PLATE 8
GYPSIFEROUS-SOIL- AND ROCK-SUSCEPTIBILITY MAP FOR THE
ST. GEORGE–HURRICANE METROPOLITAN AREA

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DESCRIPTION

Gypsum-bearing soil and rock are subject to dissolution of the gypsum (CaSO₄·2H₂O), which causes a loss of internal structure and volume. Where the percentage of gypsiferous silt and clay and local gypsum, collectively referred to as gypcrete, that caps sloping irregular surfaces that cut across deposits derived from them are commonly associated with dissolution and collapse features.

Regarding special studies, the UGS recommends performing a site-specific geotechnical foundation/geologic-hazards study for all development at all locations in the St. George–Hurricane Metropolitan Area.

These bedrock units contain abundant gypsum, often in laterally continuous horizons up to several feet thick, and they and the alluvial deposits underlain them are commonly associated with dissolution and collapse features. These features include structural heave, surface settlement, and slope instability. Early recognition and avoidance of this condition is the most effective way to mitigate potential problems.

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