

**BIOGAS RENEWABLE GENERATION PROJECT
FINAL INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURE
March 9, 2018

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

3.2.1 Setting

Regional

Los Angeles County agricultural production value is 32nd in the State, with a reported value of \$230,068,000 in 2014, a 14.6 percent increase from 2013. Los Angeles County's leading agricultural commodities in 2014 included nursery woody ornamentals and plants, onions, hay, and alfalfa (California Department of Food and Agriculture, 2015).

Local

The Project consists of approximately 2.2-acre power plant project site within the SCLF facility, a proposed three-inch diameter natural gas pipeline approximately 0.67 miles long, and a proposed 12-inch diameter water pipeline approximately one mile long to be constructed within the City of Glendale, Los Angeles County, California. The site is depicted in Township 1 North, Range 13 West of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Burbank 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Figure 2.2-1). The proposed approximately 2.2-acre power plant subarea, proposed gas pipeline subarea, and proposed water pipeline subarea occur within an inactive portion of the existing SCLF permitted facilities boundary. The terminus of the proposed water pipeline extends to Glenoaks Blvd., directly north of the northwest corner of the facility boundary.

Lands within the Proposed Project area are within the City of Glendale, which are zoned as Special Recreation and Restricted Residential. No agricultural use zone currently exists within the City of Glendale, nor are any agricultural zones proposed. There are no agricultural or farmland areas on or within the vicinity of the Proposed Project area.

Regulatory Setting

Federal

Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. Section 4201)

The purpose of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It additionally directs federal programs to be compatible with State and local policies for the protection of farmlands. The FPPA does not authorize the Federal Government to regulate the use of private or nonfederal land or, in any way, affect the property rights of owners of such land.

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For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance, defined as follows in 7 U.S.C. Section 4201:

- Prime farmland is land that has 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, and without intolerable soil erosion;
- Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables; and
- Farmland, other than prime or unique farmland, that is of statewide or local importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, or oilseed crops, as determined by the appropriate State or unit of local government agency or agencies, and that the Secretary determines should be considered as farmland for the purposes of this chapter.

Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency (NRCS, 2008).

State

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) was created by the California Legislature in 1982. It requires the Department of Conservation (DOC) to prepare, update, and maintain Important Farmland Series Maps and other soils and land capability information. Under the FMMP, the DOC categorizes land into the following categories:

Prime Farmland - This has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for crop production. It has the soil quality, growing seasons and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yield crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to current farming methods.

No FMMP- designated Prime farmlands are located within the Proposed Project area.

Farmland of Statewide Importance - This is land other than prime farmland that has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops, and has been used for the production of irrigated crops within the four years prior to the mapping date.

No FMMP- designated Farmland of Statewide Importance are located within Proposed Project area.

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Unique Farmland – This is land that does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, and land that is currently used for the production of specific high economic value crops. This category excludes abandoned orchards or vineyards. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

No FMMP- designated Unique Farmland are located within the Proposed Project area.

California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act)

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, was established to encourage the preservation of the state's agricultural lands in view of the increasing trends toward their "premature and unnecessary" urbanization. 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. In return, landowners receive lower property tax assessments. Williamson Act contracts must have an initial term of at least ten years, and are available only when the land is located within an established agricultural preserve. Every year, absent a notice of nonrenewal, the contract is automatically extended, or "renewed" for an additional year.

No Williamson Act designated lands are located within the Proposed Project area.

The Land Conservation Act (LCA) consists of two primary enrollment categories: Prime and Non-Prime. A third category, Mixed Enrollment Agricultural Land corresponds to lands containing a combination of Prime, Non-Prime, Open Space Easement, or other contracted or enrolled lands not yet delineated by the county, as described below.

Prime Agricultural Land – Land that meets specified soil quality, forage production, or income criteria under Government Code Section 51201. Under the Land Conservation Act, the Prime Agricultural Land designation impacts what uses are considered compatible, eligible parcel sizes, and other factors including the amount of open space subventions payable to the participating city or county.

No LCA Prime Agricultural Lands are located within or adjacent to the Proposed Project area.

Non-Prime Agricultural Land - Land enrolled under a California Land Conservation Act contract but not defined as "prime agricultural land" under Government Code Section 51201 (c) or as land that is not classified as "agricultural land" under Public Resources Code Section 21060.1 (a). Non-prime agricultural land is also defined as open space uses of statewide significance under Government Code Section 16143(b), and may be identified as such in other documents.

No LCA Non-Prime Agricultural Lands are located within or adjacent to the Proposed Project area.

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Mixed Enrollment Agricultural Land – Enrolled lands containing a combination of Prime, Non-Prime, Open Space Easement, or other contracted or enrolled lands not yet delineated by the county.

No Mixed Enrollment Agricultural Lands are located within or adjacent to the Proposed Project area.

Farmland Security Zone Act

The Farmland Security Zone (FSZ) Act is similar to the Williamson Act and was passed by the California State Legislature in 1999 to ensure that long-term farmland preservation is part of public policy (Government Code sections 51296-51297.4).

None of the lands within or adjacent to the Proposed Project area are located within a FSZ.

3.2.2 Impact Analysis

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES:</u> Would the project:				
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 Protection (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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- 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?*

No Impact

There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance within or adjacent to the Proposed Project area. No agricultural use zone currently exists within the City of Glendale, nor are any agricultural zones proposed. Therefore, no impacts related to the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

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

No Impact

The Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract because no agricultural zones exist within the City of Glendale, nor is the Proposed Project within or adjacent to agricultural land that would require a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impacts related to existing agricultural zone use or Williamson Act contracts would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

- 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 Protection (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?*

No Impact

The Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Protection because none of the lands within or adjacent to the Proposed Project are identified as "forest land," "timberland," or "Timberland Protection" as defined in the Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) and Section 4526, or Government Code Section 51104 (g). Therefore, no impacts related to zoning of forest land, timberland, or Timberland Protection would occur.

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Mitigation Measures

None required.

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

No Impact

The Proposed Project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use because none of the lands within and adjacent to the Proposed Project are identified as forest land as defined in the Public Code Section 12220(g). Therefore, no impacts related to loss or conversion of forest land would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None Required.

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?

No Impact

The Proposed Project would not involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use because there is no farmland or forest land within or adjacent to the Proposed Project area. Therefore, no impacts related to conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use would occur.

Mitigation Measures

None required.