## 3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Potentially Significant Impact</th>
<th>Less Than Significant with Mitigation</th>
<th>Less Than Significant Impact</th>
<th>No Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>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))?</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>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?</td>
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</table>

### 3.2.1 Environmental Setting

The portion of the onshore Project site at LFCPF that is not developed with oil and gas-related facilities is zoned for agricultural use (AG-II-100 and AG-II-320). A small portion of the leased property in the lower canyon is currently used as an avocado orchard.

### 3.2.2 Regulatory Setting

#### 3.2.2.1 Federal and State

Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to this issue area and relevant to the Project are identified in Table 3.2-1.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.
Table 3.2-1. Laws, Regulations, and Policies (Agriculture and Forest Resources)

| CA | Williamson Act (Gov. Code, §§ 51200-51207) | This Act enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners to restrict specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use, and provides landowners with lower property tax assessments in return. Local government planning departments are responsible for the enrollment of land into Williamson Act contracts. Generally, any commercial agricultural use would be permitted within any agricultural preserve. In addition, local governments may identify compatible uses permitted with a use permit. |
| CA | Coastal Act Chapter 3 policies (see also Table 1-3) | Coastal Act policies applicable to this issue area are:  
- Section 30241 (Prime agricultural land; maintenance in agricultural production);  
- Section 30241.5 (Agricultural land; determination of viability of uses; economic feasibility evaluation);  
- Section 30242 (Lands suitable for agricultural use; conversion); and  
- Section 30243 (Productivity of soils and timberlands; conversions). |

1. 3.2.2.2 Local

In addition to the State regulation regarding agricultural resources, the Agricultural Element adopted by SBC (2009) includes the following policies and development standards to minimize potentially significant impacts resulting from the conversion of land from agricultural uses:

- **Policy IA:** The Integrity of agricultural operations shall not be violated by recreational or other non-compatible uses.

- **Policy ID:** The use of the Williamson Act (Agricultural Preserve Program) shall be strongly encouraged and supported. The County shall also explore and support other agricultural land protection programs.

- **Policy IF:** The quality and availability of water, air, and soil resources shall be protected through provisions including but not limited to, the stability of rural/urban boundary lines, maintenance of buffer areas around agricultural areas, and the promotion of conservation practices.

- **Policy IID:** Conversions of highly productive agricultural lands whether urban or rural, shall be discouraged. The County shall support programs that encourage the retention of highly productive agricultural lands.

- **Policy IIIB:** It is a County priority to retain blocks of productive agricultural lands within urban areas where reasonable to continue to explore programs to support that use, and to recognize the importance of the objective of the County’s right to farm ordinance.
Environmental Analysis and Checklist - Agriculture and Forest Resources

3.2.3 Impact Analysis

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?

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

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))?  

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

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?

a) - e). No Impact. With respect to agricultural resources, only the onshore portion of the Project is applicable. The Project includes the removal of existing cables and replacement of those cables within the same corridor/conduit within the LFCPF and El Capitan SB (manhole) staging area. The LFCPF has been zoned in accordance with agricultural use, however is primarily being used in support of the existing LFCPF oil and gas processing activities. A small portion of the LFCPF site is currently used for avocado orchards; however, this use is compatible with the existing oil and gas processing activities on site. There is no agricultural development in proximity to the El Capitan SB construction area. Additionally, there are no forest lands within the vicinity of the onshore Project site(s), therefore, no impact to forest land would result.

The Project would not convert any agricultural lands to a non-agricultural use or result in potential impacts to adjacent agricultural uses. The Project would not conflict with existing zoning as the facility and cable operations currently exist as a compatible use within this agriculturally zoned area. No agricultural land would be taken out of use during Project implementation. No impact to agricultural resources would result.

3.2.4 Mitigation Summary

The Project would not result in significant impacts to Agriculture and Forest Resources; therefore, no mitigation is required.