

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

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3.2.1 Definitions

Agricultural Resources

The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency Department of Conservation (CDC) defines FMMP land designation types. The FMMP definitions are shown in Table 3.2-1.

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, enables local governments to enter contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open-space use (CDC 2016b).

Table 3.2-1 FMMP Land Designation Definitions

Designation	Definition
Prime Farmland	Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term agricultural production; 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.
Farmland of Statewide Importance	Farmland like Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, i.e., greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.
Unique Farmland	Farmland of lesser quality soils used to produce 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.
Farmland of Local Importance	Land that meets all the characteristics of Prime and Statewide (Farmland), except for irrigation. Includes farmlands not covered by the above categories, but of significant economic importance to the county with a history of good production for locally adapted crops. The soils are grouped into 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).
Grazing Land	Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock.
Urban and Built-up Land	Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least one unit per 1.5 acres, or approximately six structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, construction, institutional, public administration, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.

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Designation	Definition
Other Lands	Land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.
Land Committed to Nonagricultural Use	Existing farmland, grazing land, and vacant areas that have a permanent commitment for development.

Source: (CDC 2016a)

Forestry Resources

Forestry resources are defined in the PRC and California Government Code as shown in Table 3.2-2.

Table 3.2-2 Forestry Resources Definitions

Designation	Definition
Forest Land (PRC §12220(g))	Land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, 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.
Timberland (PRC §4526)	Land, other than land owned by the federal government, and land designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (board) as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the board on a district basis.
Timberland Production Zone (California Government Code §51104(g))	<p>With respect to the general plans of cities and counties, "timberland preserve zone" means "timberland production zone."</p> <p>Timberland production zone is an area which has been zoned for, and is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses, as defined below.</p> <p>"Compatible use" is any use which does not significantly detract from the use of the property for, or inhibit, growing and harvesting timber, and shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following, unless in a specific instance such a use would be contrary to the preceding definition of compatible use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management for watershed • Management for fish and wildlife habitat or hunting and fishing • A use integrally related to the growing, harvesting and processing of forest products, including but not limited to roads, log landings, and log storage areas • The erection, construction, alteration, or maintenance of gas, electric, water, or communication transmission facilities • Grazing • A residence or other structure necessary for the management of land zoned as timberland production

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3.2.2 Environmental Setting

Regional Setting

County of San Diego

Agricultural Resources

Agriculture is the fifth largest component of San Diego County's economy and provides open space resources for the County. Unlike most other regions, farming in San Diego County is dependent upon the climate rather than prime agricultural soils. The unique microclimates in the region allow for a year-round growing season that supports production of over 200 agricultural commodities, which include a large variety of crops, nursery products, and fruits (County of San Diego 2011). Although only seven percent (215,000 acres) of the region's soils are classified as Important Farmland¹, approximately 12 percent of San Diego County (339,000 acres) is designated as agricultural land, including grazing land. Between 1984 and 2014, an additional 2,643 acres of land was designated as Important Farmland in San Diego County (CDC 2014b).

Forestry Resources

Cleveland National Forest is the only land within unincorporated San Diego County that is identified as forest land, timberland, or land set aside for timberland production (County of San Diego 2016). Most of the Cleveland National Forest is located within San Diego County, although it also extends into parts of Orange and Riverside Counties. Wood products are suitable for harvest from the Cleveland National Forest except from land designated as Wilderness and, under most circumstances, areas designated as Critical Biological in the US Forest Services Land Management Plan for the forest (USFS 2005).

Orange County

Agricultural Resources

Orange County was once supported by an agricultural economy, but many of its agricultural lands have been converted to urban use (Orange County 2014). Orange County has approximately 6,071 acres of Important Farmland and 37,106 acres of grazing land. Between 1984 and 2014, 20,464 acres of Important Farmland were developed in Orange County (CDC 2014a).

Forestry Resources

Orange County does not have any designated forestry resources other than some portions of the Cleveland National Forest that extend into the County.

¹ Important Farmland includes Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance.

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Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

Agricultural Resources

Agricultural row crops were grown on MCB CPEN until 2011 when the last row crop lease was terminated. Grazing leases were cancelled in 2003. No active agricultural activities are permitted within MCB CPEN (MCB CPEN 2012) even though some land is still designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Farmland of Local Importance by the Department of Conservation (see Figure 3.2-1).

Forestry Resources

No designated forestry resources are located on MCB CPEN.

Proposed Project Setting

Agricultural Resources

The proposed project area is primarily located within the boundary of MCB CPEN in San Diego County. A small portion of the proposed project crosses into Orange County.

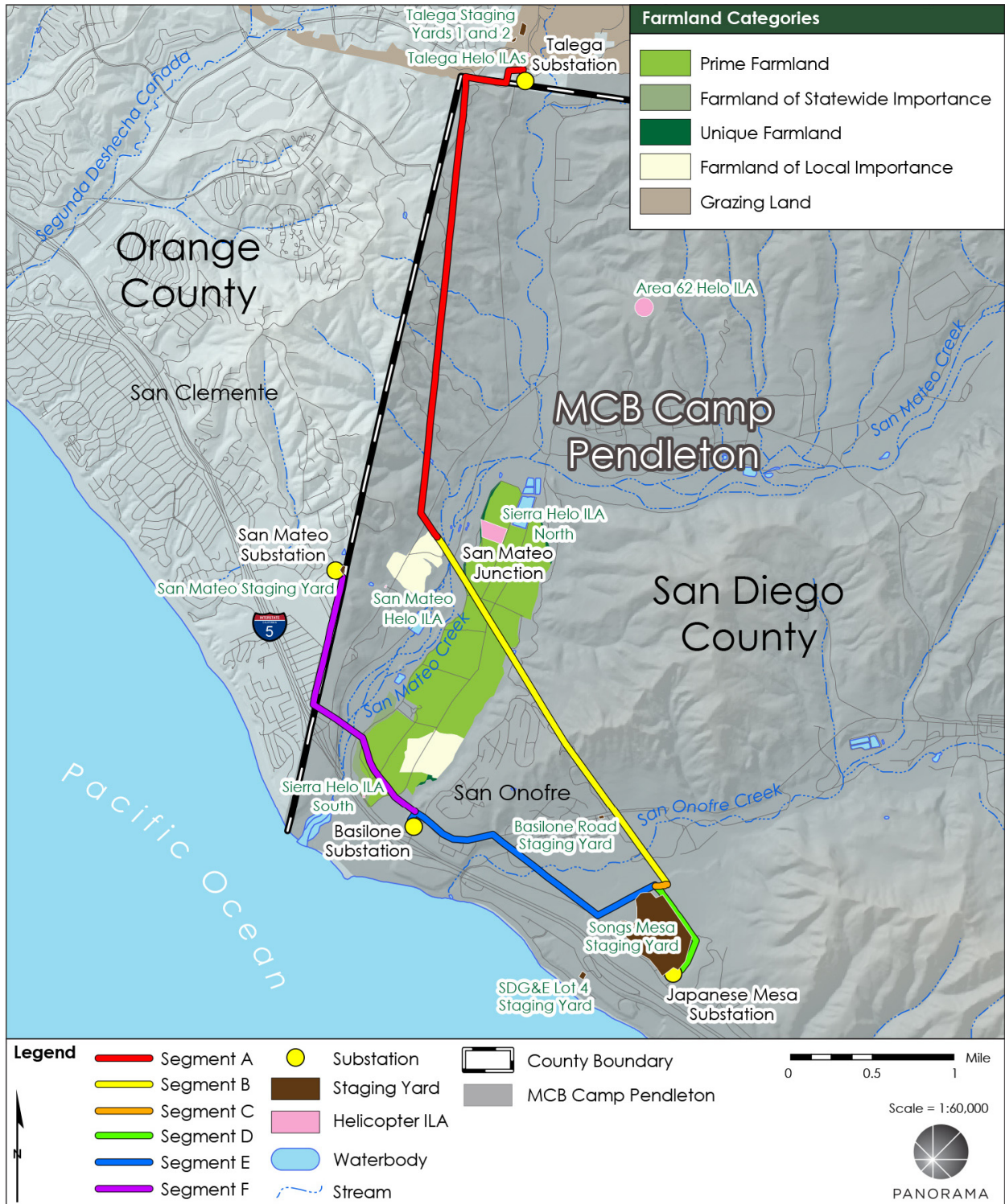
No active agricultural areas are located along the proposed project alignment. The proposed project, however, is located within designated farmland in Segments A, B, and F and the Sierra Helo ILAs (North and South) as shown in Figure 3.2-1. Designated farmland resources within the proposed project vicinity include Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Farmland of Local Importance. No land is designated under the Williamson Act in the proposed project area (CDC 2015).

Forestry Resources

No land within the proposed project area or vicinity is identified as forest land, timberland, or land set aside for timberland production. The proposed project area does not cross into the Cleveland National Forest.

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Figure 3.2-1 Designated Farmland in the Proposed Project Area (Revised)



Source: (ESRI 2016, SDG&E 2016, CDC 2012)

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3.2.3 Impact Analysis

Summary of Impacts

Table 3.2-3 presents a summary of the CEQA significance criteria and impacts on agriculture and forestry resources that would occur during construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project.

Table 3.2-3 Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Would the Proposed Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	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 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 Public Resources Code section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104[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"/>

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Impact Discussion

a) 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 non-agricultural use?	Significance Determination
	No impact

Proposed project activities in areas containing Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Farmland of Local importance (Important Farmland) include:

- Installation of new steel poles and removal of existing wood poles (Segment A)
- Installation of new conductor on steel lattice towers (Segment B)
- Removal of the existing TL 695 power line from wood poles and topping the wood poles (Segment F)

No permanent impacts would occur on designated farmland. Temporary impacts on Important Farmland would occur at work areas around the new steel poles, existing steel lattice towers, and existing wood poles in Segments A, B, and F (refer to Table 3.2-4). The new poles would be located within SDG&E's existing easement from MCB CPEN. The proposed project would temporarily impact approximately 10.28 acres of Farmland mapped by the FMMP; however, these impacts would occur in areas that are not currently available for agricultural use due to active military activity in the area and existing utility easements. The proposed project would not convert designated farmland to non-agricultural use. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

Table 3.2-4 Impacts on Important Farmland in the Proposed Project Area

Proposed Project Component	Type of Resource	Temporary Impact Area (acres)	Permanent Impact Area (acres)
Segment A	Farmland of Local Importance	0.05	–
Segment B	Farmland of Local Importance	0.06	–
	Prime Farmland	0.06	–
	Unique Farmland	0.01	–
Segment F	Prime Farmland	0.53	–
	Farmland of Statewide Importance	0.02	–
Sierra Helo ILAs	Farmland of Statewide Importance	0.14	–
	Prime Farmland	8.96	–
	Unique Farmland	0.45	–
TOTAL		10.28	0.00

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b) Would the proposed project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	Significance Determination
	No impact

The proposed project would involve the reconductoring of existing power lines within MCB CPEN and a small segment (<0.25 mile) of power line in the City of San Clemente. No Williamson Act contract lands or areas zoned for agricultural use are located within the proposed project area. The area is subject to active military use or is leased to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for recreational use (San Onofre State Beach). No impact on Williamson Act contract lands or areas zoned for agricultural use would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

c) Would the proposed project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	Significance Determination
	No impact

The proposed project is not located within forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production; therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning of lands designated for forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

d) Would the proposed project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	Significance Determination
	No impact

The proposed project is not located in forest land and would not result in the loss of forest land or convert forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

e) Would the proposed project 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?	Significance Determination
	No impact

The proposed project would involve replacement of existing power lines with new power lines in existing utility corridors. No agricultural production or farmland occurs within the proposed project vicinity. Agricultural production would conflict with the military operations at MCB CPEN and is therefore not permitted. The proposed project would not involve other changes in

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the existing environment that would result in the loss of agricultural land or forest land, or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

3.2.4 References

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