

**5.3 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES****5.3.1 Significance Criteria**

The significance criteria listed below were derived from Appendix G, CEQA Guidelines. Impacts to agricultural resources in the project area would be considered significant if the project would:

- Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural land
- Impair the agricultural productivity of prime farmland

**5.3.2 Segment 2 (Antelope – Vincent)**

Construction activities for the proposed 20.0 miles of 500 kV T/L and 0.5 mile of 220 kV T/L would cause a temporary increase in vehicular traffic that may result in a short-duration disruption in farming and grazing activities that are directly associated with the access roads crossed by the proposed T/L route. This potential disruption of farming and grazing would be temporary and intermittent. This would not impair the agricultural productivity of the area or the ability to conduct existing agricultural practices. Such impacts would be less than significant, if they occur at all.

As discussed in Section 4.3, potential Prime Farmland and Farmland of Local Importance exists in two small areas along the route. Grading would occur along the T/L route (e.g., tower locations and access/spur roads), however, this impact to soils would generally be only temporary. Only minor amounts of land would be converted to a new use (for tower placement), and installation and operation of the T/L would not be expected to significantly impair the agricultural productivity of designated farmlands.

**5.3.3 Segment 3 (Antelope to Substations One and Two)**

Approximately 10 miles of the proposed 500 kV T/L (and Alternatives A and B) is within Los Angeles County. The northern portion of the T/L is located in Kern County.

The proposed 500 kV T/L and associated Alternatives A and B traverse small extents of potential Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and grazing land. In order to minimize potential impacts to agricultural resources SCE is proposing to install single-footing TSPs instead of LSTs with four-footings. The grading that would need to occur along the T/L route would generally only temporarily impact soils. Only a minor amount of land would be converted to a new use, and installation of the T/L would not significantly impair the agricultural productivity of the designated farmlands. The aforementioned impact findings also apply to the proposed 220 kV T/L and Alternative C

(220 kV T/L) between Substations One and Two. In summary, project-related impacts to agricultural resources would be less than significant.

### **5.3.4 Proposed and Alternative Substations**

#### **5.3.4.1 Segment 2**

The proposed Segment 2 related electrical tie-ins at the existing Antelope and Vincent Substations would have no effect on agricultural resources.

Proposed construction at the Antelope Substation includes minor modifications and additions of equipment, however, no Prime Farmland or any other important farmland exists within the construction area. Grazing may intermittently occur around the Antelope Substation, however, construction of the additional facilities at this location would not significantly hinder grazing activities. Therefore, no adverse impacts to agricultural resources are anticipated. No important farmland resources occur at the Vincent Substation, and construction at that location would not impact any agricultural resources.

#### **5.3.4.2 Segment 3**

The proposed Segment 3 related electrical tie-ins at the Antelope Substation would have no effect on agricultural resources.

Grazing lands are located at and around proposed and alternative Substations One and Two on the northern portion of Segment 3. However, no Prime, Statewide, Local, or Unique Farmlands occur at the two proposed sites or alternatives. Construction of the new substations would not significantly hinder grazing activities or operations, and no adverse impacts to agricultural resources are anticipated.

### **5.3.5 Operation Impacts**

Although small amounts of designated farmland may be affected by implementing Segments 2 and 3, the project would not convert prime agricultural farmland areas to non-agricultural uses or impair the agricultural productivity of Prime Farmland. Impacts would be less than significant.

### **5.3.6 Mitigation Measures**

No significant impacts to agricultural resources are anticipated, thus no mitigation measures are proposed.