

1 **3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES**

AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES ³ - Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Natural Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Pub. Resources Code, § 12220, subd. (g)), timberland (as defined by Pub. Resources Code, § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Gov. Code, § 51104, subd. (g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 **3.2.1 Environmental Setting**

3 The Project area is located 2 miles east-northeast of Niland, Imperial County, in the
 4 central basin of the Colorado Desert. Niland is a small community on the southeast side
 5 of the Salton Sea, approximately 80 miles southeast of Palm Springs and 19 miles north
 6 of Brawley. Agriculture lands occur south of the Salton Sea extending to the Mexico
 7 border in central Imperial County. No agriculture or forested lands are present on or
 8 near the 640-acre School Lands parcel containing the two parcels proposed for sale.
 9 The proposed purchasers of the School Lands parcels plan to continue the existing

³ In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the State's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

1 uses (current baseline conditions) associated with the respective parcels. Any other
2 uses and potential impacts are too speculative for evaluation.

3 **3.2.2 Regulatory Setting**

4 No federal, State, or local agricultural or forestry-related goals, policies, and/or
5 regulations are applicable to the Project area as no agriculture or forest lands or
6 activities occur on the 640-acre School Lands parcel containing the two parcels
7 proposed for sale.

8 **3.2.3 Impact Analysis**

9 ***a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide***
10 ***Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the***
11 ***Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Natural Resources***
12 ***Agency, to non-agricultural use?***

13 ***b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act***
14 ***contract?***

15 ***c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined***
16 ***in Pub. Resources Code, § 12220, subd. (g)), timberland (as defined by Pub.***
17 ***Resources Code, § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined***
18 ***by Gov. Code, § 51104, subd. (g))?***

19 ***d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest***
20 ***use?***

21 ***e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location***
22 ***or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or***
23 ***conversion of forest land to non-forest use?***

24 **No Impact.** The proposed sale of School Lands will not affect agricultural or forestry-
25 related uses as there are no such lands or uses within the 640-acre School Lands
26 parcel containing the two smaller Project parcels.

27 **3.2.4 Summary**

28 Based upon the above considerations, no impacts to agriculture and forest resources
29 are expected to occur as a result of the proposed sale of School Lands.