Section 4.2
Agriculture and Forestry Resources

4.2.1 Overview

This section describes the existing agricultural and forestry resources present in the project area and the applicable regulations governing them, and then analyzes the potential changes to these resources that may result from implementation of the project.

4.2.2 Existing Conditions

~~Existing conditions regarding the~~This section discusses the existing agricultural and forestry resources within the project area~~ are described in terms of land suitability for those purposes~~. This information is gathered primarily from the California Department of Conservation (DOC), County ~~of San Diego~~ records of County-identified agricultural resources, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

4.2.2.1 Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

The DOC collects data and maps agricultural land based on soil quality, irrigation conditions, and other criteria. The best-quality land is mapped as Prime Farmland, followed by Farmland of Statewide Importance. Table 4.2-1 describes each Farmland Mapping and Monitoring (FMMP) Farmland category. Figure 4.2-1 depicts the FMMP categories mapped in the project area. 54.92 acres in the southern portion of the project area are classified as Farmland of Local Importance, and 38.32 acres in the northern portion of the project area are classified as Grazing Land, as the County of San Diego ~~has~~ mapped ~~it,~~ in 2018 (County of San Diego 2020). As shown in Figure 4.2-1, the project area does not contain any land mapped as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland.

Table 4.2-1. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring (FMMP) Farmland Categories

Prime Farmland	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 4 years prior to the mapping date.
Farmland of Statewide Importance	Farmland similar to Prime Farmland, but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or lesser ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the 4 years prior to the mapping date.
Unique Farmland	Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the ~~s~~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 4 years prior to the mapping date.

Farmland of Local Importance	Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.
Grazing Land	Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to livestock grazing.
Urban and Built-up Land	Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least one unit to 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.
Other Land	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 and borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural land surrounded by urban development and more than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.

Source: California Department of Conservation 2021

4.2.2.2 County-Identified Agricultural Land

The definition of an *agricultural resource* within the ~~County~~unincorporated area has been broadened from the State of California's definition. County-identified agricultural resources include any land with an active agricultural operation (as defined in the County's guidelines), land that is designated and that meets the definition of an Important Farmland Category as defined in the DOC's FMMP or any vacant site with a history of agricultural production based on aerial photography or other data sources identifying agricultural land uses.

Data sources used to identify agricultural resources in San Diego County include FMMP data, California Department of Water Resources land use data, County geographic information system (GIS) vegetation data, Cleveland National Forest grazing allotments data, U.S. Department of Agriculture Statistics Service data, and Agricultural Weights and Measures Commodities data. The data are grouped into two main categories: grazing lands and croplands. The grazing lands category includes two types of land: grazing lands and field crops. The croplands category includes three agricultural land use types: intensive agriculture, orchards and vineyards, and truck crops. Table 4.2-2 describes the characteristics of each County-identified agricultural resource. As shown in Figure 4.2-2, land east of the project area along South Grade Road is classified as Local Agricultural Land, as mapped by the County of San Diego in 2018 (County of San Diego 2020).

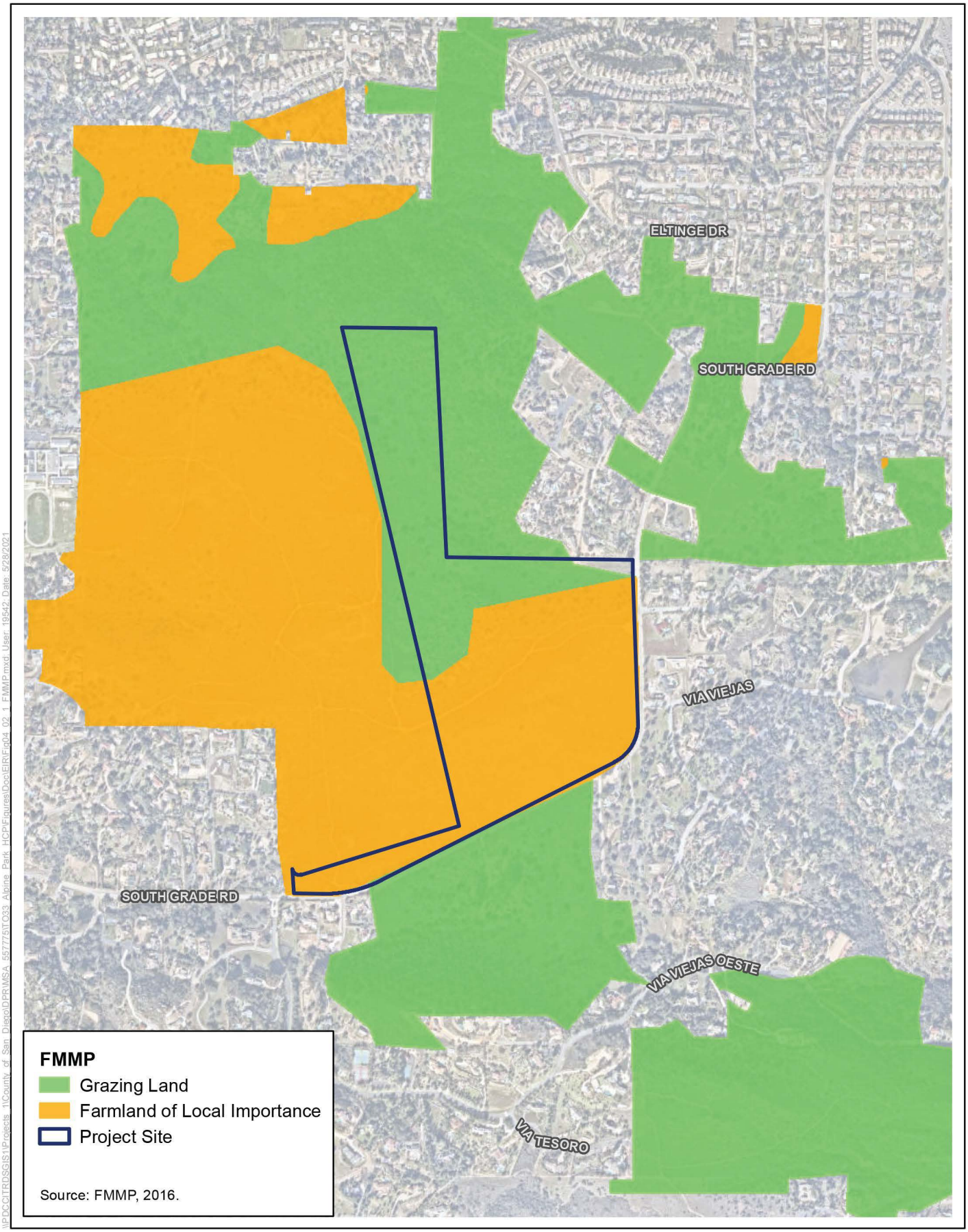

Figure 4.2-1
FMMP Categories
Alpine Park Project

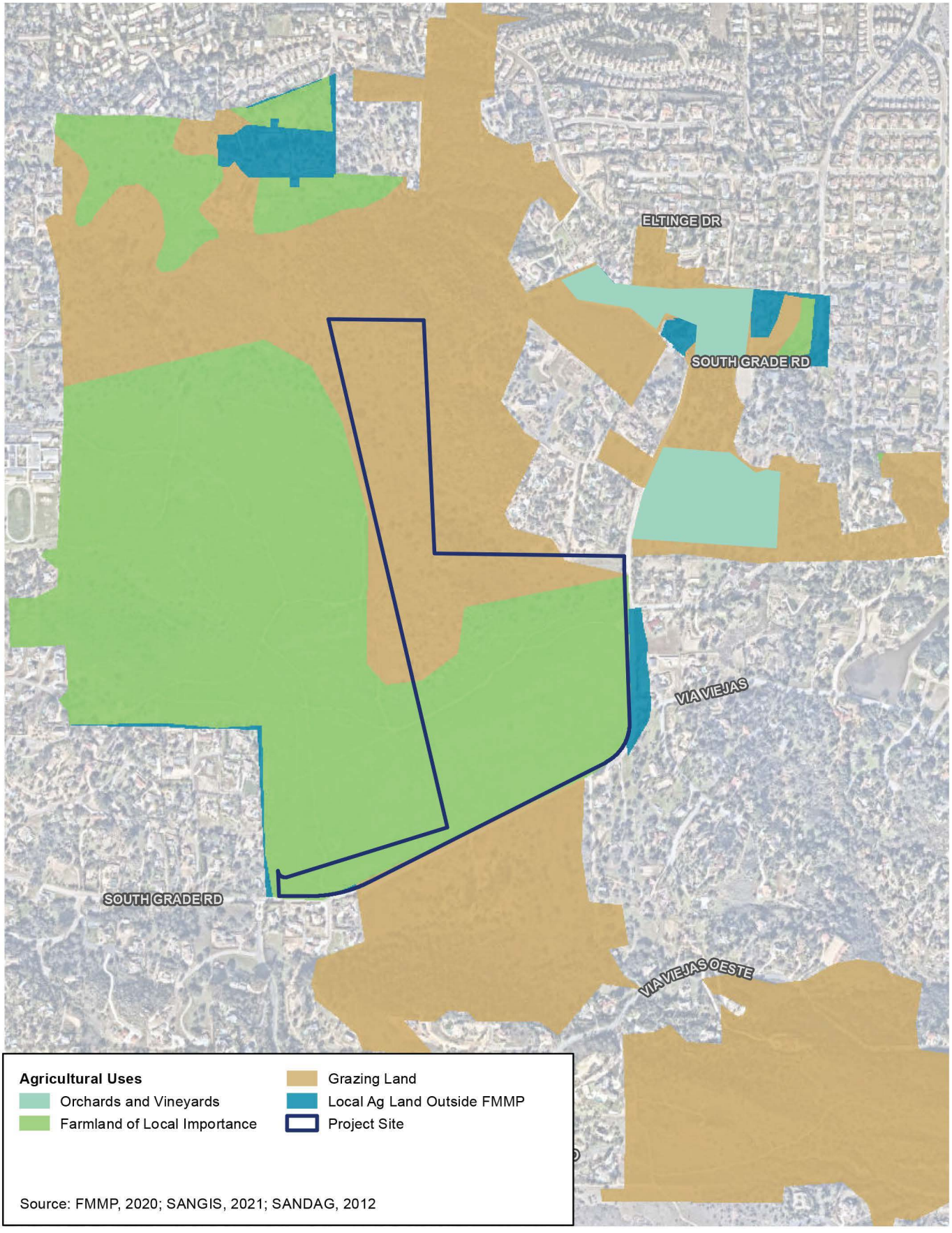

Figure 4.2-2
County Identified Agricultural Lands
Alpine Park Project

Table 4.2-2. County Agricultural Resource Categories

Grazing Land Category The County of San Diego ~~Department of~~ Planning ~~and Land Use (DPLU~~& Development Services (DPS) grazing land category includes grazing lands and field crops. Both field crops and grazing operations in San Diego County are economically marginal because of the lack of sufficient contiguous area with good soils, adequate rainfall, and appropriate topography.
Field Crops Field crops include agriculture that requires clearing of native vegetation to plant a crop, but requires little other farm management or input. Field crops do not require the use of pesticides or irrigation infrastructure. Most field crops in ~~the~~San Diego County are dryland farmed, restricting active agricultural use of the land to the wet winter months. Field crops include alfalfa, oat, wheat, other grains, and similar crops.
Grazing Lands Grazing lands occupy the greatest acreage of all agricultural land in ~~the~~San Diego County, but represent a category of low-value agricultural land use. These lands generally involve no mechanical impact on the land and require little support infrastructure. Grazing lands do not require the use of pesticides or irrigation infrastructure. Grazing is a low-water-use activity reliant on natural water sources or wells. The location of grazing lands in ~~the~~San Diego County reflects this fact, with much of the identified grazing lands located east of the San Diego County Water Authority service area.
Cropland Category The ~~DPLU~~PDS cropland category includes intensive agriculture, orchards and vineyards, and truck crops. Commodities included in the cropland category generally involve more permanent or severe land disturbance.
Intensive Agriculture This category includes ~~semiagricultural~~semi-agricultural and incidental agricultural operations, such as chicken farms, dairies, poultry farms, and livestock feed lots.
Orchards and Vineyards Orchards and Vineyards include crops such as apples, apricots, avocados, citrus fruits, and wine grapes.
Truck Crops Truck crops include all indoor and outdoor greenhouse flowers, vegetable crops, and row crops, including tomatoes, strawberries, cucumbers, potatoes, celery, squash, romaine lettuce, cauliflower, and similar crops.

Source: County of San Diego 2011

Historically, the project site has been used for agriculture; a map of the area from 1846 indicates that the property was used to grow grain (ICF 2020). Sydney and Anna Wright purchased the property in 1920 as part of a larger farm, living there until 1957. As determined through viewing aerial imagery, the project area does not currently have active agricultural operations and has not contained agricultural operations since 1953. Nearby properties formerly contained active agricultural operations; however, these operations appear to have ceased since approximately 1990 (NETR Online 2021).

4.2.2.3 Agricultural Soils

In general, soil quality in San Diego County is poor due to its steep terrain and erodible soils. There are various measures of soil quality, including Land Capability Classification (LCC); Storie Index (SI); prime agricultural land as defined by the Williamson Act (Government Code Section 51201); Prime

Farmland Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance as identified by FMMP; and County Prime Farmland Soil Candidate and County Statewide Important Soil Candidate. There are no FMMP Prime Soils, Statewide Significant Soils, County Prime Soils, or Statewide Significant Candidate Soils in the project area (County of San Diego 2020).

The soils mapped for the property are Bosanko stony clay, 5 to 9 percent slopes; Fallbrook rocky sandy loam, 9 to 30 percent slopes, eroded; Cienaba very rocky coarse sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes; and Cienaba–Fallbrook rock sandy loams, 9 to 30 percent slopes, eroded. These soils generally support annual grasses and forbs, flattop buckwheat, chamise, California sagebrush, and oak or broadleaf chaparral (USDA 1973).

4.2.2.4 Agricultural Zoning and Land Use Designations

The County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance divides the unincorporated area~~s~~ of ~~the~~San Diego County into zones based on existing land uses and to regulate future land uses. Most zones allow for agricultural uses, but there are two specific agricultural zones: Limited Agriculture (A70) and General Agriculture (A72). Although neither the A70 nor A72 zones preclude other development, such as a residence, the zones allow for greater flexibility for agricultural resources. The A70 zone is intended to regulate crop production and allows for a small number of animals to be kept. The A72 zone is intended for both crops and animals.

The project site falls ~~under~~within the ~~jurisdiction~~boundaries of the Alpine Community Plan and is subject to a Semi-Rural Residential (SR-2) land use designation. Zoning for the site is A70, Limited Agricultural Use, and S80, Open Space. There are presently no active agricultural uses on site. Currently, the project site is surrounded by Wright's Field Preserve to the we~~a~~st, residential properties to the north, and South Grade Road and residential properties to the east and south.

4.2.2.5 Williamson Act Contract Lands

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, known as the Williamson Act, was passed to preserve agricultural land and open spaces in California. The act provides the framework for local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners to preserve farmland and ranchland. The County ~~of San Diego~~ has set forth policies for the implementation of the Williamson Act, which authorize~~s~~d the County to establish agricultural preserves. An agricultural preserve is adopted by the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (BOS) and designates an area devoted to agriculture, open space, recreational use, or any combination of such uses, as defined by the Williamson Act and by the County of San Diego BOS Policy I-38, *Agricultural Preserves*. An agricultural preserve must cover a minimum of 10 acres to be used for groves or croplands; for grazing land, the minimum is 80 acres; and for mixed land uses, the minimum is 40 acres. These agricultural preserves are established for the purpose of defining the boundaries of those areas within the ~~County~~unincorporated area that would be ~~willing~~able to enter into contracts pursuant to the Williamson Act. The project area is not within an agricultural preserve ~~and does not contain~~or land subject to a Williamson Act Contract (Contract) (County of San Diego 2020). ~~(See section 4.2.3.2 below for a description of Williamson Act Contract requirements.)~~

4.2.2.6 Forestry and Timberland Resources

The USFS defines a forested area as *forest land* if it is at least 1 acre in size and at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for non-forest use. Non-forest uses may include cropland, pasturelands, residential areas, and other land uses. Forest land includes transition zones, which are those "areas located between heavily forested and non-forested lands that are at least 10 percent stocked with forest trees, and forest areas adjacent to urban and built-up lands" (County of San Diego 2016).

Most federal forest land is managed as the National Forest System, including the following:

- National forest lands reserved from the U.S. public domain
- National forest lands acquired through purchase, exchange, donation, or other means
- National grasslands
- Other lands, waters, or interests administered by the USFS or designated for administration through the USFS as part of the system

The California Public Resources Code (PRC) (Section 12220(g)) defines forest land as land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and allows for management of one or more forestry resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

Timberland, as defined by PRC section 4526, is land other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection 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. ~~PRC sections 51112 or 51113 (h) define~~California Government Code Section 51104(g) defines a *Timberland Production Zone* as land used for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses.

San Diego County does not contain lands zoned specifically for forest land, timberland, or timberland production. No land under County land use jurisdiction within the project area contains any timberland resources as defined by PRC section 4526.

As identified in Figure 4.4-1, the project site contains land mapped as "Open Engelmann Oak Woodland." This woodland is mapped primarily along the northern portion of APN 404-170-63 and interspersed throughout APN 404-171-12.

4.2.3 Applicable Laws and Regulations

4.2.3.1 Federal

Farmland Protection Policy Act

The USDA administers the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981. The Act is intended to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary conversion of farmland to ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural uses. The act also requires these programs to be compatible with State, local, and private efforts to protect farmland.

4.2.3.2 State

California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act)

The Williamson Act was ~~enacted in (year?) to provide~~designed as an incentive to retain prime agricultural land and open space in agricultural use, thereby slowing its conversion to urban and suburban development. The program requires a 10-year Contract between the County and the landowner. While in Contract, the land is taxed based on its agricultural use, rather than its market value. The land becomes subject to certain enforceable restrictions, and certain conditions need to be met prior to approval of an agreement. The goal of the Williamson Act is to protect agriculture and open space.

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

The FMMP, established in 1982, produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status, with the best quality land called Prime Farmland. Maps are updated every 2 years, with current land use information gathered from aerial photographs, a computer mapping system, public review, and field reconnaissance. The minimum mapping unit is 10 acres. DOC Prime Farmlands, Farmlands of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmlands are referenced in the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, as resources to consider in an evaluation of agricultural impacts.

California Land Evaluation Site Assessment Model (LESA)

The USDA ~~NRCS has~~Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) developed the Land Evaluation Site Assessment Model (LESA) to assist State and local officials in making sound decisions about land use. Combined with forest measures and rangeland parameters, LESA can provide a technical framework to numerically rank land parcels through local resource evaluation. In determining whether impacts on agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, the CEQA Guidelines reference DOC's California agricultural LESA model as an optional methodology that may be used to assess the relative value of agriculture and farmland. The California agricultural LESA model evaluates soil-resource quality, project size, water-resource availability, surrounding agricultural lands, and surrounding protected resource lands. For a given project, the factors are rated, weighted, and combined, resulting in a single numeric score. The project score then becomes the basis for making a determination of a project's potential significance. DOC encourages local agencies to develop local agricultural models to account for the variability of local agricultural resources and conditions. An alternative approach, referred to as the Local Agricultural Resource Assessment (LARA) model, has been developed to assess the relative value of agricultural resources in San Diego County.

4.2.3.3 Regional

County of San Diego General Plan

The County's General Plan provides guidance for the protection, promotion, and preservation of agriculture in San Diego County. Aspects of agriculture are discussed in the General Plan's Open Space Element, Land Use Element, Conservation Element, and Community Plans. The Open Space Element establishes goals to encourage agricultur~~al~~e use in suitable areas; foster compatibility

between agricultural and ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural uses; enhance the economic viability of agriculture; preserve productive agricultural areas; recognize the value of agricultural areas as open space; facilitate agricultural lands as greenbelts; and highlight the importance of a rural lifestyle. The Regional Land Use Element explains the permitted uses of the County's agricultural land use designations: (19) Intensive Agriculture and (20) General Agriculture. The emphasis of these two designations is to promote agricultural use. The Conservation Element addresses agriculture's relationship with soils, climate, drainage, water availability, and economics in the ~~County. The element~~unincorporated area. The Conservation Element established policies and action programs to monitor the agricultural conversion and analyze, improve, and promote agriculture. The Community Plans focus on the protection, promotion, and preservation of agriculture, on a community-by-community basis.

County of San Diego BOS Policy I-38, Agricultural Preserves

~~The~~ BOS Policy I-38 sets forth policies for the implementation of the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, known as the Williamson Act. In 1965 the State Legislature added to the Government Code Sections 51200 *et. s*~~s~~*Seq*. which authorized the County to establish agricultural preserves. ~~Board~~BOS Policy I-38 identifies criteria for the establishment, modification, and disestablishment of an agricultural preserve, including processing requirements, application fees, and hearing requirements. The policy also establishes a minimum size for an agricultural preserve; requires that each preserve establish minimum ownership sizes that landowners must meet to be eligible for a Contract; requires the application of zoning regulations; establishes eligibility criteria for filing an application for an agricultural preserve and Contract with the County; and establishes criteria to cancel a Contract, including cancellation by eminent domain.

Agricultural Clearing Permit Requirements

A County Agricultural Clearing Permit is typically required for projects involving clearing and/or removal of natural vegetation on agricultural land. The establishment of a new agricultural operation on, or the expansion of an existing operation into, any area that has not been in agricultural production for at least 1 of the preceding 5 years may also be required to obtain an agricultural clearing permit. Agriculturally related clearing within the MSCP boundary would also require an agricultural clearing permit.

Local Agricultural Resource Assessment (LARA) Model

~~The~~ County ~~DPLU~~PDS developed the LARA model to assess the relative value of agricultural resources in the ~~County~~unincorporated area. The LARA model serves as the local agricultural model that accounts for the variability of local agricultural resources and conditions. ~~San Diego~~The County has chosen to use the LARA model to determine the importance of agricultural resources, rather than the LESA model, because the LARA model accounts for the large number of farms in the ~~County~~unincorporated area that are smaller than 10 acres in size and takes into account ~~the~~San Diego County's unique soil conditions. The LESA model does not account for agricultural resources smaller than 10 acres in size. The County uses the LARA model to determine the importance of agricultural resources in the context of discretionary land use projects. The LARA model considers soils, climate, and water as primary model factors, while also considering the presence of Contracts, other preserved lands, and existing land uses in the surrounding area. The LARA model approach to

analyzing agricultural resources is consistent with direction provided in policies of the Open Space Element of the General Plan, which states:

> When considering a subdivision request, or other development proposal, the determination of productive agricultural area shall be made based on existing agricultural uses, and on the potential for future agricultural production, and the contribution to the agricultural sector of our economy. Consideration shall be given, but shall not be limited to soil types, climate, the availability of water and its quality, and the existence of Williamson Act preserves ~~ad contracts.~~and Contracts. On-site and adjacent land use designations and zoning, ownership and parcelization patterns, as well as existing land uses, and cropping history shall all be considered.

4.2.4 Project Impact Analysis

4.2.4.1 Methodology

The project would implement the development of Alpine Park and associated trails, as well as the conservation of approximately ~~73~~70 acres of open space~~/preserve~~. The following section evaluates the effects on existing agricultural and forestry resources (as described above) should the project be implemented. Based on the existing conditions, the analysis assesses the direct and indirect impacts related to agricultural and forestry resources using the thresholds presented below.

4.2.4.2 Thresholds of Significance

Appendix G of the ~~State~~ CEQA Guidelines

Based on guidance provided in Appendix G of the~~ State~~ CEQA Guidelines, the project would result in a significant impact if it would:

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~~non-agricultural use.
2. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act ~~c~~Contract.
3. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC § 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code § 51104(g)).
4. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
5. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance

As detailed in the *County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements, Agricultural Resources* (County of San Diego 2005), the project would result in a significant impact if:

1. The project site has important agricultural resources as defined by the LARA Model; and the project would result in the conversion of agricultural resources that meet the soil quality criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as defined by the FMMP; and as a result, the project would substantially impair the ongoing viability of the site for agricultural use.
2. The project proposes a non-agricultural land use within one-quarter mile of an active agricultural operation or land under a Williamson Act Contract (Contract) and as a result of the project, land use conflicts between the agricultural operation or Contract land and the proposed project would likely occur and could result in conversion of agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use.
3. The project proposes a school, church, day care or other use that involves a concentration of people at certain times within one mile of an agricultural operation or land under Contract and as a result of the project, land use conflicts between the agricultural operation or Contract land and the proposed project would likely occur and could result in conversion of agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use.
4. The project would involve other changes to the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of offsite agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use or could adversely impact the viability of agriculture on land under a Williamson Act Contract.
5. The project conflicts with a Williamson Act Contract (Contract) or the provisions of the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act).

4.2.4.3 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Threshold 1: Implementation of the project <u>would not</u> convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Important Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

Construction and Operations

The project area does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. However, the project area does contain 54.92 acres of Farmland of Local Importance, which the County of San Diego considers ~~to be~~ an agricultural resource (County of San Diego 2015). 38.32 acres of the project area is classified as Grazing Land. There are no FMMP Prime Soils, Statewide Significant Soils, County Prime Soils, or Statewide Significant Candidate Soils in the project area (County of San Diego 2020). As determined through viewing aerial imagery, the project area and surrounding areas do not currently have active agricultural operations and have not contained agricultural operations in the past (NETR Online 2021). The project would include the development of an approximately 25-acre active park and modifications to existing trails. The remainder of the project site would be conserved as open space~~/preserve~~. Although the project

would convert ~~approximately~~ 54.92 acres of Farmland of Local Importance to park and open space~~/preserve~~ uses, the site is not currently being used for agriculture and does not contain agricultural resources that meet the Prime and Statewide soil criteria, as defined by the FMMP. Therefore, impacts resulting from conversion of land to ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural use would be less than significant.

Impact Determination

The project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural use. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 2: Implementation of the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract.

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

Construction and Operations

The project site falls ~~under~~within the ~~jurisdiction~~boundaries of the Alpine Community Plan and is subject to a Semi-Rural Residential (SR-2) land use designation. Zoning for the site is A70, Limited Agricultural Use, and S80, Open Space. ~~No Williamson Act land is present within the project site.~~ The project would not change the land use designation or the zoning within the project site. ~~The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation's~~County DPR's new and existing park facilities are exempt from the County's Zoning Ordinance (County of San Diego 2021). The project area is not located within an agricultural preserve or on land subject to a Williamson Act Contract (County of San Diego 2020). Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Contract, and impacts would be less than significant.

Impact Determination

The project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Contract. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 3: Implementation of the project would not 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)).

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

Construction and Operations

San Diego County does not contain lands zoned specifically for forest land, timberland, or timberland production. No land under County land use jurisdiction within the project area contains any timberland resources as defined by PRC section 4526. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC § 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code § 51104(g)).

Impact Determination

The project would not conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland, or timberland-zoned land uses. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 4: Implementation of the project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

Construction and Operations

As identified in Figure 4.4-1, the project site contains land mapped as "Open Engelmann Oak Woodland." This woodland is mapped primarily along the northern portion of APN 404-170-63 and interspersed throughout APN 404-171-12. However, the project would not remove any oak trees within the project area. Furthermore, the project will contribute to the preservation of "Open Engelmann Oak Woodland" and other vegetation communities within the open space~~/preserve~~ portion of the project area.

Impact Determination

The project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 5: Implementation of the project would not 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.

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

As discussed above under Threshold 1, the project would result in the direct conversion of Farmland of Local Importance to ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural uses~~; however, there~~. There are no existing agricultural operations on the project site or within surrounding areas. Furthermore, the project will not remove any oak trees within the project area. Therefore, implementation of the project would not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

Impact Determination

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 6: The project site does not have important agricultural resources as defined by the LARA Model and the project would not result in the conversion of agricultural resources that meet the soil quality criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as defined by the FMMP and, as a result, the project would not substantially impair the ongoing viability of the site for agricultural use.

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

As discussed above under Threshold 1, the project area does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. There are no FMMP Prime Soils, Statewide Significant Soils, County Prime Soils, or Statewide Significant Candidate Soils in the project area (County of San Diego 2020). Therefore, the project would not result in the conversion of agricultural resources that meet the soil quality criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as defined by the FMMP, and the project would not substantially impair the ongoing viability of the site for agricultural use.

Impact Determination

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 7: The project would not propose a non-agricultural land use within one-quarter mile of an active agricultural operation or land under a Williamson Act Contract (Contract) and as a result of the project, land use conflicts between the agricultural operation or Contract land and the ~~proposed~~ project would not occur and would not result in conversion of agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use.

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

As discussed above under Threshold 2, the project would not conflict with a Contract. Additionally, the project would not propose a non-agricultural land use within one-quarter mile of an active agricultural operation or land under a Contract. Therefore, land use conflicts between an agricultural operation or Contract land and the project would not occur and would not result in conversion of agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use.

Impact Determination

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 8: The project would not propose a school, church, day care, or other use that involves a concentration of people at certain times within one mile of an agricultural operation or land under Contract and, as a result of the project, land use conflicts between the agricultural operation or Contract land and the ~~proposed~~ project would not occur and would not result in conversion of agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use.

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

The project does not propose a school, day care, or other use that involves a concentration of people at certain times within 1 mile of an agricultural operation or land under Contract. Therefore, implementation of the project would not result in land use conflicts between agricultural operation or Contract land and the project, and the project would not result in conversion of agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use.

Impact Determination

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

Threshold 9: The project would not involve other changes to the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of offsite agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use or could adversely impact the viability of agriculture on land under a Williamson Act Contract.

County Park and Trails and Open Space~~/Preserve~~

Impact Discussion

As discussed above under Threshold 1, the project would not result in the direct conversion of Farmland of Local Importance to ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural uses. There are no existing agricultural operations on the project site or within surrounding areas. As discussed above under Threshold 5, the project would not involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to ~~nonagricultural~~non-agricultural use. As discussed above under Threshold 2, the project area is not within an agricultural preserve or on land subject to a Contract (County of San Diego 2020). Therefore, implementation of the project would not involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of offsite agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use or could adversely affect the viability of agriculture on land under a Contract.

Impact Determination

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.

4.2.5 Summary of Significant Impacts

There would be no significant impacts on agriculture or forestry resources.