds policies addressing right to mine (MR-P2), identification of mineral deposits (MR-P3), future development planning (MR-P8), and location of haul routes (MR-P9). Adds an implementation measure to establish a mineral resource</p>	<p>Contains a general policy to plan future development to avoid interference with mineral deposits (2533.2 now MR-P8).</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Would provide notice and mapping of mining activity as a means to avoid conflict (MR-P9, MR-7).</p>



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<p>near mineral extraction sites, should there be additional measures added to the plan to address land use compatibility?</p> <p>Key Policies: MR-P2</p>	<p>combining zone (MR-IM4).</p>			
<p>Terrace Mining for Sand and Gravel Deposits. Off-channel terrace mining of historical gravel deposits can avoid in-stream mining effects but can result in agricultural and other impacts. Should the County establish policies on commercial terrace mining, given increased regulatory pressure on in-stream mining?</p> <p>Key Policies: MR-P12</p>	<p>Would require full restoration of agricultural productivity on disturbed agricultural lands (MR-P12).</p>	<p>Silent on terrace mining in particular but would seem to support agricultural land conversion through reclamation for alternative land uses (2533.3).</p>	<p>Prohibits terrace mining on agricultural lands planned AG and AE (MR-P12).</p>	<p>Would allow conversion of agricultural lands to wetlands or open water. (MR-P12).</p>

Plan Alternatives Comparison Chart Section 10.4 Mineral Resources




Plan Alternative				Section 10.4 Mineral Resources	Staff Remarks/Implementation	Position R, M, D
10.4 Goals						
A	B	C	D	MR-G1. Long-Term Supply of Mineral Resources. A geographically distributed inventory of mining sites protected from incompatible land uses, permitted and operated to prevent significant environmental impacts and to satisfy long-term demand for mineral resources and construction materials.		
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C		MR-G2. In-stream Sand and Gravel Extraction. Continued supplies of in-stream sand and gravel using extraction methods and rates that support threatened or endangered species recovery, protect riparian corridors, and preserve existing river bed elevations.		
				COMMENTS:		
10.4 Policies						
A	B	C	D	MR-P1. Production and Conservation. Encourage the production and conservation of minerals, while preserving to the maximum extent feasible the values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, science, and aesthetic enjoyment.	Leg, QJ S-1 	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-P2. Right to Mine. Discretionary projects within 600 feet in the vicinity of vested and	Edited for clarity.	

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				permitted surface mining extraction sites or along existing haul routes shall be required to record a notice of the right to mine against the property for which a discretionary permit is sought. The notice shall advise owners and subsequent interests in ownership that the existing mining operation has a permitted right to continued mining operations.	QJ IM-2, IM-4	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C	D	MR-P3. Identify Mineral Deposits. The County shall maintain an inventory of the county's mineral deposits and mining sites.	Prog IM-2	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-P4. Sand and Gravel Extraction and Mean Annual Recruitment. Annual in-stream gravel extraction prescriptions shall be based on maintaining long-term extraction rates below the best available scientific estimate of Mean Annual Recruitment for the affected river segment.	QJ IM-1 	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-P5. Over-subscribed River Segments and New Permit Applications. New permit applications for in-stream mining shall not be approved on over-subscribed river segments where the total existing entitled permit extraction volumes, as stated in Conditional Use Permits or Reclamation Plans, exceeds the best available scientific estimate of Mean Annual Recruitment, unless it can be conclusively shown that the current estimate of Mean Annual Recruitment is inaccurate and the river segment is not over-subscribed.	QJ IM-1 	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C	D	MR-P6. Water Diversion Projects. Evaluate significant water diversion projects that reduce the replenishment rate of in-stream gravel, taking into account the impact the projects would have on local mineral supplies in Humboldt County.	QJ IM-1 	

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				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-P7. Reclamation for Alternative Uses. Ensure adverse environmental effects are prevented or mitigated to the fullest extent feasible and that Mined lands are shall be environmentally restored and reclaimed to a usable condition for the uses allowed by the site's General Plan and zoning designation, which is readily adaptable for alternative land uses under the General Plan.	New recommended version of MR-P7. Previous version would seemingly allow land use conversion through the reclamation process. QJ 	
				COMMENTS:		
			D	MR-P7. Reclamation for Alternative Uses. Ensure adverse environmental effects are prevented or mitigated to the fullest extent feasible and that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition, which is readily adaptable for alternative land uses under the General Plan.	(2533.3) QJ 	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B		D	MR-P8. Future Development Planning. Plan future development such that it will not interfere with the utilization of identified mineral deposits.	Leg 	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C	D	MR-P9. Location of Mineral Haul Routes. Require new mineral haul routes to avoid incompatible areas such as landslides, highly erodible soils, residential areas, and schools, when feasible.	QJ	

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				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-P10. Maintenance of Mineral Haul Routes. Haul routes involving the county public road system shall be <u>suitable for truck traffic and maintained in satisfactory condition.</u> <u>Permits for mining operations shall be conditioned to ensure that County road standards are met and/or pay for their proportional share of maintenance costs as determined by the Department of Public Works, if and when a funding mechanism is established.</u>	QJ Edited for consistency with state law. IM-6 (see newly proposed IM-6)	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-P11. Permit Conditions to Reduce Impacts. Permit conditions for mineral extraction operations shall address allowable dust and noise levels, hours of operation, fencing, traffic, access, setbacks, and other performance standards necessary to minimize significant environmental impacts and reduce conflicts with adjacent development.	QJ S-1 	
				COMMENTS:		
	B			MR-P12. Off-Channel Terrace Mining. Off-channel commercial terrace mining of sand and gravel deposits on lands planned for agriculture (AG and AE) shall be conditioned to restore pre-mining agricultural productivity through prompt reclamation of disturbed areas.	New policy recommended by staff to establish policy for off-channel terrace mining. QJ 	
				COMMENTS:		
A				MR-P12. Off-Channel Terrace Mining. Off-channel commercial terrace mining of sand and gravel deposits on lands planned for agriculture (AG and AE) <u>is prohibited, shall be conditioned</u>	See <u>underline</u> and strike through text	

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			to restore pre-mining agricultural productivity through prompt reclamation of disturbed areas.	for differences with Alternative B.	
			COMMENTS:		
		C	MR-P12. Off-Channel Terrace Mining. Off-channel commercial terrace mining of sand and gravel deposits on lands planned for agriculture (AG and AE) shall be conditioned to restore pre-mining agricultural productivity through prompt reclamation of disturbed areas <u>or create permanent wetland or open water features. These features shall be designed to provide sustained habitat values and avoid the potential for active channel capture and impacts to groundwater resources.</u>	Would allow terrace mining conversion of agricultural land to open water or wetlands.	
			COMMENTS:		
		D	2533.5 Residual Hazards. Ensure elimination of residual hazards to public health and safety.		
			COMMENTS:		
		D	2533.6 Community Character. Prevent the disruption of community character in siting and planning mineral resource extraction operations.		
			COMMENTS:		
		D	2533.10 Bank Protection. (1) Maintain necessary public or private roads, (2) protect principal structures in danger from erosion, (3) protect lands designated "agriculture-exclusive" from erosion.		
			COMMENTS:		
		D	2533.12 On-Site Extraction and Use The operation of borrow pits on Resource Production	(see standard S-5)	

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				Lands (timber, agriculture) for non-commercial purposes shall be considered a principle use necessary to maintain the primary use of the land.		
				COMMENTS:		
			D	2533.13 Subdivision for Mineral Extraction The subdivision to create parcels which are for the primary purpose of providing road and construction material shall be consistent with this Plan.	(see standard S-6)	
				COMMENTS:		
10.4 Standards						
A	B	C	D	MR-S1. Surface Mining Standards. Surface mining operations shall conform to standards contained in Surface Mining and Reclamation Act Ordinance, Title III, Division 9, County Ordinance #1373 as amended.	QJ 	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C	D	MR-S2. Timberland Conversion. Timberland conversion as a consequence of surface mining activities shall meet the requirements of the California Forest Practices Act.	QJ 	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-S3. Permitted Land Use Designations. SMARA mining operations shall be conditionally permitted in all land use and zoning designations.	QJ 	
				COMMENTS:		

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	B	C		MR-S4. Reclamation Permit Requirements. Reclamation of conditionally permitted mining operations may be ministerially approved if consistent with the Conditional Use Permit, CEQA evaluation, and approved Reclamation Plan.	Min	
				COMMENTS:		
	B	C	D	MR-S5. Forest and Agricultural Borrow Pits. Borrow pits to support farming activities and timber road construction and maintenance operations shall be considered a principally permitted use when operated within SMARA exemption parameters, a grading permit is secured and the activity is otherwise consistent with this Chapter.	Min	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C	D	MR-S6. Subdivision for Mineral Production. Subdivisions shall be allowed to create parcels dedicated exclusively to the production of mineral resources.	QJ	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B	C	D	MR-S7. Hearing Notification. For discretionary decisions associated with SMARA mining operations, public notice shall be provided to landowners within 600 feet of the mining operation or 1,500 feet from any associated processing plant, and along proposed local and collector street haul routes. Similarly, for discretionary projects within 600 feet of mining operations, notice shall be provided to the mine owners.	QJ	
				COMMENTS:		
13.6 Implementation Measures						

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A	B			MR-IM1. Scientific Review of In-stream Mining. The County shall maintain and support the County of Humboldt Extraction Review Team (CHERT) to advise the County on in-stream mining methods, extraction volumes and environmental impacts.	Prog	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-IM2. Mapping of Mineral Deposits and Mine Sites. The County shall maintain GIS maps of the county's known mineral deposits and mining sites.	Prog	
				COMMENTS:		
A				MR-IMx. Pursue Mapping of Mineral Deposits. The County shall coordinate with the State Mining and Geology Board to initiate the Mineral Land Classification process to identify lands in Humboldt County that contain economically significant mineral deposits.		
A	B	C	D	MR-IM3. Development Consultant. The County shall hire a consulting firm of its choosing qualified in surface mining and reclamation practices to advise the County when surface mineral deposits of five acres or more are proposed for development and when an environmental impact report (EIR) is required. This should include, but is not limited to, EIR preparation, mitigation measures, and reclamation plans. The consultant's fees should be paid via reimbursements from the mine developers. Hiring of the consultant shall be conditioned upon entry into an agreement with the applicant. The applicant shall be provided with a list of potential consultants.	QJ	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-IM4. Combining Zone. Establish a mineral resources (MR) combining zone to facilitate implementation of the County's regulations for surface mining, conservation, and reclamation. The purpose of the MR combining zone is to ensure compatibility of adjacent uses. The MR combining zone shall be applied to parcels with permitted surface mining operations and to	Leg, QJ	

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				parcels within 600 feet of permitted surface mining extraction sites and existing haul routes on local and collector streets.		
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-IM5. Coordination with the Air Quality Management District. The County shall coordinate with the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District during discretionary review of proposed mining operations in ultramafic rock areas with naturally occurring asbestos to develop asbestos control plans for the duration of quarrying activities.	QJ	
				COMMENTS:		
A	B			MR-IM6. Fees to Offset Road Use by Vehicles Transporting Mineral Products. <u>The County shall research and establish haul road charges by ordinance to address impacts by gravel operations, consistent with state fee or assessment law.</u>	New recommended implementation measure to support P10. Prog	
				COMMENTS:		