

5.14 FARMLANDS

The *Farmland Protection Policy Act* (FPPA) of 1981 (7 USC §§ 4201-4209) was enacted to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to unnecessary and irreversible conversion of prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance to non-agricultural uses.

5.14.1 SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*, states impacts to farmlands are significant when an evaluation of a conversion of farmland to other uses has a total combined score on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) AD-Form 1066, *Farmland Conversion Impact Rating*, between 200 and 260 points.

5.14.2 FARMLAND REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

Prime farmland is defined as land that possesses the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, without intolerable soil erosion. Unique farmland is considered land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. Farmland of statewide or local importance includes land that has been designated as important by a State government, county commissioners, county supervisors, or an equivalent elected body.

There are three type of soils found within the Detailed Study Area (DSA) at Gness Field Airport.¹ The area occupied by the airfield and those areas adjacent to the airfield are composed of urban land and fill Xerothents. The remaining portions of the DSA are composed of Reyes Clay. According to the USDA, none of the soils identified within the DSA are associated with prime or unique farmland as outlined in the USDA's Land Inventory and Monitoring project for Marin County Soil Survey.² None of the areas within the DSA have been designated farmlands of statewide or local importance. None of the alternatives evaluated in detail in this Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A), Alternative B (Sponsor's Proposed Project), Alternative D, or Alternative E, would remove any farmland from active production.

Since no prime or unique farmlands or farmlands of statewide or local importance are present within the DSA, development of the Sponsor's Proposed Project or its alternatives would have no environmental impact on farmland.

¹ U.S. Soil Conservation Service and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, accessed July 2018, <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

² California Department of Conservation, Soil Candidate Listing for Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance: Marin County, Accessed July 2018, <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2016/mar16.pdf>

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