



# reclamation

## Restoring Environmental Heritage – Sustaining Communities

**Mining aggregates and manufacturing materials starts the story, restoring and reusing the land continues our journey**



Did you know: In 2025, 896 mines are considered active, idle, or newly permitted, representing 247,000 acres under permit. Less than .2 % of State Lands.

Citation Link: DMR ALL Mines - <https://maps-cnra-cadoc.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/dmr-all-mines> - July 2025

### **CALCIMA**

California Construction and Industrial Materials Association

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- Providing building materials for roads, houses, schools, buildings, and all other infrastructure is only part of an operation. After producing aggregates and industrial minerals, land is restored or transformed into a variety of valuable end uses.
- The California aggregates and industrial minerals industries reclaim land to at least 44 diverse and desirable uses.
- Thousands of acres of wetlands and wildlife habitat are created or restored by California aggregate and industrial mineral producers.
- Conservation, restoration, and environmental protection are the most prevalent uses of reclaimed land in California.
- In California, recreation is the second most frequent use of reclaimed land, followed by agriculture and grazing.
- The California Office of Mine Reclamation reports that, statewide, aggregate and industrial mineral producers reclaimed over 33,000 acres of land during the decade 1990-2000.
- Many land use projects are the result of successful partnerships between aggregate and mineral producers, communities, and local / county governments.



### Uses of Reclaimed Sites

- Native Plant Re-vegetation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Open Space
- Parks
- Sports Fields
- Campgrounds
- Fish Spawning
- Waterfowl Habitat
- Riparian and Wetland Habitat
- Waterslide Resort
- Swimming
- River Rafting
- Fishing
- Boating/Water Skiing
- Bicycle and Horse Trails
- Hiking and Walking Trails
- Golf Courses
- Amphitheatres
- Government Buildings
- Schools
- Housing
- Water Quality Improvement
- Cattle Grazing/Pasture
- Cropland/Clover
- Orchards
- Nut Trees
- Vineyards
- Christmas Tree Farms
- University Research
- Nature Center
- Nature Trails
- K-12 Programs
- Government Training
- Office Parks
- Light Industrial
- Heavy Industry
- Groundwater Recharge
- Composting
- Water Supply
- Sanitary Landfill
- Flood Control



# quick smara facts



## Over the past 50 years, SMARA has shaped the management and closure of mining operations across California:

- SMARA became effective January 1, 1976.
- 1,970 mines are currently tracked in the California Mine Database.
- Since the law’s passage, 856 mines have completed reclamation and been formally closed.
- Those operations collectively covered more than 73,000 acres.
- Today, 896 mines are considered active, idle, or newly permitted, representing 247,000 acres under permit.
- Only 29 mines—just over 1% of the total regulated under SMARA—have been abandoned, spanning 2,834 acres.

Mines in California			
<a href="#">SMARA Database - All Mines (California Geoportal)</a>			
Pulled / Analyzed: 7/30/25			
		Permitted Acres	Percent Mines
<b>Never Operated</b>	49	4,559	2%
<b>Reclamation in Progress</b>	140	22,136	7%
<b>Reclaimed Facilities (Reclaimed, No Intent to Resume-Reclaimed; Closed Administratively)</b>	856	73,735	43%
<b>Producing Mines (Active, Idle, Newly Permitted)</b>	896	247,661	45%

## Additional Resources

[CalCIMA - About Mining](#)

[CalCIMA - Environment](#)

[CalCIMA - Reclamation](#)