



Nothing gets built without aggregates.

fast facts

About California's Aggregate Industry...



- **California is the nation's leading producer of construction aggregates.**
- **Aggregates are key to construction:** Sand, gravel, and crushed stone are the first step in the construction process. They are used for making cement, concrete, and asphalt, as well as many other building materials. Without aggregates, construction can't commence.
- **Every Californian uses over 5-7 tons of construction aggregates annually.** Statewide, that is a total of, on average, 229 million tons of annual production (based on 1999-2007).¹
- **In recent years, the aggregate and construction industries supported 1.8 million jobs and California workers earned over \$86 billion from aggregate and construction activities.** Combined economic impact of the aggregate and construction industries in California makes it the fourth largest industry in California.²
- **Nationwide, about 43% of all construction aggregates are for public works projects paid by taxpayers.**³
- **California sand and gravel producers reclaim land to 44 different uses.** The most common usage is conservation – open space, wildlife habitat, and wetlands – followed by recreation and agriculture. During the 1990s, all types of reclamation statewide exceeded 33,000 acres, a size greater than the land area of the City and County of San Francisco.⁴
- **Transporting from shorter distances saves money.** The cost of trucking aggregates increases 15 cents per ton for every mile hauled. Given that even one mile of a six lane highway requires over 110,000 tons of aggregates, each mile of transport would add one-half million dollars to the base cost of the aggregates for such a project.⁵
- **Transporting from shorter distances protects the environment and reduces traffic.** If trip length can be reduced by even 15 miles, then diesel fuel consumption can be reduced by 44 million gallons annually, truck emissions by 835 tons per year and greenhouse gases by 400,000 metric tons!⁶
- **Aggregate supplies for many California population centers are running out.** A recent state study indicates we may have only a 16 year supply at current rates of consumption. In particular, 4 areas of the state may have less than a 10 year supply. These supply deficiencies will directly affect California's infrastructure and quality of life.⁷
- **Recycled concrete and asphalt help build sustainable communities.** California's aggregate producers are in the forefront for promoting the use of recycled construction materials. Sand and gravel operators help direct these materials from landfills by crushing millions of tons of used concrete and asphalt pavement into construction aggregates.

CALCIMA

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¹ Non-Fuel Minerals Report, California Geological Survey

² The Importance of Aggregates and Construction to California's Economy, Applied Development Economics & e concepts, 2004

³ Coopers & Lybrand, Feb. 1998

⁴ Reclamation Survey: A Pilot Study on Reclamation Activities of CMAC Member Companies, e-concepts, Dec. 2001

⁵ Aggregate Availability in California, California Geological Survey, Feb. 2007

⁶ Construction Aggregate Supply Limitations: Estimates of Economic Impact, Caltrans, 2007

⁷ Aggregate Availability in California