

1 **3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES**

<b>AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES<sup>3</sup></b> - Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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 portion of the onshore Project site at LFCPF that is not developed with oil and gas-  
 4 related facilities is zoned for agricultural use (AG-II-100 and AG-II-320). A small portion  
 5 of the leased property in the lower canyon is currently used as an avocado orchard.

6 **3.2.2 Regulatory Setting**

7 3.2.2.1 Federal and State

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

<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 30241 (Prime agricultural land; maintenance in agricultural production);</li> <li>• Section 30241.5 (Agricultural land; determination of viability of uses; economic feasibility evaluation);</li> <li>• Section 30242 (Lands suitable for agricultural use; conversion); and</li> <li>• Section 30243 (Productivity of soils and timberlands; conversions).</li> </ul>

1    3.2.2.2        Local

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

- 6        • **Policy IA:** The Integrity of agricultural operations shall not be violated by  
 7        recreational or other non-compatible uses.
- 8        • **Policy ID:** The use of the Williamson Act (Agricultural Preserve Program) shall  
 9        be strongly encouraged and supported. The County shall also explore and  
 10       support other agricultural land protection programs.
- 11       • **Policy IF:** The quality and availability of water, air, and soil resources shall be  
 12       protected through provisions including but not limited to, the stability of  
 13       rural/urban boundary lines, maintenance of buffer areas around agricultural  
 14       areas, and the promotion of conservation practices.
- 15       • **Policy IID:** Conversions of highly productive agricultural lands whether urban or  
 16       rural, shall be discouraged. The County shall support programs that encourage  
 17       the retention of highly productive agricultural lands.
- 18       • **Policy IIIB:** It is a County priority to retain blocks of productive agricultural lands  
 19       within urban areas where reasonable to continue to explore programs to support  
 20       that use, and to recognize the importance of the objective of the County’s right to  
 21       farm ordinance.

1 **3.2.3 Impact Analysis**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 **3.2.4 Mitigation Summary**

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