

1 3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES³ - 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 County’s land area totals 514,023 acres, 262,352 of which are allocated to
 4 farmlands and harvested cropland. The total acreage classified as agricultural land
 5 dropped by approximately 42,646 acres from 1984 to 2010 (Division of Land Resource
 6 Protection [DLRP] 2010). The Project involves a single pipeline located in San Pablo
 7 Bay (Bay) with 140 feet of buried pipeline located onshore in the city of Hercules (City).
 8 The onshore portion is located under the UPRR ROW or under the Park, which is zoned
 9 as public or open space lands. There are no lands designated as Farmland or forested
 10 or timber lands on or in the immediate Project vicinity.

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 **3.2.2 Regulatory Setting**

2 Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to this issue area and relevant to the
3 Project are identified in Table 3-1. Local goals, policies, and/or regulations applicable to
4 this issue area are described below.

5 The City's General Plan states that no land within the incorporated City limits is used for
6 agricultural purposes (City of Hercules 1998) except historic grazing at the Franklin
7 Canyon Muir Land Trust parcel (this area is proposed to resume grazing in the future).

8 The County passed Measure C in 1990 to preserve 65 percent of the County's land as
9 agricultural land, open space and other non-urban uses. The County developed the
10 65/35 Land Preservation Plan, which became part of the General Plan and established
11 Urban Limit Lines (ULL) for urban areas within the County. The City is within the ULL
12 and therefore it allows for urban land uses to be established (Contra Costa County
13 2005).

14 **3.2.3 Impact Analysis**

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

19 **No Impact.** The Project would have no impact on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or
20 Farmland of Statewide Importance because there are no current or planned agricultural
21 uses at the site. The Project site is not classified as Farmland.

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

24 **No Impact.** The Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agriculture because
25 the site is designated as Waterfront Commercial and *Open Space/Parks*. The site is not
26 operated under a Williamson Act contract with any local governments for the purpose of
27 restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use.

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

32 **No Impact.** No forest lands or timberlands are located in the vicinity of the Project site;
33 therefore, there would be no impact.

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

3 **No Impact.** No forest lands or timberlands are located in the vicinity of the Project site;
4 therefore, there would be no impact.

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

8 **No Impact.** The Project would not alter the existing environment such that farmland or
9 forest land would be converted to non-agricultural or non-forest uses.

10 **3.2.4 Mitigation Summary**

11 The Project would not result in significant impacts; therefore, no mitigation is required.