

1 **3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES**

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES⁶ - 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 site consists of dredged materials, and contains sand dunes and invasive
 4 species vegetation like saltcedar, mesquite series, arrow weed series, creosote bush
 5 series, sand dunes, and desert wash/riparian. It is currently being used as an OHV
 6 recreational use. There is no land designated for agricultural use within or around the
 7 Project site.

8 **3.2.2 Regulatory Setting**

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

⁶ 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 Forestry 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.
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The following local goals and policies related to agriculture and forestry resources are from the San Bernardino County 2007 General Plan include (SBC 2007):

- Chapter V. Conservation Element – Section C. Countywide Goals and Policies of the Conservation Element. 5. Soils/Agriculture Goals:
 - **CO 6.1.** The protection of prime agricultural lands from the adverse effects of urban encroachment, particularly increased erosion and sedimentation, trespass, and non-agricultural land development.
 - **CO 6.3.** The preservation of prime and statewide important soil types, as well as exhibiting viable agricultural operations will be considered as an integral portion of the Open Space element when reviewing development proposals.
 - **CO 6.4.** Provide and maintain a viable and diverse agricultural industry in San Bernardino County.

3.2.3 Impact Analysis (CEQA)

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 Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

No Impact. The Project would not impact the County’s goal to: recognize commercial agriculture as a desirable land use type and a major segment of the County's economic base; identify areas where agriculture is the primary land use but where other secondary uses that directly support agricultural uses may be permitted; preserve the agricultural base of the County economy and encourage the open space values of these uses; provide areas for both intensive and extensive agricultural pursuits; and identify areas of commercial (prime and non-prime) agricultural soils and operations.

The California Resources Agency (CRA) defines Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance for the County as farmlands which include dryland grains of wheat, barley, oats, and dryland pasture. As described in the County General Land Use Plan, there are no agriculture or forest lands because the Project area does not meet the CRA’s characteristics. Therefore, the Project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to

1 the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources
2 Agency.

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

5 **No Impact.** The Project site is designated for “Open Space” and is not
6 designated as agricultural land use or under a Williamson Act contract.

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

11 **No Impact.** As described above, there is no forest land or timberland in the
12 Project area. Therefore, the Project does not conflict with, nor could it result in
13 the rezoning of forest or timber land.

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

16 **No Impact.** As noted in response to item **c)** above, the Project would not include
17 any forest land. Therefore, the Project would not result in the loss of forest land
18 or convert forest land to a non-forest use.

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

22 **No Impact.** As noted in responses to items **a)** and **d)** above, the Project would
23 not change the existing environment such that farmland or forest land would be
24 converted to non-agriculture and non-forest land.

25 **3.2.4 Environmental Consequences (NEPA)**

26 **No Action Alternative**

27 The No Action Alternative would have no effect to Agriculture and Forestry Resources
28 because the Project area is no located in the vicinity of farmland or forest land. The
29 dense monotypic stand of vegetation communities consisting of saltcedar, mesquite
30 series, arrow weed series, creosote bush series, sand dunes, and desert wash/riparian
31 would remain the primary type of vegetation within the Project area.

32 **Proposed Action (Project)**

33 The Project would have no effect to Agriculture and Forestry Resources because the
34 Project area is not located in the vicinity of farmland or forest land. Overall, since there
35 are no agricultural and forestry resources within the Project area, the Project would not

1 result in the conversion, rezone, loss of, and/or change prime farmland, unique
2 farmland, farmland, forest land, or timberland.

3 **Cumulative Impacts**

4 No cumulative impacts are anticipated for Agricultural and Forestry Resources as there
5 would be no direct or indirect impact to these resources.

6 **3.2.5 Mitigation Summary (CEQA Only)**

7 The Project would not result in significant impacts to Agriculture and Forestry
8 Resources. Therefore, no mitigation is required.