

1 **3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES**

AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES² - Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Natural Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Pub. Resources Code, § 12220, subd. (g)), timberland (as defined by Pub. Resources Code, § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Gov. Code, § 51104, subd. (g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 **3.2.1 Environmental Setting**

3 3.2.1.1 City of Oakley/Contra Costa County

4 As indicated in the City’s General Plan document (2010), agriculture is a fundamental
 5 component of the community’s character. Historically, agriculture has been the primary
 6 economic activity in and around Oakley. At this time, the community is transitioning to a
 7 more urban setting and large-scale agriculture is becoming a less prevalent use.

8 The southern terminus of the Project corridor within the City in Contra Costa County is
 9 located within an area zoned for commercial recreation-aquatic with a commercial

² In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the State’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

1 recreation land use designation. Although agriculture is noted as a consistent use with
 2 this zoning and land use designation, no agricultural production is currently present
 3 within the Project site, as it is used in support of the Lauritzen Yacht Harbor facility.

4 **3.2.1.2 Sacramento County**

5 The northern landing of the Project corridor is located within the levee at Sherman
 6 Island in southern Sacramento County. According to the Sacramento County General
 7 Plan, Agricultural Element (2011), the Project site is zoned for recreational purposes
 8 (REC) from the San Joaquin River to the Sherman Island East Levee Road. The
 9 Sherman Island East Levee Road acts as the zoning boundary between the recreational
 10 uses and agricultural uses (AG CROP) to the north. This area also serves as the
 11 boundary between prime farmlands and those designated of local importance. Project
 12 activities would occur on lands under Williamson Act contract (see Figure 3.2-1).

13 **3.2.2 Regulatory Setting**

14 **3.2.2.1 Federal and State**

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

Table 3.2-1. Laws, Regulations, and Policies (Agriculture and Forest Resources)

CA	Williamson Act (Gov. Code, §§ 51200-51207)	This Act enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners to restrict specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use, and provides landowners with lower property tax assessments in return. Local government planning departments are responsible for the enrollment of land into Williamson Act contracts. Generally, any commercial agricultural use would be permitted within any agricultural preserve. In addition, local governments may identify compatible uses permitted with a use permit.
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17 **3.2.2.2 Local**

18 **Contra Costa County**

19 The Land Use Element of the Contra Costa County General Plan 2005-2020 (Contra
 20 Costa County 2010) contains policies related to agricultural land use. During project
 21 review, proposed uses on the edges of land use designations must be evaluated to
 22 ensure compatibility with adjacent planned uses.

23 **City of Oakley**

24 The City's 2020 General Plan (2010) identifies the following agricultural resource goals
 25 and policies applicable to the Project site:

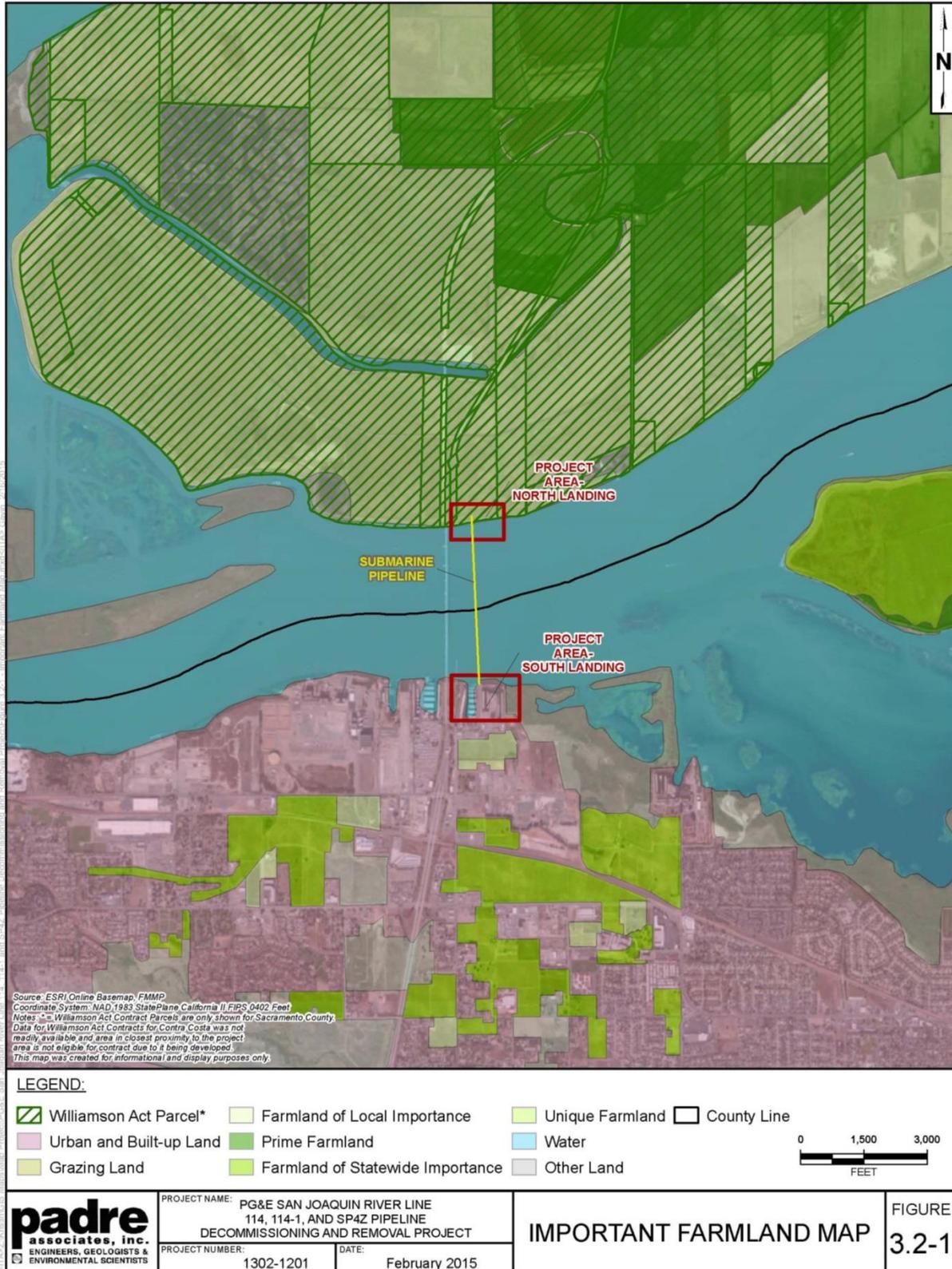


Figure 3.2-1. Important Farmland Map

- 1 • Goal 6.1: Allow agriculture to continue as a viable use of land that reflect the
2 community's origins and minimizes conflicts between agricultural and urban
3 uses.
- 4 • Policy 6.1.1: Participate in regional programs that promote the long-term viability
5 of agricultural operations within the City.
- 6 • Policy 6.1.2: Reduce the negative impacts resulting from urban uses and
7 neighboring agricultural uses in close proximity.
- 8 • Policy 6.1.3: Encourage the promotion and marketing of locally grown agricultural
9 products.

10 **Sacramento County**

11 Farmland resource protection is addressed in the Sacramento County General Plan
12 (Agricultural Element 2011) by the policies and programs described below and intended
13 to meet the following objectives.

- 14 • Protect prime, statewide importance, unique and local importance farmlands, and
15 lands with intensive agricultural investments from urban encroachment.
- 16 • Retain agricultural land holdings in units large enough to guarantee future and
17 continued agricultural use.
- 18 • Prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland and farmland
19 of local importance, and farmlands with intensive agricultural investments
20 protected from encroachment by natural resource preserves without
21 compromising biologic diversity and habitat values.
- 22 • Protect farmlands from encroachments by recreational facilities and unlawful
23 activities associated with use of recreational facilities.
- 24 • Increase in land under Williamson Act contracts and percentage of contract lands
25 with nonrenewal notices stabilized or reduced.
- 26 • Reduce or eliminate groundwater cones of depression in farming areas by
27 encouraging water conservation.
- 28 • Control wind erosion resulting from soil disturbance.
- 29 • No increase in the level or intensity of flooding of intensively farmed land.

30 The following policy applies to the proposed Project area:

- 31 • Policy AG-1: The County shall protect prime, statewide importance, unique and
32 local importance farmlands located outside of the Urban Service Boundary from
33 urban encroachment.

1 **3.2.3 Impact Analysis**

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

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

7 **a) and b) Less than Significant Impact.** The Project is located primarily offshore. As
8 indicated above, the southern landing of the pipelines is located within an area that is
9 zoned and used in support of commercial recreation. However, the northern landing is
10 located within an area partially zoned in support of agricultural use and within a
11 Williamson Act contract area. As such, preservation of agricultural uses has been
12 prioritized through Project design. All onshore decommissioning would be limited to
13 previously disturbed areas and the northern valve box would be fully removed and
14 backfilled to restore this area to pre-development conditions. Additionally, the pipelines
15 coming from this area leading southward offshore would be abandoned in place from
16 the waterside shoulder cut point to the northern submarine cut point (180 feet south of
17 the shoreline). From this point north, the pipelines would be open cut trenched for full
18 removal within the levee section, as requested by the CVFPB/Reclamation District (RD)
19 341. Following short-term onshore construction activities required to decommission and
20 remove the northern valve box and pipelines, the land use in this area would return to
21 pre-development conditions and could be used in support of agricultural development
22 instead. No conflicting land uses would be present. No significant impact to farmlands
23 would result.

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

28 **No Impact.** No forest lands or timberlands are located in the site vicinity; therefore,
29 there would be no impact.

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

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

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

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

3 **3.2.4 Mitigation Summary**

4 The Project would not result in significant impacts to agricultural resources; therefore,
5 no mitigation is required.