

## 4.15 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

### 4.15 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

This section presents the environmental setting and impact analysis for agricultural and forestry resources resulting from the Proposed Project and its alternatives. This section addresses the baseline agricultural and forestry resources in the Proposed Project and alternative areas, applicable regulations, environmental impacts, and mitigation measures to reduce or avoid significant effects.

#### 4.15.1 Definitions

##### 4.15.1.1 Agricultural Resources

Agricultural resources are defined as land meeting one or more of the following characteristics:

- Designated as Farmland by the California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Land Resource Protection, as identified through the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP);
- Subject to a Williamson Act contract or designated as an agricultural preserve;
- Designated for agricultural use by a local plan; or
- Where active agricultural operations are present.

##### 4.15.1.2 Forestry Resources

Forestry resources are defined as land meeting one or more of the following characteristics:

- Designated as a National or State Forest;
- Subject to a Forest Legacy Program easement;
- Designated as a Timber Production Zone or meets the definition of timberland defined in PRC Section 4526, which is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or capable of growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products;
- Designated by a local plan for forest material extraction or forest conservation;
- Meets the definition of Forest Land defined in PRC Section 12220(g), which is capable of supporting 10-percent native tree cover of any species under natural conditions and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits; or
- Where active forest material extraction operations are present.

#### 4.15.2 Approach to Data Collection

Agricultural resources in the Proposed Project area were identified using data obtained from the DOC, County and City of San Diego, and the SanGIS/San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) GIS Data Warehouse, as well as a review of available aerial imagery and field reconnaissance.

Forestry resources in the Proposed Project area were identified using data obtained from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), County and City of San Diego,

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and SanGIS/SANDAG GIS Data Warehouse, vegetation community data collected for the project, as well as a review of available aerial imagery and field reconnaissance.

### 4.15.3 Environmental Setting

#### 4.15.3.1 Regional Setting

##### **Agricultural Resources**

There are a variety of agricultural resources in the County of San Diego where agricultural commodities are grown or where land that is suitable for agriculture has been identified for conservation to prevent premature development. The County has more farmland than any other county in the United States (5,732 farms covering 305,573 acres) and produces the highest dollar value per acre-crop of any county in California (County of San Diego 2014a). Commercial agricultural commodities produced in the County in 2013 include ornamental trees and shrubs, indoor flowering and foliage plants, fruit and nuts, vegetables and vine crops, apiary products, and livestock and poultry products (County of San Diego 2014a).

##### **Forestry Resources**

There are no lands zoned specifically as forest land, timberland, or timberland production in the County of San Diego; however, the production of wood products is a suitable activity within the Cleveland National Forest (RBF Consulting 2013). The approximately 402,434-acre Cleveland National Forest is located on an extensive portion of the unincorporated County, as well as the approximately 72,000 acres of surrounding privately owned land included in the Forest Conservation Initiative (RBF Consulting 2013). In 2013, timber products accounted for less than 1 percent of the major crop commodities harvested in the County (County of San Diego 2014a).

#### 4.15.3.2 Proposed Project Setting

##### **Agricultural Resources**

The Proposed Project would be located within and adjacent to agricultural resources designated by the State, County of San Diego, and City of San Diego.

##### ***Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program***

The DOC operates the FMMP with the objective to provide maps and statistical data to the public, academia, and local, state, and federal governments to assist informed decision-making regarding California's farmland (DOC 2004; DOC 2014). Under the program, land is rated and mapped for agricultural use based on soil quality and irrigation status (DOC 2004; DOC 2014). FMMP mapped Farmland areas within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Project are listed in Table 4.15-1. Farmland areas within a 1,000 foot buffer around the Proposed Project were evaluated to consider potential indirect effects to Farmland (e.g., impacts to access). FMMP-designated Farmland within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Project includes Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land (DOC 2013a; DOC 2013b). Figures 4.15-1 through 4.15-4 show the locations of DOC-designated Farmland in the Proposed Project area and vicinity.

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**Table 4.15-1 Farmland Categories in the Proposed Project Vicinity**

Important Farmland Categories	Definition	Proposed Project Elements Within 1,000 Feet of FMMP category Farmland
Prime Farmland (P)	Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.	Encina Hub
Unique Farmland (U)	Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated, but may include non-irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.	Segment B and the Evergreen Nursery Staging Yard
Farmland of Local Importance (L) <sup>1</sup>	Land that meets all the characteristics of Prime and Statewide, with the exception of irrigation.  Farmlands not covered by the above categories but are of significant economic importance to the county. They have a history of good production for locally adapted crops. The soils are grouped in types that are suited for truck crops (such as tomatoes, strawberries, cucumbers, potatoes, celery, squash, romaine lettuce, and cauliflower) and soils suited for orchard crops (avocados and citrus).	Segments A, B, C, and D, Encina Hub, and the Stonebridge, SR-56, and Camino Del Sur Staging Yards
Grazing Land (G)	Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. This category was developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other groups interested in the extent of grazing activities. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.	Segments A, B, C, and D, and the Stonebridge, Stowe, and Staging Yards

Note:

<sup>1</sup> The FMMP obtained the definition for Farmland of Local Importance from the County of San Diego. The FMMP defines Farmland of Local Importance as "Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee."

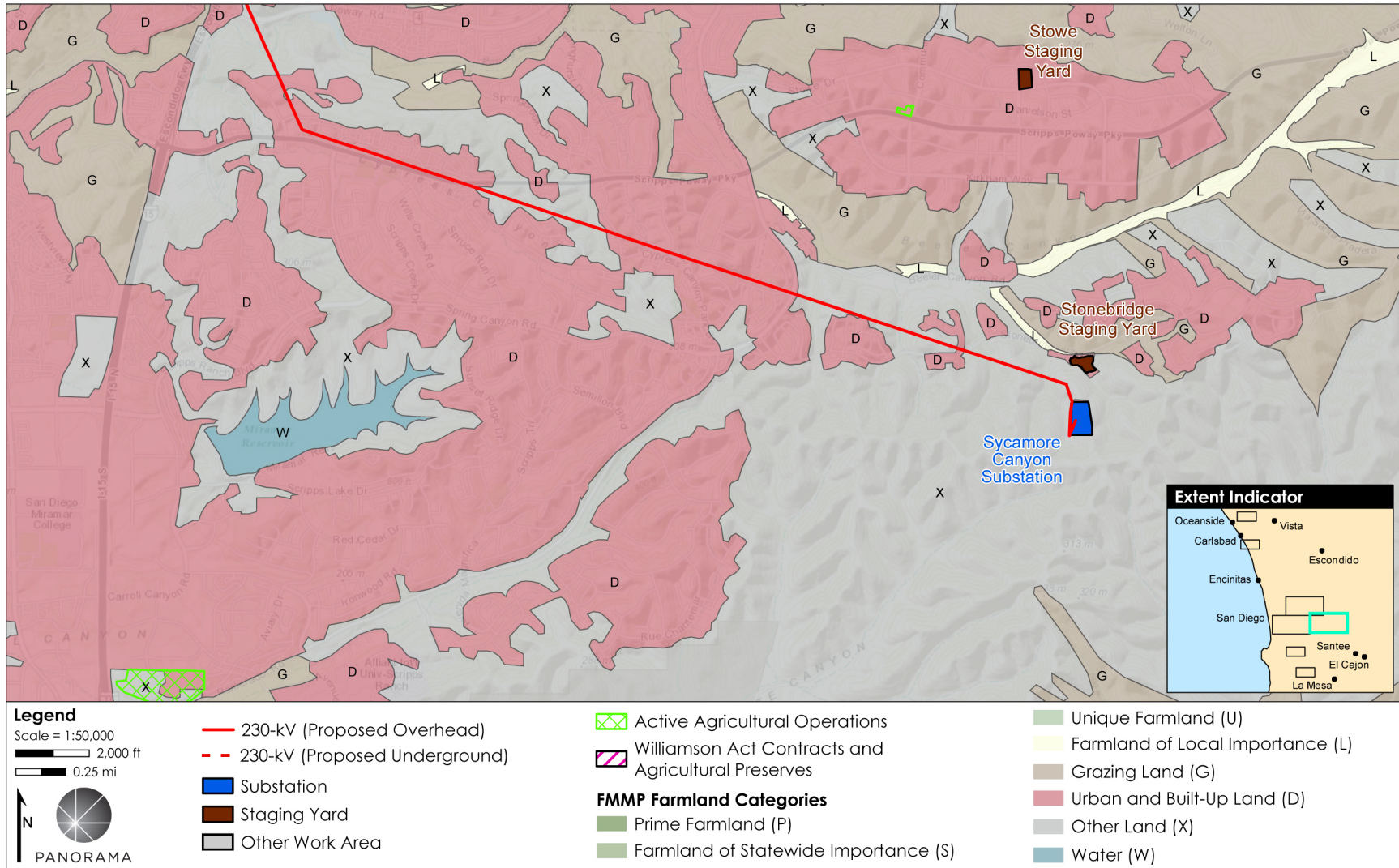
Sources: DOC 2004, 2010, 2013a, 2013b, and 2014

### ***California Land Conservation Act***

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open-space use for periods of 10 to 20 years (DOC 2013b; DOC 2015). The DOC and counties collect and publish program enrollment data in two year increments, the most recent of which was published in the California Land Conservation Act 2012 Status Report (DOC 2013b). Lands subject to a Williamson Act contract or designated by the County as an agricultural preserve in the project area are shown in Figures 4.15-1 through 4.15-4. There is no land subject to a Williamson Act contract within the Proposed Project area.

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**Figure 4.15-1 Agricultural Resources in the Proposed Project Vicinity and Surrounding Region (Map 1 of 4)**

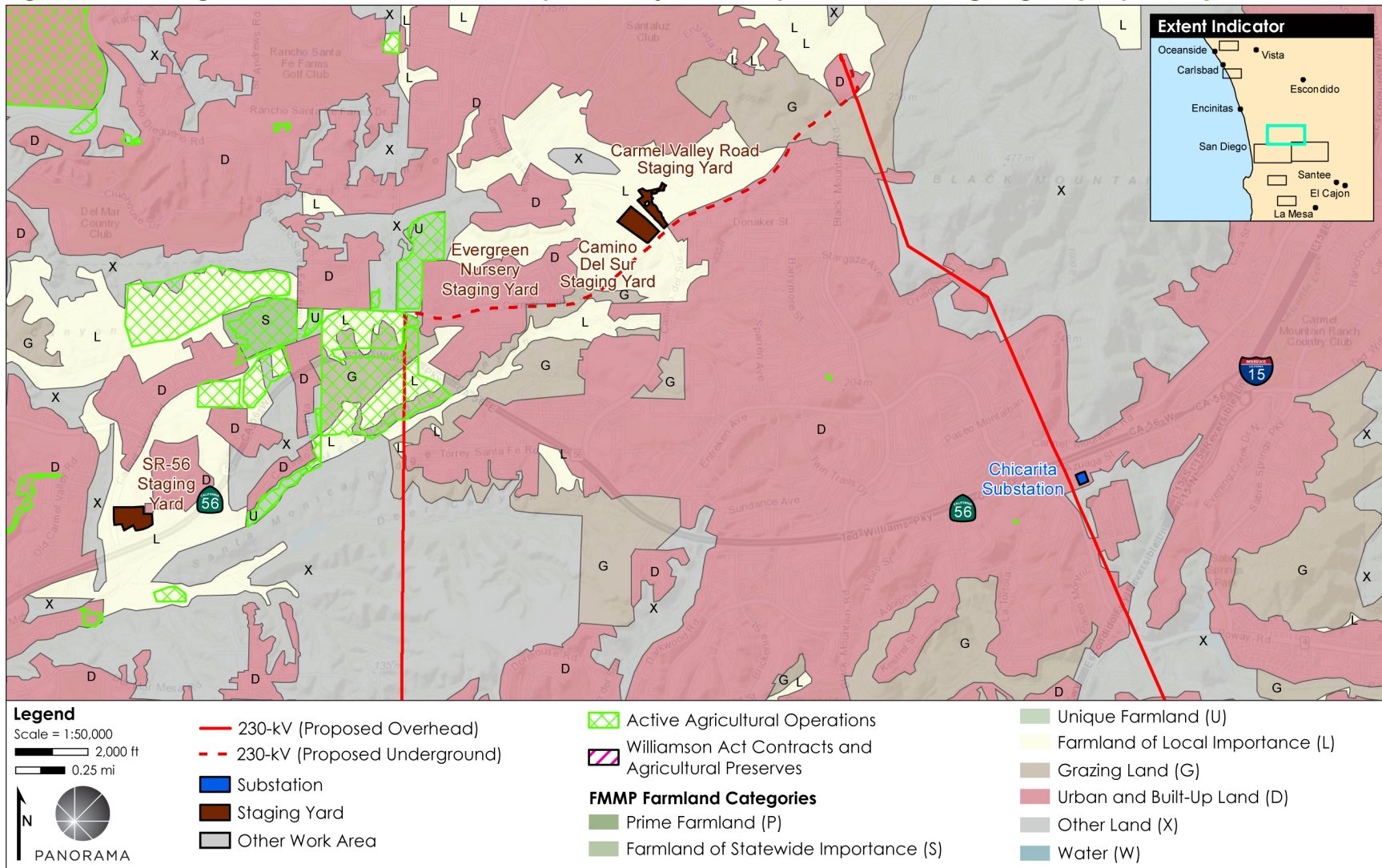


Note: Agricultural and farmland categories in the Proposed Project area do not depict more recent conversions to urban and developed land uses.

Sources: DOC 2013b; County of San Diego 2007 and 2013a

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**Figure 4.15-2 Agricultural Resources in the Proposed Project Vicinity and Surrounding Region (Map 2 of 4)**

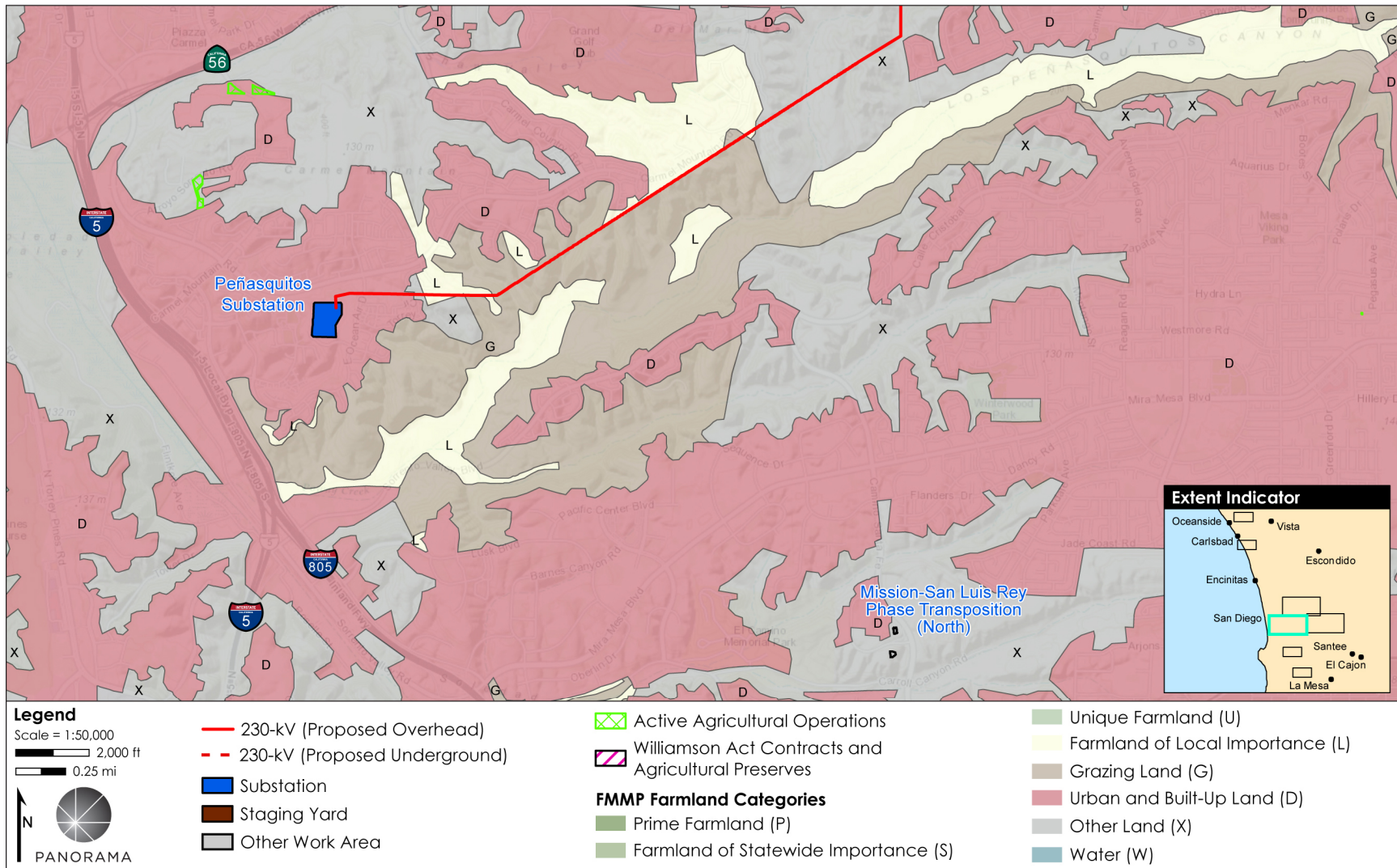


Note: Agricultural and farmland categories in the Proposed Project area do not depict more recent conversions to urban and developed land uses.

Sources: DOC 2013b; County of San Diego 2007 and 2013a

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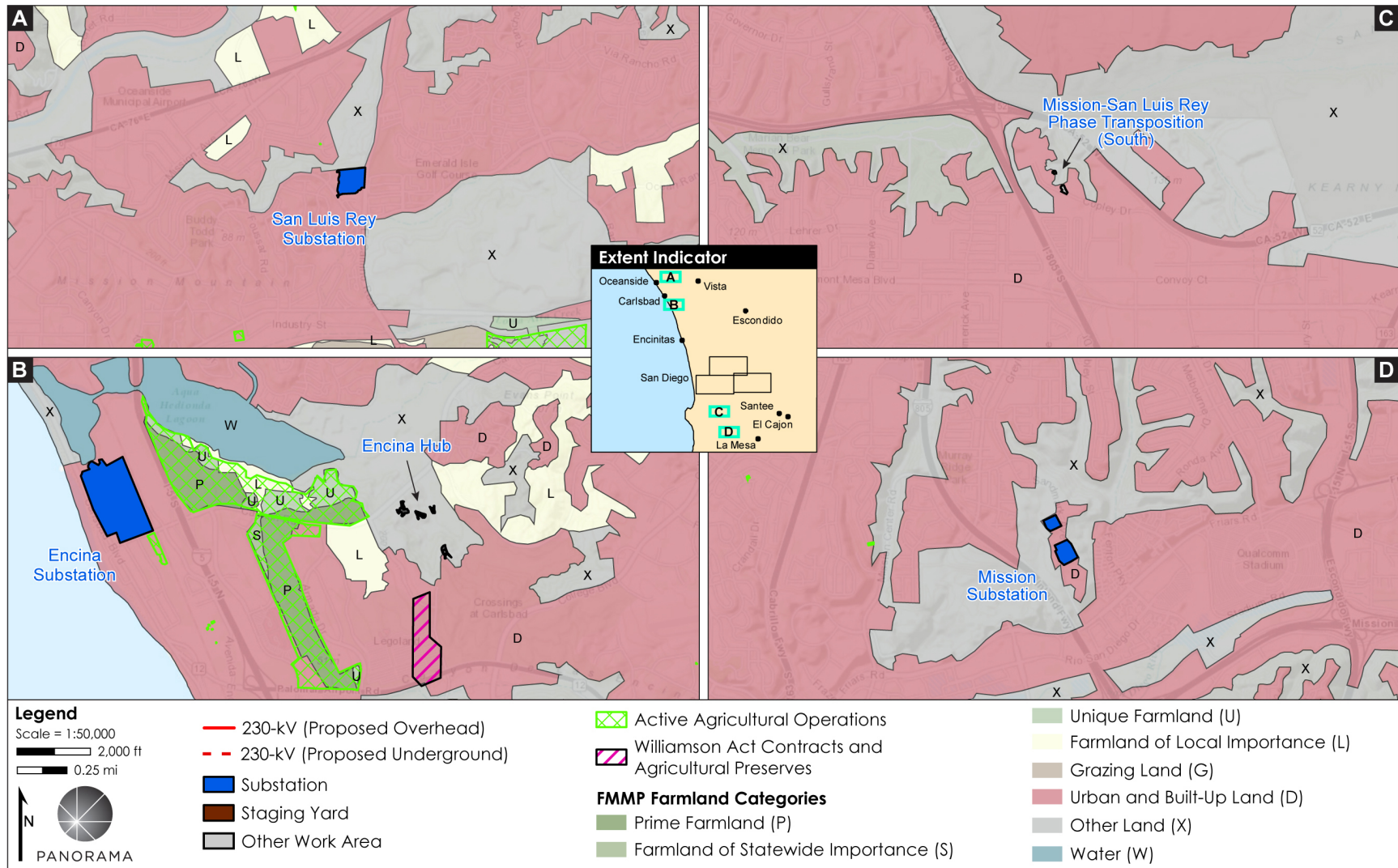
**Figure 4.15-3 Agricultural Resources in the Proposed Project Vicinity and Surrounding Region (Map 3 of 4)**



Note: Agricultural and farmland categories in the Proposed Project area do not depict more recent conversions to urban and developed land uses.  
 Sources: DOC 2013b; County of San Diego 2007 and 2013a

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**Figure 4.15-4 Agricultural Resources in the Proposed Project Vicinity and Surrounding Region (Map 4 of 4)**



Note: Agricultural and farmland categories in the Proposed Project area do not depict more recent conversions to urban and developed land uses.  
 Sources: DOC 2013b; County of San Diego 2007 and 2013a

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### *Local Designation of Agricultural Lands*

The County of San Diego and Cities of San Diego and Poway designate parcels of land with specific land use and zoning designations that restrict or authorize certain activities, including agricultural activities. Local land use designations in the Proposed Project area are addressed in the 2011 San Diego County General Plan, 2008 City of San Diego General Plan, and the 1991 Poway Comprehensive Plan. Zoning designations in the Proposed Project area are addressed in the County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance Summary and Municipal Code for the Cities of Poway and San Diego. Table 4.15-2 lists land use and zoning designations with agricultural components within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Project area. Land use and zoning designations in the Proposed Project area are shown in Section 4.9: Land Use and Planning in Figures 4.9-1 through 4.9-5.

### *Active Agricultural Operations*

A significant portion of the state-, county-, and city-designated agricultural lands in the Proposed Project area are not actively used for agricultural purposes. Conversely, in addition to promoting agricultural land uses, the City of San Diego General Plan includes Policy CE-L.9 that promotes urban agriculture on vacant and underutilized lands that have not been designated for agricultural use (City of San Diego 2012). Therefore, agricultural operations in San Diego may be present outside of state-, county-, or city-designated agricultural lands previously addressed in this section.

Active or recently active agriculture operations<sup>1</sup> (i.e., cultivated land or where known agriculture activities are present) were identified using agricultural commodity data developed by the San Diego County Pesticide Regulatory Program run by the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures, as well as current land use data prepared by SANDAG for regional planning purposes. The only agricultural operation in the Proposed Project area is the Evergreen Nursery, which is proposed as a staging yard. Evergreen Nursery grows and sells landscaping plants, trees, and other planting supplies to the public. Customers of the nursery are permitted to drive around the approximately 40-acre site to shop for plants and trees (Evergreen Nursery 2015).

### **Forestry Resources**

The Proposed Project would be located adjacent to one potential forestry resource designated by the state that is not being harvested for forest products, which is located within Segment A.

### *National and State Forests*

The closest designated forest to the Proposed Project is the Cleveland National Forest, which is located approximately 14 miles northeast of the Sycamore Canyon Substation. There are no state forests in the Proposed Project area or vicinity.

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<sup>1</sup> Agricultural Commodities GIS data was prepared by the County of San Diego in October 2013 using data collected from January 2010 to January 2011 (2013a).



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**Table 4.15-2 Local Agricultural Land Use and Zoning Designations in the Proposed Project Vicinity**

Designation	Description	Project Elements Within 1,000 Feet
<b>City of San Diego Land Use</b>		
Intensive Agriculture	Land designation for agriculture, including row crops, grains, nurseries, greenhouses, flower fields, dairies, livestock, poultry, equine ranches, orchards, and vineyards.	Segment B and the Evergreen Nursery Staging Yard
<b>City of San Diego Zoning</b>		
Agriculture Residential (AR-1-1 and AR-1-2)	The purpose of the AR zones is to accommodate a wide range of agricultural uses while also permitting the development of single dwelling unit homes at a very low density. The agricultural uses are limited to those of low intensity to minimize the potential conflicts with residential uses. This zone is applied to lands that are in agricultural use or that are undeveloped and not appropriate for more intense zoning. Residential development opportunities are permitted with a Planned Development Permit at various densities that will preserve land for open space or future development at urban intensities when and where appropriate. AR-1-1 requires a minimum 10-acre lot size. AR-1-2 requires a minimum 1-acre lot size.	Segments A, B, C, and D, and the Stonebridge, Carmel Valley, Camino Del Sur, and SR-56 Staging Yards
<b>City of Carlsbad Land Use</b>		
Open Space	The Open Space designation for the city includes agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, and flower field land uses.	Encina Hub
<b>City of Carlsbad Zoning</b>		
Exclusive Agricultural (E-A)	The intent and purpose of the E-A zone district is to: (1) Provide for those uses, such as agriculture, which are customarily conducted in areas which are not yet appropriate or suited for urban development; (2) Protect and encourage agricultural uses wherever feasible; (3) Implement the goals and objectives of the general plan; (4) Recognize that agricultural activities are a necessary part of the ongoing character of Carlsbad; and (5) Help assure the continuation of a healthy, agricultural economy in appropriate areas of Carlsbad.	Encina Hub

Sources: City of Carlsbad 2006, 2014; City of Poway 1991, 2014, 2015; City of San Diego 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014a, 2014b; County of San Diego 2011, 2013b, 2014b; SANDAG 2014

### ***Forest Legacy Program***

The Forest Legacy Program in the state is administered by Cal Fire and was developed to protect environmentally important forestland from conversion to non-forest uses (Cal Fire 2014b). The program promotes the use of permanent conservation easements with private landowners to preserve the heritage of private forests (Cal Fire 2014b). Landowners who wish to participate may sell or transfer particular rights, such as the right to develop the property or to allow public access, while retaining ownership of the property and the right to use it in any

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way consistent with the terms of the easement (Cal Fire 2014b). There is no land subject to a Forest Legacy Program easement in the Proposed Project area.

### *Timberland Production Zones and Other Timberland*

Cal Fire produces periodic assessments of forests and rangelands in the state to address their status, threats, and management strategies through the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (Cal Fire 2014a). The most recent assessment was published in the California's Forests and Rangelands: 2010 Assessment (Cal Fire 2014a). Maps and data from the 2010 Assessment were evaluated to determine the presence of forestry resources in the project area, including Timber Production Zones, timber harvesting and management planning areas, and other timberland capable of producing lumber. No Timber Production Zones or active timber harvesting operations are located in the Proposed Project area.

### *Forest Conservation Initiative Lands*

The County of San Diego Forest Conservation Initiative required that private land adjacent to the Cleveland National Forest maintain a minimum lot size of 40 acres; however, the initiative expired in 2010 and land uses for the lots reverted to the pre-Forest Conservation Initiative designations (RBF Consulting 2013). The County is currently in the environmental review process to amend the General Plan in order to address the inconsistency of former Forest Conservation Initiative Lands. There are no former or proposed Forest Conservation Initiative Lands in the project area (RBF Consulting 2013).

### *Native Tree Forests*

The vegetation community coast live oak riparian forest (Holland Code 61310) was observed in Segment A during biological surveys for the Proposed Project (Busby Biological Services, Inc. 2014). The coast live oak riparian forest vegetation community may meet the definition of Forest Land described under PRC 12220(g); however, these locations are riparian corridors along drainage features and are not managed for forest resources. No other native tree vegetation communities were identified during the biological survey of the Proposed Project area that have the potential to support 10-percent native tree cover.

## 4.15.4 Applicable Regulations, Plans, and Standards

### 4.15.4.1 Federal

There are no federal laws or regulations pertaining to agricultural and forestry resources that are applicable to the Proposed Project.

### 4.15.4.2 State

There are no state laws or regulations pertaining to agricultural and forestry resources that are applicable to the Proposed Project.

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### 4.15.4.3 Local

#### City of San Diego General Plan

The 2008 City of San Diego General Plan (2008), as amended in 2010 and 2012, has the following policies to protect agricultural resources.

- CE-L.6 Provide mechanisms to permit private land owners of prime agricultural lands to take advantage of the Williamson Act.
- CE-L.8 Foster an urban agriculture system that is environmentally and economically sustainable.
  - a. Encourage the use of urban agricultural techniques that require reduced land and water use as compared to conventional methods.
- CE-L.9 Increase opportunities for urban agriculture.
  - a. Develop land development regulations that allow urban agricultural uses in appropriate locations, with parameters designed to control potential impacts to neighboring uses and properties.
  - e. Encourage the use of vacant land underutilized lots for urban agriculture.
  - f. Explore potential locations for urban agricultural uses as part of long range plans and other projects.

#### City of Carlsbad General Plan

The 2006 City of Carlsbad General Plan (2006), Conservation Element, has the following policies to promote and protect agriculture in the city that may be applicable to the Proposed Project.

- C.4 Encourage the establishment of new agricultural preserves for areas within the coastal zone designated for agricultural land use.
- C.6 Encourage agricultural use as a permissible land use in areas designated as open space in non-environmentally sensitive areas.
- C.7 Discourage the premature elimination of agricultural land.
- C.9 Assure that urban development takes place in those areas that are the least agriculturally productive.
- C.10 Support and utilize all measures available, including the Williamson Act, not only to prevent premature developments, but also to promote the economic viability of agricultural uses.
- C.11 Utilize proper design criteria for new development to maximize the preservation of agricultural lands.

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- C.14 Manage agricultural land and prime soil as a natural resource and as a significant contrasting land use to the urbanized environment of the City.

### City of Poway

No City of Poway agricultural land use or zoning policies are applicable to the Proposed Project because the project would not be located within 1,000 feet of land designated as Open Space-Resource Management (OS-RM) or a residential category with permitted agricultural uses (e.g., Rural Residential (RR-A through C), Residential-Single Family (RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4, RS-7), Residential Condominium (RC), and Residential Apartment (RA)).

### SANDAG Regional Comprehensive Plan

The 2004 SANDAG Regional Comprehensive Plan (2004) has the following policy objectives regarding agricultural resources that may be applicable to the Proposed Project.

- Development Policy Objective 2. Protect agricultural areas, natural systems, high-value habitat areas (as reflected in adopted habitat plans), and other open-space areas that define the character of our communities.
- Natural Habitats Policy Objective 2. Protect agricultural lands for future crop production and for functions described in habitat conservation plans.

### 4.15.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

SDG&E did not propose any measures to reduce impacts to agricultural and forestry resources.

### 4.15.6 CEQA Significance Criteria

Appendix G of CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 *et seq.*) provides guidance on assessing whether a project would have significant impacts on the environment. Consistent with Appendix G, the Proposed Project would have significant impacts to agriculture and forestry if it would:

- 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 nonagricultural use.
- b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.
- c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code Section 51104 (g)).
- d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
- e. Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

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Given the specific location and design of the Proposed Project, impacts are also analyzed in this section under one threshold not listed in Appendix G. Specifically, the Proposed Project would have significant impacts to agriculture and forestry if it would:

- f. Interfere with active agricultural operations, or convert land used for active agricultural operations to an incompatible use.

### 4.15.7 Approach to Impact Analysis

This impact analysis considers whether implementation of the Proposed Project or alternatives would result in significant impacts to agriculture and forestry resources. The analysis focuses on reasonably foreseeable effects of the Proposed Project and alternatives as compared with baseline conditions. The analysis uses significance criteria based on the CEQA Appendix G Guidelines. The potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Project and alternatives are addressed; cumulative effects are addressed in Chapter 5: Cumulative Impacts. Effects that would result from operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project and alternatives are also addressed. Mitigation is defined to avoid or reduce significant impacts to agriculture and forestry resources.

Impacts to agriculture and forestry resources identified within the Proposed Project area including temporary staging yards (e.g., SR-56, Carmel Valley, Camino Del Sur, Stowe, and Stonebridge staging yards) are discussed below. There are no agricultural or forestry resources located in the vicinity of the San Luis Rey Substation, Encina Hub, Mission—San Luis Rey Phase Transposition work areas, and Mission Substation. These areas are not discussed further in this section because there would be no impact to agriculture or forestry resources at these locations.

### 4.15.8 Proposed Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.15-3 provides a summary of the significance of potential impacts to agricultural and forestry resources before and after implementation of mitigation measures. No APMs apply to agriculture and forestry impacts.

**Table 4.15-3 Summary of Proposed Project Impacts to Agriculture and Forestry**

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation <sup>1</sup>	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: 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 nonagricultural use.	Construction	Less than significant	—	—
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---

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Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation <sup>1</sup>	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Agriculture Forestry-2: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.	Construction	Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-3: Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code Section 51104 (g)).	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-4: Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-5: Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use.	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-6: Interfere with active agricultural operations, or convert land used for active agricultural operations to an incompatible use.	Construction	Significant	Significant	Less than significant MM Agriculture-1
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---

<sup>1</sup> No APMs are applicable for impacts on agricultural resources.

**Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: Would the Proposed Project 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 nonagricultural use? (*Less than significant; no mitigation required*)**

Temporary and permanent impacts to Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land are listed in Table 4.15-4. Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance would not be impacted by the Proposed Project because there is no Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance within the Proposed Project area. The Proposed Project would not indirectly impact Farmland areas within 1,000 feet of the Proposed Project because the Proposed Project would not restrict access to any Farmland areas outside of the area of temporary and permanent Project impacts.

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**Table 4.15-4 Farmland Impacted by the Proposed Project**

DOC-designated Farmland (acres)	Unique Farmland (U)		Farmland of Local Importance (L)		Grazing Land (G)		Segment Total	
	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent
Segment A	0	0	3.0	0.1	0.9	0.2	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Segment B	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Segment C	0.9	0	1.12	0.1	1.7	0	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Segment D	0	0	2.6	0.1	2.8	0.2	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Staging Yards <sup>1</sup>	3.5	0	21.8	0	0	0	<b>25.3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Proposed Project Total</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Camino Del Sur, Carmel Valley, Evergreen Nursery, SR-56, and Stonebridge Staging Yards.

\* The Proposed Project would have no impact to Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

\* Existing access road areas and underground construction work areas in Segment B that would be located within existing roadways are not included in this table.

Sources: DOC 2013b, City of San Diego 2014b, SANDAG 2014

### Construction

Construction would temporarily impact approximately 4.4 acres of Unique Farmland, 28.6 acres of Farmland of Local Importance, and 5.4 acres of Grazing Land at temporary work areas and staging yards. There would be no permanent improvements in the temporary impact areas. The areas of temporary impact would be returned to pre-project uses and would be available for agricultural use following construction. Staging of materials requires temporary vegetation removal and minor surface smoothing, but would not substantially change the soil conditions or quality of the site. Temporary impacts to FMMP-designated Farmland would not convert designated Farmland to a nonagricultural use because staging activities and other temporary impacts by their nature do not involve any permanent land conversion. None of the staging yards or area of temporary impact are currently used for agricultural activity; therefore, impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

### Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance would permanently impact approximately 0.3 acre of Farmland of Local Importance and 0.3 acre of Grazing Land at the locations of new permanent structure pads.

A total of 0.6 acre of designated Farmland would be permanently converted to nonagricultural use. However, these areas are currently located within SDG&E's ROW and are not currently used for agricultural operations due to conflicts with SDG&E's existing electrical infrastructure and easement restrictions. If these conflicts were resolved in the future, the Proposed Project would not preclude agricultural operations around the Proposed Project poles. Thus, there

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would be no loss to operating DOC-designated Farmland, and the loss of non-operating DOC-designated Farmland would be 0.6 acre. Permanent impacts to DOC-designated Farmland would therefore be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

### **Impact Agriculture Forestry-2: Would the Proposed Project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract? (*Less than Significant; no mitigation required*)**

No Williamson Act lands or other agricultural preserves would be impacted by the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is not located on areas under Williamson Act contracts. Therefore, there would be no conflicts with a Williamson Act contract.

### **Construction**

The Proposed Project would involve temporary and permanent impacts to land with county and city land use or zoning designations for agricultural activities. Impacts to land with these designations are listed in Table 4.15-5. Construction would temporarily impact 3.5 acres of land with the County land use designation of Intensive Agriculture, 39.3 acres of land with the City of San Diego zoning designation of Agricultural Residential (AR-1-1 and AR-1-2), and 2.6 acres of the City of Carlsbad land use category of Open Space where agriculture activities are permitted. These areas of temporary impact would be returned to pre-project uses consistent with Mitigation Measure Biology-6. Areas of temporary impact would be available for agricultural activities following construction. Temporary impacts to land with an agricultural land use and zoning designation would not conflict with zoning for agricultural use and impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Operation and maintenance would permanently impact approximately 2.1 acres of land zoned as Agricultural Residential (AR-1-1 and AR-1-2) by the City of San Diego at the locations of new permanent structure pads. All structure pads would be located within the existing SDG&E ROW, which is not used for agriculture, and is a compatible use of the utility corridor. The Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning or require rezoning of the affected land. Permanent impacts to land with an agricultural land use or zoning designation would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

### **Impact Agriculture Forestry-3: Would the Proposed Project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or a Timberland Production Zone? (*No impact*)**

There is no land zoned as forest land, timberland, or a Timber Production Zone within the Proposed Project area. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland, or a Timberland Production Zone. The Proposed Project would have no impact.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**



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**Table 4.15-5 Proposed Project Temporary and Permanent Impacts within Areas Zoned for Agricultural Use**

Zoning and Agricultural Land Use (acres)	County of San Diego Land Use: Intensive Agriculture		City of San Diego Zoning: Agriculture Residential		City of Carlsbad Land Use: Open Space		Agricultural Operations <sup>1</sup>	
	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent
Segment A	0	0	11.7	1.3	0	0	0	0
Segment B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Segment C	0	0	3.2		0	0	0	0
Segment D	0	0	7.4	0.8	0	0	0	0
Encina Hub and Phase Transposition Work Areas	0	0	0.1		2.6	0	0	0
Staging Yards <sup>2</sup>	3.5	0	16.9		0	0	3.5	0
<b>Proposed Project Total</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0</b>

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> The only active agriculture operation in the Proposed Project and alternative segment areas is the Evergreen Nursery.
- <sup>2</sup> Camino Del Sur, Evergreen Nursery, SR-56, and Stonebridge Staging Yards.
- \* The Proposed Project would not impact land with an agricultural land use or zoning designation in the City of Poway.
- \* Existing access road areas and underground construction work areas that would be located within existing roadways are not included in this table.

Sources: DOC 2013b, City of San Diego 2014b, SANDAG 2014

### Impact Agriculture Forestry-4: Would the Proposed Project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? (No impact)

The vegetation community coast live oak riparian forest (Holland Code 61310) was documented in the survey area for the Proposed Project within Segment A (Busby Biological Services, Inc. 2014). Coast live oak riparian forest may meet the definition of Forest Land described under PRC 12220(g). The coast live oak riparian forest occurs along drainage features, which are not managed for forests resources. The coast live oak riparian forest vegetation community is not located in a Proposed Project work area and it would not be impacted by the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact on forest land and would not convert forest land to a non-forest use.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

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**Impact Agriculture Forestry-5: Would the Proposed Project involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use? (No impact)**

The Proposed Project involves installation of an electrical transmission line to support electrical reliability and deliverability of renewable energy. The Proposed Project would not directly or indirectly cause any changes in the existing environment that would result in the conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use. There would be no impact.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

**Impact Agriculture Forestry-6: Would the Proposed Project interfere with active agricultural operations, or convert land used for active agricultural operations to an incompatible use? (Less than significant with mitigation)**

### **Construction**

The Proposed Project has the potential to temporarily interfere with active agricultural operations at the Evergreen Nursery north of Carmel Valley Road at the junction of Segments B and C during staging of materials and conductor stringing operations within the nursery. The proposed staging yard would utilize approximately 3.5 acres of the Evergreen Nursery operation, which is positioned on multiple parcels, one of which is an approximately 3.5-acre parcel owned by SDG&E that is being leased to the nursery. Construction could temporarily impact existing operations at the Evergreen Nursery from use of the staging yard during the estimated 12-month construction period and during overhead conductor stringing for Segment C, which would be a significant impact. Mitigation Measure Agriculture-1 requires SDG&E to coordinate with the Evergreen Nursery property management to select a mutually suitable location for the 3.5-acre staging yard within the approximately 50-acre nursery that would achieve SDG&E's staging area requirements and limit disruption to nursery operations. It also requires that SDG&E return the staging area and stringing site within Evergreen Nursery to pre-construction conditions and supply documentation to CPUC. The project impact on active agricultural operations during construction would be less than significant with mitigation.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Operation and maintenance of the Proposed Project would not impact any existing agricultural operation because there are no agricultural operations within the permanent Proposed Project area. There would be no impact.

**Mitigation Measures: Agriculture-1**

**Mitigation Measure Agriculture-1: Coordinate with the Evergreen Nursery property management.** SDG&E shall coordinate the following actions with the Evergreen Nursery property manager no less than 30 days prior to development

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of the Evergreen Nursery Staging Yard and conductor stringing activities in Segment C:

- Coordinate the location of the staging yard to a mutually suitable position within the approximately 50-acre nursery operation
- Communicate conductor stringing activities on the site, such as the anticipated schedule for staging activities and conductor stringing
- Communicate potential disruptions from construction activities (e.g., noise, dust, traffic, and access restrictions)
- Communicate safety considerations for nursery staff and patrons (e.g., avoidance areas and the use of signs and barriers).
- SDG&E shall provide verification of completed preconstruction conditions to the CPUC. Documentation shall be submitted to CPUC verifying condition and communication requirements.

Following the completion of staging and conductor stringing at the site, SDG&E shall coordinate with the Evergreen Nursery property manager to ensure that sites used for staging within the nursery are returned to near pre-construction conditions.

**Significance after mitigation: Less than significant.**

### 4.15.9 Alternative 1: Eastern Cable Pole at Carmel Valley Road (Avoids Cable Pole in Black Mountain Ranch Community Park)

Alternative 1 would involve installation of a new cable pole immediately south of and adjoining Carmel Valley Road within existing SDG&E ROW, transitioning the Segment A overhead transmission line directly into the proposed Carmel Valley Road Segment B underground alignment. Alternative 1 would avoid installation of a cable pole and underground duct bank within the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

#### 4.15.9.1 Alternative 1 Environmental Setting

##### FMMP Mapped Farmland

The Alternative 1 cable pole would be located in Farmland of Local Importance. There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Williamson Act Land located within or adjacent to the Alternative 1 area.

##### Active Agricultural Operations

There are no active agricultural operations within or adjacent to the Alternative 1 area.

##### Agricultural Zoning

Alternative 1 is located in an area that is zoned for open space and recreation; there is no agricultural zoning in the Alternative 1 area.

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### Forest Land

There is no forest land or areas zoned for forest land in the Alternative 1 area.

#### 4.15.9.2 Alternative 1 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.15-6 summarizes the impacts to agriculture and forestry resources from Alternative 1.

**Table 4.15-6 Summary of Alternative 1 Impacts to Agriculture and Forestry**

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation <sup>1</sup>	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: 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 nonagricultural use	Construction	Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-2: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-3: Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code Section 51104 (g))	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-4: Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-5: Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-6: Interfere with active agricultural operations, or convert land used for active agricultural operations to an incompatible use	Construction	No Impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---

<sup>1</sup> No APMs are applicable for impacts on agriculture and forestry resources.

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Alternative 1 would have no impact on five CEQA significance criteria for agriculture and forestry resources: Impact Agriculture Forestry-2, -3, -4, -5, and -6, as indicated in Table 4.15-6 above. Alternative 1 would not conflict with agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract because the alternative is not located in an area that is zoned for agricultural use or an area under a Williamson Act contract. Alternative 1 would not conflict with forest land zoning or cause the loss of forestland because there is no forest land in the Alternative 1 area or vicinity. Alternative 1 would not interfere with an active agricultural operation because there are no active agricultural operations in the Alternative 1 area or vicinity.

**Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: Would Alternative 1 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 nonagricultural use? (Less than significant; no mitigation required)**

Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance would not be impacted by Alternative 1 because there is no Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance within the Alternative 1 area. The Alternative 1 cable pole and work pad immediately south of Carmel Valley Road would permanently impact approximately 0.2 acre of FMMP mapped Farmland of Local Importance. Impacts to Farmland of Local Importance would occur within SDG&E's ROW directly adjacent to Carmel Valley Road on a constructed slope adjacent to the roadway. The area is not currently used for agricultural production. The existing slope and proximity to Carmel Valley Road currently preclude the use of the Alternative 1 area for agricultural production; therefore, impacts to designated farmland from the addition of the cable pole would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

### **4.15.10 Alternative 2a and 2b: Eastern Cable Pole at Pole P40 and Underground Alignment through City Open Space or City Water Utility Service Road (Avoids Cable Pole in Black Mountain Ranch Community Park)**

Alternative 2 would involve installation of a new cable pole in the same location for both Alternatives 2a and 2b, approximately 300 feet south of Carmel Valley Road within existing SDG&E ROW, transitioning the Segment A overhead transmission line into the proposed Carmel Valley Road Segment B underground alignment via one of two underground alignment options. Alternative 2a would locate the underground duct bank west of SDG&E ROW through City of San Diego open space and into Carmel Valley Road. Alternative 2b would locate the underground duct bank east of SDG&E ROW through a City of San Diego water utility service road and into Carmel Valley Road. Both Alternative 2a and 2b would avoid installation of a cable pole and underground duct bank within the Black Mountain Ranch Community Park. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

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### 4.15.10.1 Alternative 2 Environmental Setting

#### FMMP Mapped Farmland

The Alternative 2 cable pole would be located in Farmland of Local Importance. The Alternative 2a underground alignment within City Open Space would be located on FMMP mapped grazing land. The Alternative 2b underground alignment within the City water utility access road would be located on Farmland of Local Importance. There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Williamson Act Land located within or adjacent to the Alternative 2 area.

#### Active Agricultural Operations

There are no active agricultural operations within or adjacent to the Alternative 2 area.

#### Agricultural Zoning

Alternative 2 is located in an area that is zoned for open space and recreation; there is no agricultural zoning in the Alternative 2 area.

#### Forest Land

There is no forest land or areas zoned for forest land in the Alternative 2 area.

### 4.15.10.2 Alternative 2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.15-7 summarizes the impacts to agriculture and forestry resources from Alternative 2.

**Table 4.15-7 Summary of Alternative 2 Impacts to Agriculture and Forestry**

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation <sup>1</sup>	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: 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 nonagricultural use.	Construction	Less than significant	—	—
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-2: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-3: Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code Section 51104 (g)).	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---

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Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation <sup>1</sup>	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Agriculture Forestry-4: Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-5: Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use.	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-6: Interfere with active agricultural operations, or convert land used for active agricultural operations to an incompatible use.	Construction	No Impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---

<sup>1</sup> No APMs are applicable for impacts on agriculture or forestry resources.

Alternative 2 would have no impact on five CEQA significance criteria for agriculture and forestry resources: Impact Agriculture Forestry-2, -3, -4, -5, and -6, as indicated in Table 4.15-6 above. Alternative 2 would not conflict with agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract because the alternative is not located in an area that is zoned for agricultural use or an area under a Williamson Act contract. Alternative 2 would not conflict with forest land zoning or cause the loss of forestland because there is no forest land in the Alternative 2 area or vicinity. Alternative 2 would not interfere with an active agricultural operation because there are no active agricultural operations in the area or vicinity.

**Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: Would Alternative 2 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 nonagricultural use? (Less than significant; no mitigation required)**

Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance would not be impacted by Alternative 2 because there is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance within the Alternative 2 area.

**Alternative 2a**

The Alternative 2a cable pole relocation and underground segment from the cable pole to Carmel Valley Road would temporarily impact 0.3 acres of Grazing Land. The Alternative 2a cable pole and permanent work pad south of Carmel Valley Road would be located on Farmland of Local Importance and the underground vaults would be located on designated Grazing Land. The Alternative 2a area is not used for agricultural production and the underground transmission line and cable pole would not preclude future agricultural use; however, the area is designated by the City of San Diego as parkland and future agricultural

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use is likely prohibited by the City of San Diego independent of the Proposed Project. The impact to FMMP-mapped Farmland would be less than significant due to the small area of impact and existing parkland designation in the area. No mitigation is required.

### **Alternative 2b**

The Alternative 2b cable pole and underground transmission line alignment would be located on an area mapped by the FMMP as Farmland of Local Importance. The entire portion of the underground alignment outside of SDG&E's ROW is located within a City of San Diego water utility service road. The roadway does not support agricultural production. Impacts to FMMP-designated Farmland would be less than significant due to the existing development in the area. No mitigation is required.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

### **4.15.11 Alternative 3: Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve-Mercy Road Underground (Avoids Overhead in Northern Half of Segment A, Underground in Segment B, and Overhead in Segment C)**

Alternative 3 would include installing an underground alignment starting at a new cable pole where the existing SDG&E ROW crosses Ivy Hill Road and ending at a new cable pole approximately 550 feet west of the Peñasquitos Junction (i.e., where Proposed Project Segments C and D meet). The underground alignment would follow Scripps Poway Parkway, Mercy Road, Black Mountain Road, and finally Park Village Road. Alternative 3 would bypass the northern half of Proposed Project Segment A and all of Proposed Project Segments B and C. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

#### **4.15.11.1 Alternative 3 Environmental Setting**

##### **FMMP Mapped Farmland**

The Alternative 3 cable poles are not located in areas of FMMP mapped agricultural land. The Alternative 3 underground alignment would be located in existing roadways. Portions of the Alternative 3 underground alignment are mapped by the FMMP as grazing land and Farmland of Local Importance. There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Williamson Act Land located within or adjacent to the Alternative 3 area.

##### **Active Agricultural Operations**

There are no active agricultural operations within or adjacent to the Alternative 3 area.

##### **Agricultural Zoning**

Alternative 3 is located in roadways and would not conflict with agricultural zoning.

##### **Forest Land**

There is no forest land or areas zoned for forest land in the Alternative 3 area or vicinity.

#### **4.15.11.2 Alternative 3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Table 4.15-8 summarizes the impacts to agriculture and forestry resources from Alternative 3.



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**Table 4.15-8 Summary of Alternative 3 Impacts to Agriculture and Forestry**

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation <sup>1</sup>	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: 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 nonagricultural use	Construction	No impact	—	—
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-2: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-3: Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code Section 51104 (g))	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-4: Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-5: Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-6: Interfere with active agricultural operations, or convert land used for active agricultural operations to an incompatible use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---

<sup>1</sup> No APMs are applicable for impacts on agriculture or forestry resources.

Alternative 3 would have no impact on agricultural and forestry resources as indicated in Table 4.15-10 above. There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Williamson Act Land in the Alternative 3 area or vicinity. Alternative 3 would be located primarily in existing roadways, which do not support agricultural or forestry use. There is no agricultural or forestry uses or FMMP-mapped farmland at the Alternative 3 cable pole locations; therefore, there would be no impact on agriculture or forestry resources from Alternative 3 construction, operation, and maintenance.

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### 4.15.12 Alternative 4: Segment D 69-kV Partial Underground Alignment (Reduces New TSPs in Segment D)

Alternative 4 would include the installation of a double 69-kV underground alignment starting at two new cable poles (P48AA and P48BB) in Proposed Project Segment D near existing lattice tower E17. The underground alignment would follow Carmel Mountain Road and East Ocean Air Drive, ending at the Peñasquitos Substation. Within Proposed Project Segment D, an existing 69-kV line would be removed from the existing steel lattice towers, and a second 69-kV power line on existing H-frame structures would be de-energized and left in place.

Construction within Proposed Project Segment D would be reduced under Alternative 4. The 230-kV transmission line would be installed on the existing steel lattice towers similar to the Proposed Project; however, the H-frame structures would not be removed, and no new TSPs would be installed between lattice tower E17 and the Peñasquitos Substation. This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

#### 4.15.12.1 Alternative 4 Environmental Setting

##### FMMP Mapped Farmland

The Alternative 4 cable poles are not located in FMMP mapped agricultural land. The underground alignment within Carmel Mountain Road and East Ocean Air Drive would be located within City of San Diego franchise ROW. A portion of the underground alignment on Carmel Mountain Road is mapped as Farmland of Local Importance. There are no agricultural resources or uses within the underground alignment because the underground alignment is located within roadways, which preclude agricultural use. The overhead transmission line on existing structures would span FMMP mapped areas of grazing land and Farmland of Local Importance.

There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Williamson Act Land located within or adjacent to the Alternative 4 area.

##### Active Agricultural Operations

There are no active agricultural operations within or adjacent to the Alternative 4 area.

##### Agricultural Zoning

There are no areas zoned for agricultural use in the Alternative 4 alignment. Alternative 4 is located in roadways and on existing transmission structures; Alternative 4 would not conflict with agricultural zoning.

##### Forest Land

There is no forest land or areas zoned for forest land in the Alternative 4 area or vicinity.

#### 4.15.12.2 Alternative 4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.15-9 summarizes the impacts to agriculture and forestry resources from Alternative 4.

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**Table 4.15-9 Summary of Alternative 4 Impacts to Agriculture and Forestry**

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMS	Significance after APMS and before Mitigation <sup>1</sup>	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: 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 nonagricultural use	Construction	No impact	—	—
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-2: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-3: Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code Section 51104 (g))	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-4: Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-5: Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-6: Interfere with active agricultural operations, or convert land used for active agricultural operations to an incompatible use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---

<sup>1</sup> No APMS are applicable for impacts on agriculture and forestry resources.

Alternative 4 would have no impact on agricultural or forestry resources as indicated in Table 4.15-9 below. There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Williamson Act Land in the Alternative 4 area or vicinity. The Alternative 4 underground alignment would be located in existing roadways, which do not support agricultural or forestry use. There is no agricultural or forestry uses or FMMP-mapped farmland at the Alternative 4 cable pole locations, P48AA and P48BB. There would be no impact on agriculture or forestry resources from Alternative 4 construction, operation, and maintenance.

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### 4.15.13 Alternative 5: Pomerado Road to Miramar Area North Combination Underground/Overhead (Avoids All Proposed Project Segments)

Alternative 5 would include underground installation of the transmission line with the exception of the east and west ends where the transmission line would be installed in an overhead [position](#) within existing SDG&E ROWs. Under this alternative, the alignment would exit the Sycamore Canyon Substation at MCAS Miramar an overhead line and travel westerly within an existing SDG&E ROW toward Stonebridge Parkway. The transmission line would transition to underground beneath Stonebridge Parkway in the vicinity of Greenstone Court, then continue underground on Pomerado Road, Miramar Road, Kearny Villa Road, Black Mountain Road, Activity Road, Camino Ruiz, Miralani Drive, Arjons Drive, Trade Place, Camino Santa Fe, Carroll Road/Carroll Canyon Road and Scranton Road. The transmission line would [either remain underground within the Pomerado/Miramar bridge or](#) temporarily transition to an overhead alignment via two new cable poles and [potentially](#) two new interset poles, where it would cross I-15. At the western end of the underground portion, the line would transition back to overhead structures located within an existing SDG&E ROW heading northward into the Peñasquitos Substation. Alternative 5 would avoid construction within the Proposed Project alignment with the exception of approximately 3,400 feet of existing SDG&E ROW in Segment A connecting to the Sycamore Canyon Substation. [SDG&E may use up to eight other staging yards during construction of Alternative 5 in addition to the Proposed Project staging yards. The Alternative 5 staging yards would be located within the Conrock and Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest quarries north of the Alternative 5 underground alignment, within the cul-de-sac west of Birch Canyon Place, off of Summers Ridge Road, and behind the Sorrento Canyon Golf Center.](#) This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives.

#### 4.15.13.1 Alternative 5 Environmental Setting

##### FMMP Mapped Farmland

Alternative 5 would traverse or be adjacent to Farmland of Local Importance as well as Grazing Land within the underground and overhead alignment, [and Alternative 5 staging yard 5.](#)

##### Active Agricultural Operations

There are no active agricultural operations within or adjacent to the Alternative 5 area.

##### Agricultural Zoning

There are no areas zoned for agricultural use in the Alternative 5 alignment. [Alternative 5 staging yards 1A, 1B, and 3 are located within City of San Diego agricultural residential zones.](#)

##### Forest Land

There is no forest land or areas zoned for forest land in the Alternative 5 area or vicinity.

#### 4.15.13.2 Alternative 5 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Table 4.15-10 summarizes the impacts to agriculture and forestry resources from Alternative 5.

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**Table 4.15-10 Summary of Alternative 5 Impacts to Agriculture and Forestry**

Significance Criteria	Project Phase	Significance Prior to APMs	Significance after APMs and before Mitigation <sup>1</sup>	Significance after Mitigation
Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: 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 nonagricultural use	Construction	Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	Less than significant	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-2: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract	Construction	No impact Less than significant	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-3: Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code Section 51104 (g))	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-4: Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-5: Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forest land to non-forest use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---
Impact Agriculture Forestry-6: Interfere with active agricultural operations, or convert land used for active agricultural operations to an incompatible use	Construction	No impact	---	---
	Operation and Maintenance	No impact	---	---

<sup>1</sup> No APMs are applicable for impacts on agriculture and forestry resources.

Alternative 5 would have no impact on ~~five-four~~ CEQA significance criteria for agriculture and forestry resources: Impact Agriculture Forestry-~~2~~, -3, -4, -5, and -6, as indicated in Table 4.15-12 above. The Alternative 5 underground alignment would be located in existing roadways, which do not support agricultural or forestry use. ~~Alternative 5 would not conflict with agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract because the alternative is not located in an area that is zoned for agricultural use or an area under a Williamson Act contract.~~ Alternative 5 would not conflict with forest land zoning or cause the loss of forestland because there is no forest land in

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the Alternative 5 area or vicinity. Alternative 5 would not interfere with an active agricultural operation because there are no active agricultural operations in the Alternative 5 area or vicinity. Alternative 5 ~~would~~ could use the same staging yards as the Proposed Project, and the impact at staging yards (i.e. Evergreen Nursery) would be the same as the Proposed Project (refer to Section 4.15.8).

**Impact Agriculture Forestry-1: Would Alternative 5 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 nonagricultural use? (Less than significant; no mitigation required)**

There is no FMMP-mapped Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance within the Alternative 5 area. The Alternative 5 underground alignment within City roadways would not convert farmland to nonagricultural use because the existing road is not an agricultural use and the underground transmission line would not change the land use in the underground alignment. There is no FMMP-mapped farmland along the eastern overhead alignment and installation of the eastern overhead alignment including power poles would have no impact on FMMP-designated farmland. There is no FMMP-mapped farmland at the Alternative 5 staging yards, and use of the staging yards for equipment and materials storage would have no impact on FMMP-designated farmland. The western overhead alignment would traverse areas mapped as Farmland of Local Importance and Grazing Land. The installation of new 230-kV conductor on the existing 230-kV TSPs would have no impact on FMMP-designated farmland because the conductor installation would have no permanent impacts. The western cable pole would be located on FMMP-designated grazing land. The grazing land is located within SDG&E ROW and agricultural production in the area is highly unlikely because the surrounding area is developed for industrial and commercial uses. While agricultural use of the area is unlikely, the cable pole would not preclude future agricultural activity in the area because agricultural production could be conducted around the cable pole. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Mitigation Measures: None required.**

**Impact Agriculture Forestry-2: Would Alternative 5 conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract? (Less than significant; no mitigation required)**

No Williamson Act lands or other agricultural preserves would be impacted by Alternative 5. Alternative 5 is not located on areas under Williamson Act contracts. Therefore, there would be no conflicts with a Williamson Act contract.

### **Construction**

Alternative 5 would involve temporary impacts on land with city zoning designations for agricultural activities. The use of three Alternative 5 staging yards (1A, 1B, and 3) would temporarily impact 7.03 acres of land with the City of San Diego zoning designation of Agricultural Residential (AR-1-1 and AR-1-2). These staging yards would be located within quarries, which are not currently used for agriculture, and equipment and materials storage is a

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compatible use with quarry operations. Areas of temporary impact would be available for agricultural activities following construction. Temporary impacts on land with an agricultural land use and zoning designation would not conflict with zoning for agricultural use, and impacts would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

### Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance would have no impact on lands zoned for agricultural use because Alternative 5 would not be permanently located on any county or city-designated agricultural land.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

### 4.15.14 No Project Alternative

The No Project Alternative would include construction of the CAISO approved Mission—Peñasquitos 230-kV transmission line, ~~and Second Poway—Pomerado 69-kV power line, Second Miguel—Bay Boulevard 230-kV transmission line, and Second Sycamore Canyon—Scripps 69-kV power line, and upgrades of the Miguel—Mission 230-kV, Bernardo—Felicita Tap—Felicita 69-kV, and Artesian—Bernardo 69-kV lines. The No Project Alternative would also involve installation of a series reactor at Sycamore Canyon Substation.~~ This alternative is described in more detail in Chapter 3: Alternatives. The No Project Alternative would have a greater impact on agricultural resources because the Second Poway—Pomerado 69-kV power line would be constructed in areas with FMMP-designated farmland, including Farmland of Statewide Importance, and the Proposed Project does not include any impacts to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

#### 4.15.14.1 Mission—Peñasquitos 230-kV Transmission Line

The Mission—Peñasquitos 230-kV transmission line would require replacement of wood H-frames with steel H-frames for 4.2 miles within and near MCAS Miramar and installation of new 69-kV TSPs for 3.3 miles in Los Peñasquitos Canyon (Segment D of the Proposed Project). The impact to FMMP-designated farmland from the Mission—Peñasquitos transmission line would be the same as the impacts of the Proposed Project in Segment D. Refer to Section 4.15.8, Impact Agriculture Forestry-1. The Mission—Peñasquitos transmission line would impact 0.2 acre of grazing land and 0.1 acre of Farmland of Local Importance at the location of the new poles. The line would not impact Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Williamson Act Land. The small loss of FMMP-designated farmland would be less than significant.

#### 4.15.14.2 Second Poway—Pomerado 69-kV Power Line

The Second Poway—Pomerado 69 kV line would involve replacement of existing wood poles with new double-circuit 69-kV poles or installation of new single-circuit 69-kV poles for approximately 2.6 miles to accommodate a second 69-kV line. Grazing land and Farmland of Local Importance occurs within the southern 0.7 mile of the alignment and Farmland of Statewide Importance occurs within 0.2 mile of the alignment. The new poles would not

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prevent agricultural use of the area because agricultural operations could be conducted around the poles. Impacts to agricultural resources would be less than significant.

### **4.15.14.3 Second Miguel—Bay Boulevard 230-kV Transmission Line**

Construction of the Second Miguel—Bay Boulevard 230-kV transmission line would potentially involve the installation of new poles within the SDG&E ROW. Farmland of local importance occurs within approximately 1.9 miles of the northern portion of the Second Miguel—Bay Boulevard 230-kV transmission line, near the Miguel substation. Construction of the Second Miguel—Bay Boulevard 230-kV transmission line would potentially impact the farmland of local importance located within the SDG&E ROW. The line would not impact Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Williamson Act Land. The impact to farmland of local importance would be less than significant.

### **4.15.14.4 Second Sycamore Canyon—Scripps 69-kV Power Line**

There are no agricultural resources within the alignment for the Second Sycamore Canyon—Scripps 69-kV power line. Installation of the Second Sycamore Canyon—Scripps 69-kV power line would have no impact on agricultural resources.

### **4.15.14.5 Reconductoring of Three Existing Lines**

The reconductoring of the three existing lines would also potentially require the construction of new poles within the SDG&E ROW. Farmland of local importance occurs adjacent to and within the three new lines that would be reconducted. Reconductoring would result in temporary impacts to agricultural resources within the SDG&E ROW and the placement of new poles would result in permanent impacts to agricultural resources within the SDG&E ROW. The line would not impact Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Williamson Act Land. The impact to farmland of local importance would be less than significant.

### **4.15.14.6 Series Reactor at Sycamore Canyon Substation**

~~There are no agricultural resources within the Sycamore Canyon Substation. Installation of a series reactor at Sycamore Canyon Substation would have no impact on agricultural resources.~~

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