

1 **3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES**

| AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES¹⁰ - 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 is located entirely within the River in Contra Costa County, bordered by
 4 open space and land designated for heavy industrial and commercial use. There is no
 5 land designated for agricultural use within approximately 2 miles of the Project site.

6 **3.2.2 Regulatory Setting**

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

¹⁰ 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 (CARB).

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. |
|----|--|--|

1 Local goals, policies, and/or regulations applicable to this issue area are listed below.
 2 The Project site is within an area of Contra Costa County that was annexed by the city
 3 of Antioch in 2013; however, Contra Costa County information is also provided for
 4 context.

5 The City of Antioch General Plan has general open space protection policies, but no
 6 specific policies for agricultural lands. The Land Use Element of the Contra Costa
 7 County General Plan 1995-2020 contains policies related to agricultural land use.
 8 During Project review, proposed uses on the edges of land use designations are
 9 required to be evaluated to ensure compatibility with adjacent planned uses. Measure
 10 C, passed in 1990, established a 65/35 Land Preservation Standard to limit urban
 11 development to no more than 35 percent of the land in the County. At least 65 percent
 12 of all land in the County is required to be preserved for agriculture, open space,
 13 wetlands, parks, and other non-urban uses.

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

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

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

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

28 **a) to e) No Impact.** As noted in the Project Description, all Project activities would be
 29 conducted in and from the water, thus no agricultural or forest lands would be affected.

1 The Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agriculture because the land
2 adjacent to the site, where the Plant is located, is zoned for heavy industrial and
3 commercial use in the Contra Costa County 2005-2020 General Plan. The site is not
4 operated under a Williamson Act contract with any local governments for the purpose of
5 restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. There are
6 no forest lands or timberlands located in the vicinity of the site and the Project would not
7 alter the existing environment such that farmland or forest land would be converted to
8 non-agricultural or non-forest uses.

9 **3.2.4 Mitigation Summary**

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