D.2 Agriculture

This section describes the affected environment for Agriculture in Section D.2.1 and presents the relevant regulations and standards in Section D.2.2. Sections D.2.3 through D.2.5 describe the impacts of the Proposed Project and the alternatives. Section D.2.6 presents the mitigation measures and mitigation monitoring requirements, and D.2.7 lists references cited.

D.2.1 Environmental Setting / Affected Environment

D.2.1.1 Regional Setting and Approach to Data Collection

This analysis uses data from the California Department of Conservation's (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) to assess impacts to designated Important Farmland. There is no forest land or Williamson Act land in the project vicinity. Information used for this analysis was obtained from DOC maps and metadata, interpretation of aerial photographs, and review of planning documents.

For purposes of this analysis, the project vicinity is defined as locations where work described in Chapter 3, Project Description, would be performed, plus a buffer of 500 feet from the centerline on each side of all Proposed Project components, for a total buffer width of 1,000 feet. The buffer was selected for the purpose of documenting resources adjacent to the Proposed Project to address any future minor modifications.

The project vicinity includes portions of the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, San Bernardino, and Yucaipa, and unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. In the City of Rancho Cucamonga, the Proposed Project is limited to improvements within the Mechanical Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) at Etiwanda Substation. This work within an existing facility would not affect agricultural or forestry resources in the City of Rancho Cucamonga; therefore, the City of Rancho Cucamonga is not included for further discussion. In addition, there is no designated Important Farmland or agricultural zoning in in the cities of Calimesa, Colton, Palm Springs, San Bernardino, and Yucaipa; therefore, these jurisdictions are also not addressed further.

NRCS Important Farmland Map Categories

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, originally called the Soil Conservation Service) produces agricultural resource maps based on soil quality and land use. As part of this mapping project, the NRCS created a set of definitions known as the Land Inventory and Monitoring (LIM) criteria. These criteria classify the land's suitability for agricultural production, including physical and chemical characteristics of soils as derived from NRCS soil survey data and maps, as well as specific land uses. Technical ratings of the soils and the land use information were combined to establish the appropriate map category (USDA, 2014). The NRCS Important Farmland categories are:

- **Prime Farmland.** Land with the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses.
- **Farmland of Statewide Importance.** Land that does not meet the criteria for Prime or Unique Farmland, and is defined by the appropriate State agencies. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for Prime Farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

- **Unique Farmland.** Land other than Prime Farmland that has the soil characteristics needed to economically produce sustainable high yields of specific high-value food and fiber crops when properly managed. Unique Farmland is not based on national criteria, and therefore can differ by area.
- **Farmland of Local Importance.** Lands that are not identified as having national or statewide importance, but are identified by the appropriate local agencies as important for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops.

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

The DOC established the FMMP to assess the location and quality of agricultural lands and conversion of these lands to other uses. The DOC uses the USDA NRCS soil classifications described above with slight modifications to identify agricultural lands in California. Modifications made by the DOC to NRCS important farmland classifications include the following: Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance must be irrigated; Farmland of Local Importance is identified by local advisory committees and varies by county; and the development and use of the "Grazing Land" designation, which is unique to California (DOC, 2014).

- In Riverside County, Farmland of Local Importance includes:
  - Soils that would be classified as Prime and Statewide but lack available irrigation water.
  - Lands planted to dryland crops of barley, oats, and wheat.
  - Lands producing major crops for Riverside County but that are not listed as Unique crops. These crops are identified as returning 1 million or more dollars in the 1980 Riverside County Agricultural Crop Report.
  - Crops identified are permanent pasture (irrigated), summer squash, okra, eggplant, radishes, and watermelons.
  - Dairylands, including corrals, pasture, milking facilities, hay and manure storage areas if accompanied with permanent pasture or hayland of 10 acres or more.
  - Lands identified by city or county ordinance as Agricultural Zones or Contracts, which includes Riverside City "Proposition R" lands.
  - Lands planted to jojoba, which are under cultivation and are of producing age.
- In San Bernardino County, No Farmland of Local Importance is traversed by the Proposed Project.

D.2.1.2 Environmental Setting by Jurisdiction

In 2012, California's 80,500 farms and ranches received $44.7 billion in revenue for producing over 400 agricultural commodities (CDFA, 2014). California remained the leading state in farm revenues in 2012, representing 11 percent of the U.S. total (CDFA, 2014). California produced over a third of the country's vegetables and nearly two-thirds of the country's fruits and nuts (CDFA, 2014).

Agriculture plays a large economic role in both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. In Riverside County, approximately 5 percent of the County's unincorporated areas are designated for agricultural use (County of Riverside 2008a, 2008b). In the 2007 USDA Agricultural Census, there were 3,463 farms in Riverside County with an average size of 102 acres (USDA, 2008). The gross value of the County's agricultural commodities was $1.25 million in 2012 (14th in the state). Riverside County's top agricultural commodities were milk, ornamental nursery plants, grapes, and hay.

In San Bernardino County, approximately 2 percent of the County's unincorporated areas are designated for agriculture (County of San Bernardino, 2009). In 2007, there were 1,405 farms in the County with an average size of 366 acres. The gross value was of the County's agricultural commodities was $466,505 (24th in the state). San Bernardino County's top agricultural commodities were milk, eggs, cattle, and hay.

California's farm and ranch lands cover nearly 31.5 million acres (DOC, 2014). Irrigated farmland in California decreased by nearly 263 square miles (168,040 acres) between 2008 and 2010 (DOC, 2014b). Table D.2-1 shows the acres of farmland inventoried by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) in 2008 and 2010.

Table D.2-1. California Farmland Inventory 2008 and 2010 (acres)

	Riverside County		San Bernardino County		California Total	
	2008	2010	2008	2010	2008	2010
Prime Farmland	122,935	119,635	14,090	12,848	5,249,116	5,146,562
Farmland of Statewide Importance	44,653	44,086	6,747	6,242	2,683,573	2,621,601
Unique Farmland	37,133	35,391	2,661	2,511	1,335,387	1,331,874
Farmland of Local Importance	229,156	229,877	1,828	22,761	3,120,2778	3,186,017
Important Farmland Subtotal	**433,877**	**428,989**	**25,326**	**22,761**	**12,388,354**	**12,286,054**
Grazing Land	111,219	110,841	901,666	902,590	19,175,956	19,200,602
Agricultural Land Subtotal	**545,096**	**539,830**	**926,992**	**925,351**	**31,564,310**	**31,486,656**

Source: DOC, 2014b (FMMP).

The project vicinity includes Important Farmland in unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino counties and in the cities of Beaumont, Loma Linda, and Redlands.

City of Beaumont. There are 3.8 acres of Unique Farmland within the project vicinity, in the City of Beaumont, of which 0.6 acres is within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. The 3.8 acres of Important Farmland represents 8.9 percent of the total area of Important Farmland in the City. The Important Farmland within the boundaries of the Proposed Project is 1.1 percent of the total designated Important Farmland in the City of Beaumont.

City of Loma Linda. There are approximately 59.8 acres of Prime Farmland within the project vicinity in the City of Loma Linda, of which approximately 9.8 acres are within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. The 59.8 acres of Prime Farmland in the City of Loma Linda represents 17.9 percent of the total area of Important Farmland in the City. The 9.8 acres of Important Farmland within the boundaries of the Proposed Project is 2.9 percent of the total designated Important Farmland in the City of Loma Linda.

City of Redlands. There are 185.8 acres of Prime Farmland within the project vicinity in the City of Redlands, of which 30.2 acres are within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. There are also 40.9 acres of Unique Farmland in the City of Redlands, of which 2.7 acres are within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. The 226.7 acres of Important Farmland in the City of Redlands represents 34.8 percent of the total area of Important Farmland in the City. The 32.9 acres of Important Farmland within the boundaries of the Proposed Project is 4.4 percent of the total designated Important Farmland in the City of Redlands.

Riverside County. There are 6.8 acres of Prime Farmland within the project vicinity in Riverside County, none of which is within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. There are 46.7 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance within the project vicinity in Riverside County, of which 6.7 acres are within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. There are 1.1 acres of Unique Farmland in the project vicinity, none

of which is within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. The 54.6 acres of Important Farmland represent 0.1 percent of the total area of Important Farmland in the County. The 6.7 acres of Important Farmland within the boundaries of the Proposed Project in Riverside County represent a negligible fraction of 1 percent of the total designated Important Farmland in the County.

San Bernardino County. There are 67.9 acres of Prime Farmland within the project vicinity in San Bernardino County, of which 18.5 acres are within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. There are 1.6 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance within the project vicinity in the County, of which 1.2 acres are within the boundaries of the Proposed Project. There also are 0.7 acres designated as Unique Farmland within the project vicinity. The 70.2 acres of Important Farmland represent 0.5 percent of the total area of Important Farmland in the County. The total of 19.7 acres of Important Farmland within the boundaries of the Proposed Project represents 0.1 percent of the total designated Important Farmland in San Bernardino County.

Zoning Designations

The portions of project vicinity that are zoned for agricultural use are within unincorporated parts of Riverside County and the cities of Banning, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, and Redlands. The Proposed Project would be located within a variety of agricultural zoning designations, as discussed further, by jurisdiction below:

City of Banning. The City of Banning identifies two combination residential and agriculture use districts: the Ranch/Agriculture (R/A) District and the Ranch/Agriculture Residential–Hillside District (RAR-H). Both districts allow detached single family homes at a density of one dwelling unit per 10 acres, as well as agricultural and ranching activities. The RAR-H District is assigned to lands in the foothills and requires that portions of the site exceeding 25% slope, as well as the ridgelines, be preserved as open space. The Proposed Project would cross land zoned Ranch/Agriculture–Hillside in the City of Banning. The zoning is located at the eastern edge of Segment 4, north of Gilman Street and between Sunset Avenue on the west and San Gorgonio Avenue on the east.

City of Grand Terrace. The City of Grand Terrace includes an Agricultural Overlay District as part of its City zoning. The purpose of the Agricultural Overlay District is to permit limited agricultural uses in areas of the City that have historically contained such uses and where current lot size is sufficient to provide a compatible relationship between the limited agricultural uses and the underlying district's residential uses. In the case of a conflict between the regulations of the overlay district and the underlying district, the regulations of the overlay district take precedence. The agricultural overlay zoning is located at the west end of the project vicinity in Segment 2, between Mount Vernon Avenue on the west and Barton Road on the east.

City of Loma Linda. The City of Loma Linda includes an Agricultural Estates Zone (A-1) as part of its Zoning Code. The purpose of the A-1 zone is to provide for dispersed residential and agricultural uses. It is intended to preserve prime agricultural lands. The project vicinity crosses an area zoned for agricultural uses in the City of Loma Linda in Segment 1 of the existing WOD corridor and south of Barton Road.

City of Redlands. The City of Redlands has two Agricultural Zoning Districts: Agricultural District (A-1) and Agricultural District (A-1-20). The purpose of the A-1 agricultural zoning district is to provide for the proper utilization of those lands best suited for agricultural purposes and to prevent the encroachment of incompatible uses. The Proposed Project crosses land that is zoned A-1 southwest of San Timoteo Canyon Road in the southwest corner of the City.

Riverside County. The existing WOD corridor crosses a small parcel of land that is zoned for Light Agriculture with Poultry in unincorporated western Riverside County, west of the City of Calimesa and northwest of the City of Beaumont. The Light Agriculture with Poultry designation allows for single-family dwellings, the raising of poultry or crops, and the limited raising of livestock, except for hogs. The Proposed Project alignment does not cross any agriculturally zoned land in Riverside County east of the City of Banning.

Important Farmland in the Project Vicinity

As shown in Table D.2-2, Important Farmland in the Project Vicinity, approximately 415 acres of the 4,089 acres (10 percent) in the area are classified as Important Farmland by the FMMP. Of this, 320 acres are Prime Farmland, 48 acres are Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 46 acres are Unique Farmland. Farmland within the Proposed Project boundary is shown in Figure D.2-1a through Figure D.2-1k, found at the end of this section. The figures include the existing WOD corridor, substations, access roads, relocated distribution line routes, relocated subtransmission line routes, telecommunications lines routes, and staging yards. There are 70 acres of Important Farmland within the Proposed Project boundaries (1.7 percent of the total area within the Proposed Project boundaries). Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance are primarily located in the northwest portion of the project area in the vicinity of Segment 1 (adjacent to the existing WOD corridor and relocated subtransmission and distribution lines), Segment 2 (on either side of Reche Canyon Road), and Segment 3 (within the existing WOD corridor between San Bernardino Substation and El Casco Substation). Unique Farmland is located in Segments 3 and 4 in the cities of Beaumont and Redlands.

Table D.2-2. Important Farmland in the Project Vicinity (Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program)

		Within Project Boundaries		Project Vicinity	
Jurisdiction	**Farmland Type**	**Acres**	**Percentage**	**Acres**	**Percentage**
City of Beaumont	Unique Farmland (U)	0.6	1.1%	3.8	8.9%
Total		**0.6**	**1.1%**	**3.8**	**8.9%**
City of Loma Linda	Prime Farmland (P)	9.8	2.9%	59.8	17.9%
Total		**9.8**	**2.9%**	**59.8**	**17.9%**
City of Redlands	Prime Farmland (P)	30.2	3.0%	185.8	18.2%
	Unique Farmland (U)	2.7	1.4%	40.9	16.6%
Total		**32.9**	**4.4%**	**226.7**	**34.8%**
Riverside County	Prime Farmland (P)	0	0%	6.8	0.00%
	Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)	6.7	0.0%	46.7	0.1%
	Unique Farmland (U)	0	0%	1.1	0.00%
Total		**6.7**	**0.0%**	**54.6**	**0.1%**
San Bernardino County	Prime Farmland (P)	18.5	0.1%	67.9	0.5%
	Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)	1.2	0.0%	1.6	0.0%
	Unique Farmland (U)	0	0%	0.7	0.0%
Total		**19.7**	**0.1%**	**70.2**	**0.5%**
Entire Project Vicinity	Prime Farmland (P)	58.4	1.4%	320.3	7.8%
	Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)	7.9	0.2%	48.3	1.2%
	Unique Farmland (U)	3.6	0.1%	46.5	1.2%
Total		**69.9**	**1.7%**	**415.1**	**10.2%**

D.2.1.3 Environmental Setting for Connected Actions

The solar projects identified as connected actions in Table B-22 (see Section B.7.1) would require a total of approximately 9,760 acres for development, and would occur in the Desert Center area and the Blythe area. The following is a discussion of the agricultural resources that are within each of these areas.

Desert Center Area. The solar projects identified as connected actions in the Desert Center area would require approximately 1,960 acres for the proposed Palen Solar Power Project, 1,208 acres for the proposed Desert Harvest Project, and approximately 2,400 acres for other solar PV developments. This region of the Colorado Desert is within a relatively flat portion of the Chuckwalla Valley. It is generally undeveloped with the exception of high-voltage transmission lines that cross the area (CEC, 2013). While some agricultural uses are scattered across the Desert Center area, farming that does occur is limited primarily to jojoba and palm tree production. The Desert Center area also includes land that is enrolled in a Williamson Act contract and is classified as Non-Prime Agricultural Land per the criteria set forth in the Land Conservation Act (i.e., Williamson Act) (BLM, 2012). Most non-prime agricultural lands are used for grazing or non-irrigated crops. While no Prime Farmland has been identified in this area, there are parcels zoned for agricultural use (BLM, 2012).

Blythe Area. Connected solar PV development projects in the Blythe area would involve approximately 4,200 acres. This area includes Palo Verde Valley, which is one of the richest agricultural regions in California, producing alfalfa, cotton, wheat, barley, Sudan grass, Bermuda grass, hay, and orchards (POWER Engineers, 2014). Agriculture is irrigated by water from the Colorado River, which is supplied through canals and laterals operated by the Palo Verde Irrigation District. Other areas to the east of the Palo Verde Valley are suitable for seasonal livestock grazing (e.g., sheep). Soils in the Blythe Area are classified as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland. Some of these agricultural lands are also under Williamson Act contracts (POWER Engineers, 2014).

D.2.2 Applicable Regulations, Plans, and Standards

D.2.2.1 Federal

Farmland Protection Policy Act. The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is intended to minimize the impact that federal programs have related to conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland, either directly or indirectly, to a nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency.

Federal Definition of Prime Farmland. According to the federal definition in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 7 (Agriculture) Section 657.5(a)(1), Prime Farmland is "land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses." The NRCS uses the following classifications for agricultural land: Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, Unique Farmland, and Not Prime Farmland.

The NRCS Web Soil Survey provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. The NRCS Web Soil Survey has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties. The USDA has been publishing soil surveys since 1899. Published soil surveys for California counties are dated from 1900 to 2014 (NRCS, 2014).

Clean Water Act of 1972. The Clean Water Act is intended to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of U.S. waters. The Clean Water Act addresses both point sources (associated with a specific identifiable activity such as a pipe from an industrial plant) and nonpoint sources (associated with general areas or activities such as agriculture or timber harvesting). See EIR Section 10.14 (Groundwater Resources) and EIR Section 10.15 (Surface Water Resources) for additional detail regarding the Clean Water Act.

D.2.2.2 State

California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). The California Department of Conservation established the FMMP to help assess the location, quantity, and quality of agricultural lands and the conversion of these lands to nonagricultural uses (CDC, 2004). The FMMP uses Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil classifications, land inventories, and monitoring criteria to prepare digitized maps of farmland in California. These maps and associated statistics are updated every two years and are used in general plans, regional studies of agricultural land conversion, and in assessing project impacts on farmland. The FMMP categories are described above in Section D.2.1.1.

California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act). The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, was enacted to encourage preservation of agricultural and open space lands. The Williamson Act facilitates voluntary agreements through which private landowners enter into 10-year contracts with counties and cities to restrict their land to agricultural and compatible open space uses. In return, restricted parcels are taxed at a lower rate. Contracts are automatically renewed unless the landowner files for nonrenewal or petitions for cancellation. Section 51238 of the Williamson Act indicates that, unless local organizations declare otherwise, the erection, construction, alteration, or maintenance of gas, electric, water, or communication facilities are compatible with Williamson Act contracts. The nearest property under a Williamson Act contract is located 0.8 miles north of the Proposed Project, in Beaumont.

D.2.2.3 Local

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has jurisdiction over the siting and design of the Proposed Project because the CPUC regulates and authorizes the construction of investor-owned public utility (IOU) facilities. Although such projects are exempt from local land use and zoning regulations and permitting, General Order (GO) No. 131-D, Section III.C requires "the utility to communicate with, and obtain the input of, local authorities regarding land-use matters and obtain any nondiscretionary local permits." Appendix 9 (Policy Screening Report) identifies county and city plans and policies regarding agriculture and other resources of concern to planners. The Appendix indicates policies that are potentially applicable to the Proposed Project and whether the project would be consistent with the plan or policy. These policies are numerous and are not repeated here.

D.2.3 Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project

D.2.3.1 Approach to Impact Assessment

This analysis addresses impacts to designated Important Farmland (which includes Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance). The conversion of Important Farmland would be considered significant if more than 10 acres of Prime Farmland or more than 40 acres of non-Prime Farmland (Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland) is

converted to non-agricultural use. These thresholds are used because they are the minimum acreage requirements for individual parcels able to enter into Williamson Act contracts as stated in Section 51222 of the California Government Code and represent parcels or areas of agricultural land that are large enough to sustain agricultural operations.

D.2.3.1.1 Applicant Proposed Measures

SCE proposed no Applicant Proposed Measures related to agriculture.

D.2.3.2 CEQA Significance Criteria

The significance criteria listed below are based on the Environmental Checklist form in Appendix G of the CEQA guidelines. They are used to determine whether a project and its alternatives would result in significant impacts to agricultural resources as defined by CEQA. According to the CEQA Checklist, a project causes a potentially significant impact if it would:

- 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 use;
- Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract;
- 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));
- Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or
- Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

The project vicinity does not contain 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)).[1] Therefore, impacts to forest land are not addressed further in this EIR. Impacts related to Williamson Act lands are also not addressed further because the nearest Williamson Act lands are 0.8 miles from the Proposed Project.

For the purposes this analysis, impacts would be potentially significant if the Proposed Project would:

- Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Important Farmland), as designated by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, to non-agricultural use;
- Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use;
- Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, would impair the use of agricultural land.

[1] "Forest land" is "land that can support, under natural conditions, 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, and that allows for the preservation or management of forest-related resources such as timber, aesthetic value, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreational facilities, and other public benefits" (California Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)). Timberland is defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526 as "Land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees."

The third criteria addresses impairment of agricultural land rather than conversion in order to better capture indirect impacts and potential impacts to surrounding agricultural operations.

D.2.3.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use

There are 70 acres of Important Farmland within the Proposed Project boundaries (1.7 percent of the total area within the Proposed Project boundaries). Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance are primarily located in the northwest portion of the project area in the vicinity of Segment 1 (adjacent to the existing WOD corridor and relocated subtransmission and distribution lines), Segment 2 (on either side of Reche Canyon Road), and Segment 3 (within the existing WOD corridor between San Bernardino Substation and El Casco Substation). Unique Farmland is located in Segments 3 and 4 in the Cities of Beaumont and Redlands.

Construction of the Proposed Project includes the removal and upgrade of existing 220 kV transmission line facilities along 48 miles of corridor, primarily within the existing WOD right-of-way. Other components of the Proposed Project, such as upgrading substation, relocating subtransmission and distribution lines, and temporary use of some lands for staging, would not permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use. New and existing access and spur roads would be used to transport personnel and equipment to construction areas for the 220 kV transmission line work. Transmission infrastructure and new roads would permanently convert 3.5 acres of Important Farmland to non-agricultural use. These 3.5 acres represent 2 acres of Prime Farmland, 0.7 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 0.8 acres of Unique Farmland. Of the 3.5 acres of Important Farmland that would be converted to non-agricultural use, 2.2 acres are not currently used for agriculture but are designated as Important Farmland.

Because of the very small scale of permanent impacts, mitigation would not be required. Regular operations and maintenance activities would generally be performed from existing access roads. Although some repairs could temporarily disturb active agricultural land, impacts would be very minimal.

Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use

The Proposed Project would cross 267 acres of land zoned for agricultural use. The Proposed Project would be located on land zoned for agriculture in the cities of Banning, Loma Linda, and Redlands and in Riverside County. Agricultural zoning in the project vicinity is described in more detail in Section D.2.1 (Environmental Setting). In addition, City of Grand Terrace uses an Agriculture Overlay Zone in some areas under its jurisdiction, including portions of the project vicinity. Public utility transmission lines and poles are an allowable use in all of the agriculture zones affected by the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with the use of lands zoned for agriculture. Potential construction impacts to agricultural operations would be temporary and would not conflict with zoning designations. The use of the transmission line and access roads during operations would be consistent with agricultural zoning.

Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land

As shown in Table D.2-2, approximately 415 acres of the project vicinity's 4,089 acres are classified as Important Farmland by the FMMP. Of this, 320 acres are Prime Farmland, 48 acres are Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 46 acres are Unique Farmland. There are 70 acres of Important Farmland within the Proposed Project boundaries. Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance are primarily located in the northwest portion of the project vicinity of Segment 1 (adjacent to the existing

WOD corridor and relocated subtransmission and distribution lines), Segment 2 (on either side of Reche Canyon Road), and Segment 3 (within the existing WOD corridor between San Bernardino Substation and El Casco Substation). Unique Farmland is located in Segments 3 and 4 in the cities of Beaumont and Redlands.

Work associated with the 220 kV transmission lines would temporarily disturb 16.5 acres of Important Farmland (11 acres of Prime Farmland, 4.7 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 0.8 acres of Unique Farmland). Relocation of 66 kV subtransmission lines in Segment 1 would temporarily disturb 15.1 acres of Prime Farmland. Existing substations, proposed telecommunications facilities and potential staging yards would not affect designated Important Farmland. Therefore, these components of the Proposed Project are not discussed further.

The Proposed Project would temporarily disturb a total of 31.6 acres of designated Important Farmland (26.1 acres of Prime Farmland, 4.7 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 0.8 acres of Unique Farmland). These areas would be available for agricultural use again after construction is complete. In addition, surrounding agricultural land in the project vicinity may be affected by temporary construction impacts. Temporary impacts could include damage to equipment, crops, and livestock from increased traffic on farm roads; water and soil contamination; suppression of plant growth by fugitive dust; soil erosion; and the spread of weeds.

These impacts would be minimized through the implementation Mitigation Measures AQ-1a (Control Fugitive Dust), AQ-1b (Control Off-Road Equipment Emissions), LU-2a (Prepare construction notification plan), HH-1a (Prepare a hazardous materials and waste management plan), HH-2a (Prepare a soil management plan), and HH-3a (Identify pesticide/herbicide contamination). In addition, Mitigation Measure LU-2a would help minimize interference with temporarily affected agricultural lands. In order to address the specific coordination needs of agricultural landowners, Mitigation Measure AG-3a (Establish agreement and coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) would be required.

With completion of construction, agricultural lands temporarily affected would return to their original use. Because the project would be in an existing ROW, and overall there would be fewer transmission structures, project operation is not expected to change or affect agricultural uses. A new segment of ROW on Morongo tribal lands would be in an area used for grazing, as is the ROW that would be abandoned, resulting in no overall adverse effect on agricultural use of the Morongo land. During operation, routine and emergency maintenance would occur. From time to time this may affect agricultural use in the immediate vicinity if the work required use of equipment outside of existing access roads or pad areas. This would be a temporary condition and the land would return to agricultural use thereafter.

Mitigation Measures for Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land

AG-3a **Establish agreement and coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners.** Sixty (60) days prior to the start of project construction, Southern California Edison (SCE) shall secure a signed agreement with property owners of Important Farmland (Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland) that will be used for construction and operation of the project, access and spur roads, staging areas, and other project-related activities. The purpose of this agreement will be to set forth the use of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland during construction in order to: (1) schedule proposed construction activities at a location and time when damage to agricultural operations would be minimized, and (2) ensure that any areas damaged or disturbed by construction are restored to a condition mutually agreed upon by the landowner and SCE.

SCE shall coordinate with the agricultural landowners in the affected areas where Important Farmland will be temporarily disturbed in order to determine when and where construction should occur in order to minimize damage to agricultural operations. This includes avoiding construction during peak planting, growing, and harvest seasons. If damage or destruction does occur, SCE shall perform restoration activities on the disturbed area in order to return the area to a pre-determined condition or the pre-construction condition, whichever option is agreed upon by the landowner and SCE. This could include activities such as soil preparation, regrading, and reseeding. This measure applies to agricultural landowners with land that is impacted by the Proposed Project. SCE shall provide proof of the continued use of Important Farmland through the submittal of a signed agreement between an individual property owner and SCE. The signed agreements shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to the start of construction.

LU-2a **Prepare Construction Notification Plan** (Full text presented in Section D.11.6, Land Use and BLM Realty).

D.2.3.4 Impacts of Connected Actions

Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use

Desert Center Area. While parcels of unincorporated Riverside County have been zoned for agricultural use in the Desert Center area, no Important Farmland has been identified. Any construction of connected solar projects in this area would not impact designated Farmland.

Blythe Area. Agricultural uses occur around the City of Blythe, and soils have been classified as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland. Depending on the final location of the solar projects identified as connected projects, construction could disturb existing agriculture and result in a direct loss of Important Farmland. Given the extent of the solar PV development (i.e., 4,200 acres), mitigation would be needed to minimize the permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Typical mitigation for impacts to Important Farmland would be similar to that set forth for the Blythe Mesa Project, where the applicant must acquire an agricultural easement or participate in an agricultural land mitigation program (POWER Engineers, 2014). The use of a conservation easement or mitigation program similar to that described in the Blythe Mesa EIR/EA would reduce the severity of impacts to Important Farmland.

Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use

Desert Center Area. The Desert Center area includes agricultural parcels that are subject to a Williamson Act contract as well as parcels zoned for agricultural uses. Depending on the location of the connected actions (i.e., Palen Solar Power Project, Desert Harvest Project, and 2,400 acres of other solar PV development), construction could disturb existing agricultural zoning. As the exact location of the confidential solar PV connected actions is unknown, additional mitigation may be needed to minimize conflicts from construction across Williamson Act lands and other parcels zoned for agricultural use. The use of a Williamson Act property for solar PV development may require the cancellation of that contract. Potential mitigation would be similar to that being done for the Blythe Mesa Project, where the applicant must establish a Williamson Act agricultural preserve whose acreage is not less than the acreage of any cancelled Williamson Act contracts (POWER Engineers, 2014). In the event that a connected action would conflict with agricultural zoning, the applicant could reduce the severity of the impact by acquiring an agricultural easement or participating in an agricultural land mitigation program as described under Impact AG-1.

Blythe Area. The Blythe Area includes lands that are zoned for agricultural use, as well as lands that are under a Williamson Act contract. Depending on the location of the various connected actions in this area, construction could conflict with agricultural zoning. As the exact location of the confidential solar PV projects is unknown, additional mitigation may be needed to minimize conflicts from construction across Williamson Act lands and other parcels zoned for agricultural use. The use of a Williamson Act site for solar PV development may require the cancellation of that contract. Suggested mitigation would be similar to that being done for the Blythe Mesa Project, where the applicant must establish a Williamson Act agricultural preserve whose acreage is not less than the acreage of any cancelled Williamson Act contracts. In the event that a connected project would conflict with other agricultural zoning, the applicant could reduce the severity of the impact by acquiring an agricultural easement or participating in an agricultural land mitigation program as described under Impact AG-1

D.2.3.5 CEQA Significance Determination for Proposed Project and Connected Actions

The Connected Actions are evaluated only under the broad categories of impacts addressed in Impacts AG-1 and AG-2.

Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use (Class III for Proposed Project; Class II for Connected Actions)

Construction and operation of the Proposed Project would permanently convert 3.5 acres of designated Important Farmland to non-agricultural use. The scale of this impact is very small, well below the significance threshold of 10 acres of Prime Farmland or 40 acres of non-Prime Farmland. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required (Class III).

With regard to connected projects, soils that have been classified as Important Farmland extend throughout the Blythe area near the Colorado River. Depending on the location of the confidential solar PV developments that are connected actions, construction, and operation of these solar projects may permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use. Impacts to Important Farmland would be significant, but could be mitigated through the use of an agricultural easement or agricultural land mitigation program. Such mitigation would reduce impacts to Important Farmland to a less than significant level (Class II).

Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use (No Impact for Proposed Project; Class II for Connected Actions)

The Proposed Project would cross 267 acres of land zoned for agricultural use. However, construction impacts would be temporary and utility infrastructure is compatible with this zoning designation; therefore, there would be no impact.

Both the Desert Center and the Blythe areas include lands that are enrolled in Williamson Act contracts, as well as lands zoned for agricultural use. Depending on the location of the connected actions in these areas, construction and operation would disturb existing agriculture and may require the cancellation of existing Williamson Act contracts. Typical mitigation for this type of impact would be to establish a Williamson Act agricultural preserve in the event that an existing Williamson Act is cancelled. This would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. Conflicts with other agricultural zoning could be minimized through the creation of an agricultural easement or agricultural land mitigation program. With mitigation if required, impacts to agricultural zoning would be less than significant (Class II).

Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land (Class II)

The Proposed Project would temporarily disturb a total of 31.6 acres of designated Important Farmland (26.1 acres of Prime Farmland, 4.7 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 0.8 acres of Unique Farmland). Surrounding agricultural land may also be affected by temporary construction impacts. These impacts would be minimized through the implementation of Mitigation Measures AG-3a (Establish agreement and coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners), AQ-1a (Control Fugitive Dust), AQ-1b (Control Off-Road Equipment Emissions), LU-2a (Prepare construction notification plan), HH-1a (Prepare a hazardous materials and waste management plan), HH-2a (Prepare a soil management plan), and HH-3a (Identify pesticide/herbicide contamination). With these measures, impacts would be less than significant.

With completion of construction, agricultural lands temporarily affected would return to their original use. Because the project would be in an existing ROW, and overall there would be fewer transmission structures, project operation is not expected to change or affect agricultural uses. During operation, routine and emergency maintenance may affect agricultural use in the immediate vicinity if the work required use of equipment outside of existing access roads or pad areas. This would be a temporary condition and the land would return to agricultural use thereafter.

D.2.4 Environmental Impacts of Project Alternatives

Three alternatives are considered in this section; all of these alternatives would be located within the existing WOD ROW. The No Project/No Action Alternative is evaluated in Section D.2.5. Alternatives are described in detail in Appendix 5 (Alternatives Screening Report) and are summarized in Section C.

Agricultural resources within the ROW are described by segment in Section D.2.1.2 above; the description of the environmental setting would apply equally to the alternatives.

D.2.4.1 Tower Relocation Alternative

The Tower Relocation Alternative would locate certain transmission structures in Segments 4 and 6 farther from existing homes than would be the case under the Proposed Project.

Three impacts to Agriculture were identified for the Proposed Project; each is considered below for this alternative.

Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use

The relocation of identified transmission tower structures from their position under Proposed Project to a new location under the Tower Relocation Alternative would typically move the towers approximately 50 feet to the north. The only agricultural use in the sections of ROW affected by this alternative would be grazing. In the Calimesa East segment, one of the relocations would occur in an orchard, but this would not increase the amount of agricultural land affected as it would be offset by not locating the tower at the original proposed location. The change in the location of a transmission structure would not change the amount of Important Farmland converted to non-agricultural use, which remain similar to the Proposed Project. An extension of the construction period and the use of temporary shoo-flies also would not convert Important Farmland to other uses.

Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use

Limited areas of land zoned for agriculture would be affected under this alternative. Transmission lines and transmission structures are allowed uses in agriculture zoned areas. The amount of agricultural land affected would be similar under both the Proposed Project and the Tower Relocation Alternative. An extended construction period and the use of temporary shoo-flies would not conflict with agricultural zoning.

Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land

Moving selected transmission structures 50 feet from their proposed positions would not require changes in the existing environment that would impair the use of agricultural land. The same access roads and the same number of pads would be required as under the Proposed Project. An additional year on the construction schedule and the temporary placement of shoo-flies would not impair the use of agricultural land.

CEQA Significance Determination for Tower Relocation Alternative

For the transmission structures that would be relocated under this alternative, impacts would be similar to those that would occur at the original positions under the Proposed Project.

Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use (Class III)

No additional Important Farmland would be converted to non-agricultural use (Class III).

Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use (No Impact)

The same amount of disturbance to agricultural land would occur under both the Proposed Project and the alternative for the transmission structures that would be relocated. Transmission lines are an allowed use in agricultural land (No Impact).

Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land (Class II)

Relocating a proposed transmission structure to a new position nearby in the ROW would not impair the use of agricultural land more than it might have been impaired by the Proposed Project. The same mitigation measures applied to the Proposed Project would apply under the Tower Relocation Alternative. These are Mitigation Measure AG-3a, AQ-1a, AQ-1b, LU-2a, HH-1a, HH-2a, and HH-3a, described in Section D.2.3.3. With implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts would be less than significant (Class II).

D.2.4.2 Iowa Street 66 kV Underground Alternative

The Iowa Street 66 kV Underground Alternative would place a 1,600-foot segment of subtransmission line underground, rather than overhead.

Three impacts were identified under the Proposed Project for agriculture:

- Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use
- Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use
- Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land

Because this alternative is limited to a 1,600-foot section of Iowa Street, no agricultural land or agricultural uses would be affected by either the Proposed Project's overhead location of the 66 kV subtransmission line along Iowa Street being on poles or the Iowa Street 66 kV Underground Alternative being underground in a new conduit.

CEQA Significance Determination for Iowa Street 66 kV Underground Alternative

Along Iowa Street, neither the Proposed Project nor this alternative would affect agricultural land (No Impact). This would be true for all three impacts identified for the project overall. Because the underground alternative is for only a small portion of the overall project length, and because there is no agricultural land affected in this portion of the project, under both the Proposed Project and the alternative the overall significance of impacts would be the same as for the Proposed Project:

Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use (Class III)

Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use (No Impact)

Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land (Class II).

D.2.4.3 Phased Build Alternative

The Phased Build Alternative would retain existing double-circuit 220 kV transmission structures to the extent feasible, remove single-circuit structures, add new double-circuit 220 kV structures, and string all structures with higher-capacity conductors.

Three impacts on agriculture were identified under the Proposed Project. These impacts also would apply to the Phased Build Alternative, which would be located in the same corridor as the Proposed Project and would involve similar, although less intense, construction activities. The full text of all mitigation measures referenced in this section is presented in Section D.2.3.3.

Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use

The replacement of the existing single-circuit towers with double-circuit towers (Segments 3 through 6) would be similar in impact to the Proposed Project. At the conclusion of construction, the project would occupy the same amount of land under the alternative or the Proposed Project. Overall, the conversion of Important Farmland would be of the same order of magnitude as the Proposed Project. Because of the very small scale of permanent impacts, mitigation would not be required.

Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use

Limited areas of land zoned for agriculture would be affected under this alternative. Transmission lines and transmission structures are allowed uses in agriculture zoned areas. The amount of agricultural land affected would be similar under both the Proposed Project and the Phased Build Alternative.

Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land

The same access roads and a similar number of pads would be required under the Phased Build Alternative as under the Proposed Project.

CEQA Significance Determination for Phased Build Alternative

In terms of agriculture, impacts for the entire project length would be similar under both the Proposed Project and the alternative.

Impact AG-1: Project would permanently convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use (Class III)

No additional Important Farmland would be converted to non-agricultural use (Class III).

Impact AG-2: Project would conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use (No Impact)

The same amount of disturbance to agricultural land would occur under both the Proposed Project and the alternative for the transmission structures removed and replaced. Transmission lines are an allowed use in agricultural land (No Impact).

Impact AG-3: Project would involve changes in the existing environment which would impair the use of agricultural land (Class II)

Tower locations would be similar to the Proposed Project. The same mitigation measures applied to the Proposed Project would apply under the Phased Build Alternative. These are Mitigation Measure AG-3a, AQ-1a, AQ-1b, LU-2a, HH-1a, HH-2a, and HH-3a, described in Section D.2.3.3. With implementation of these, impacts would be less than significant (Class II).

D.2.5 Environmental Impacts of No Project / No Action Alternative

D.2.5.1 No Project Alternative Option 1

The No Project/No Action Alternative (No Project Alternative) Option 1 is described in Section C.6.3.1. It would consist of a new 500 kV circuit, primarily following the Devers-Valley transmission corridor and extending 26 miles between Devers Substation. It would also require a new 40-acre substation south of Beaumont, and 4 new 220 kV circuits extending 7 miles from the new Beaumont Substation to El Casco Substation, primarily following the existing El Casco 115 kV ROW. The remainder of the No Project Alternative, from El Casco Substation to the San Bernardino and Vista Substations, would be identical to the Proposed Project. Information on environmental resources and project impacts is derived from the Devers–Palo Verde 500 kV No. 2 Project EIR/EIS (CPUC and BLM, 2006) and the El Casco System Project Draft EIR (CPUC, 2007); which include nearly all of the No Project alignment.

Devers to Beaumont Substation. In areas south of Cabazon and Banning, the alignment would traverse approximately 3.7 acres of Grazing Land and Farmland of Local Importance. It would not traverse Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. There are no Williamson Act lands crossed by the alignment. After construction, the permanent footprint of new towers would not result in a significant loss of agricultural land or productivity. The Devers to Beaumont Substation alignment would follow the existing Devers to Valley alignment. In the analysis of the Devers to Valley the alignment in the DPV2 EIR/EIS, all impacts to agriculture were less than significant.

Beaumont Substation. The substation site would occupy 40 acres east of Beaumont Avenue (SR 79) and south of Laird Road, south of the City of Beaumont. The site is open grassland and is designated as Farmland of Local Importance. The substation would permanently displace the current grassland use. Because the land is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, this would not be considered a significant impact.

Beaumont to El Casco Substation. The area between the Beaumont and El Casco Substations has little Farmland. The 220 kV route would cross scattered parcels of Farmland of Local Importance. There are no Williamson Act lands in this segment of the alternative. The permanent footprint of new towers would not represent a significant loss of agricultural land or productivity.

D.2.5.2 No Project Alternative Option 2

No Project Alternative Option 2 would require the construction of over 40 miles of new 500 kV transmission line, following the existing Valley-Serrano 500 kV line. The alternative is described in Section C.6.3.2, and illustrated on Figure C-6b. From approximately MP 0.1 to MP 5.5, the corridor is underlain almost entirely by land that is designated as Important Farmland, the majority of which is classified as Farmland of Local Importance. A small amount of Farmland of Statewide Importance and a very small amount of Prime Farmland is also located within this segment of the corridor. From approximately MP 7.4 to MP 20.0, all land within and adjacent to the corridor is designated as Grazing Land, with the exception of a very small amount of Farmland of Local Importance near MP 19. This grazing land occupies the foothills surrounding Steele Peak and Estelle Mountain. In Orange County, the corridor crosses a small parcel of Grazing Land from approximately MP 37.2 to MP 38. There are no Williamson Act lands within or adjacent to the Valley to Serrano corridor.

Construction of the new 500 kV circuit could temporarily disturb agricultural operations near the existing corridor. The permanent disturbance associated with the new transmission structures would not result in the conversion of a substantial amount of Important Farmland or substantially disrupt existing agricultural activities.

D.2.6 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting

Table D.2-3 presents the mitigation monitoring, compliance, and reporting information for agriculture.

Table D.2-3. Mitigation Monitoring Program – Agriculture

MITIGATION MEASURE	**AG-3a: Establish agreement and coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners.** Sixty (60) days prior to the start of project construction, Southern California Edison (SCE) shall secure a signed agreement with property owners of Important Farmland (Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland) that will be used for construction and operation of the project, access and spur roads, staging areas, and other project-related activities. The purpose of this agreement will be to set forth the use of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland during construction in order to: (1) schedule proposed construction activities at a location and time when damage to agricultural operations would be minimized, and (2) ensure that any areas damaged or disturbed by construction are restored to a condition mutually agreed upon by the landowner and SCE. SCE shall coordinate with the agricultural landowners in the affected areas where Important Farmland will be temporarily disturbed in order to determine when and where construction should occur in order to minimize damage to agricultural operations. This includes avoiding construction during peak planting, growing, and harvest seasons. If damage or destruction does occur, SCE shall perform restoration activities on the disturbed area in order to return the area to a pre-determined condition or the pre-construction condition, whichever option is agreed upon by the landowner and SCE. This could include activities such as soil preparation, regrading, and reseeding. This measure applies to agricultural landowners with land that is impacted by the Proposed Project. SCE shall provide proof of the continued use of Important Farmland through the submittal of a signed agreement between an individual property owner and SCE. The signed agreements shall be submitted to the CPUC for review and approval prior to the start of construction.
Location	Construction activity in all segments with covered farmlands.

Table D.2-3. Mitigation Monitoring Program – Agriculture

Monitoring / Reporting Action	Signed agreements to be submitted to CPUC/BLM.
Effectiveness Criteria	Agreements are executed and SCE is in compliance.
Responsible Agency	CPUC; BLM Palm Springs–South Coast Field Office.
Timing	Sixty days prior to construction.

D.2.7 References

BLM (Bureau of Land Management). 2012. Desert Harvest Solar Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment. CACA #49491. November.

CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture). 2014. California Agricultural Production Statistics, Agricultural Statistical Review 2013-2014. http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/statistics/. Accessed October 2014.

CEC (California Energy Commission). 2013. Final Staff Assessment for the Palen Solar Electric Generating System, Part A: Amendment to the Palen Solar Power Project. Docket Number 09-AFC-07C. September.

_____. 2008. Final Staff Assessment for the CPV Sentinel Energy Project. Docket Number 07-AFC-3. October.

CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission). 2007. SCE El Casco System Project Draft EIR, individual resource Sections. http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/elcasco/toc-deir.htm. Accessed April 15, 2015.

CPUC and BLM. 2006. SCE Devers–Palo Verde 500 kV No. 2 Project EIR/EIS, Sections on West of Devers Alternative. http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/dpv2/toc-deir.htm. Accessed April 15, 2015

CPUC and USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Forest Service. 1984. Devers-Valley 500 kV, Serrano-Valley 500 kV and Serrano–Villa Park 220 kV Transmission Line Project Final EIS/EIR. August.

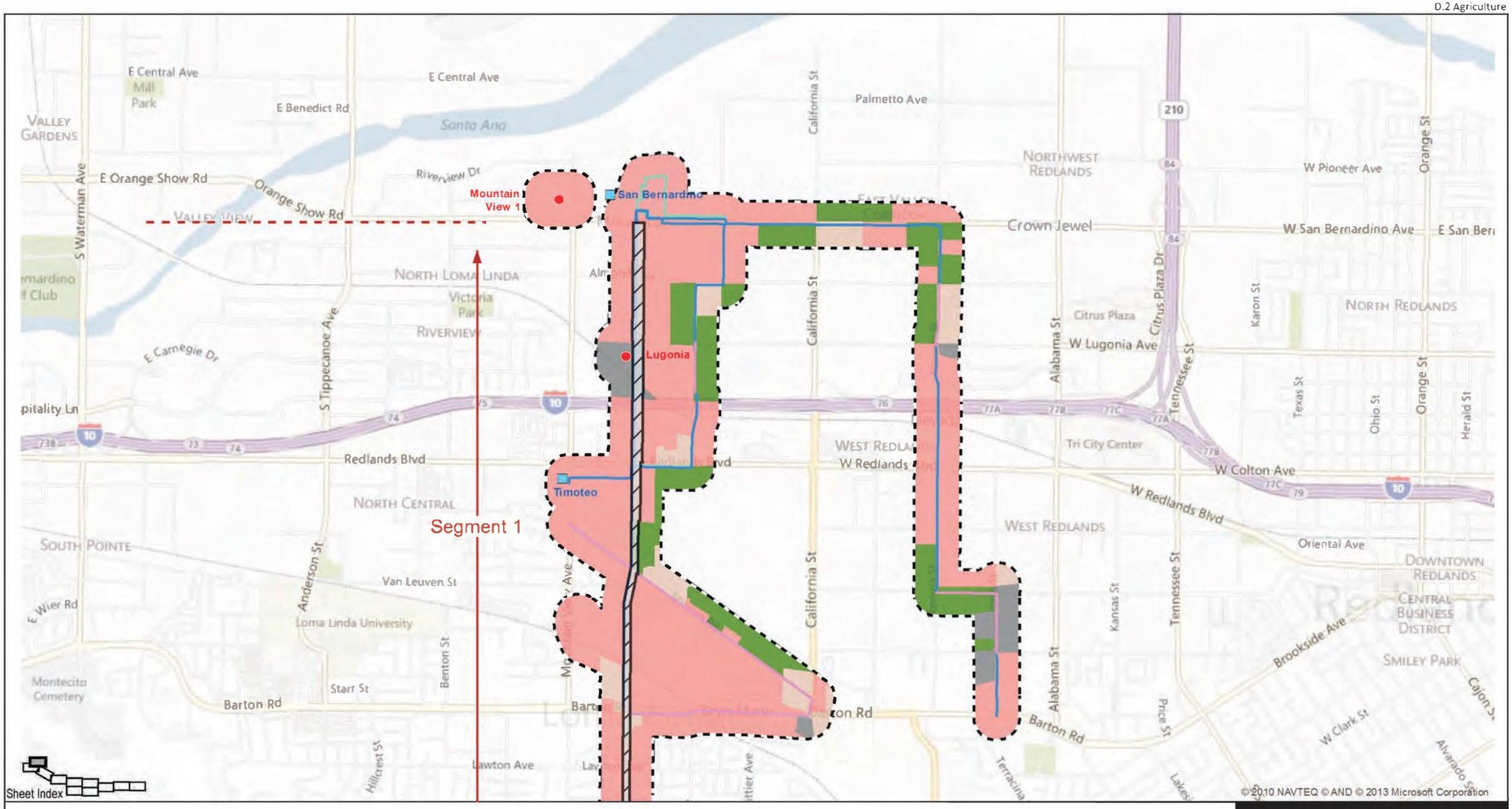
DOC (California Department of Conservation). 2014a. Important Farmland Mapping Categories and Soil Taxonomy Terms. http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Documents/soil_criteria.pdf. Accessed October 2014.

_____. 2014b. California Farmland Conversion Report 2008-2010. April 2014. http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Documents/fmmp/pubs/2008-2010/fcr/FCR%200810%20complete.pdf. Accessed October 2014.

POWER Engineers, Inc. 2014. Blythe Mesa Solar Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. SCH #2011111056. June.

USDA. 2014. Natural Resources Conservation Service. NSSH Part 622. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/ref/?cid=nrcs142p2_054226. Accessed October 2014.

_____. 2008. Agricultural Census. Table 1. California County Summary Highlights: 2007. http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/California/st06_2_001_001.pdf. Accessed October 2014.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (L and LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

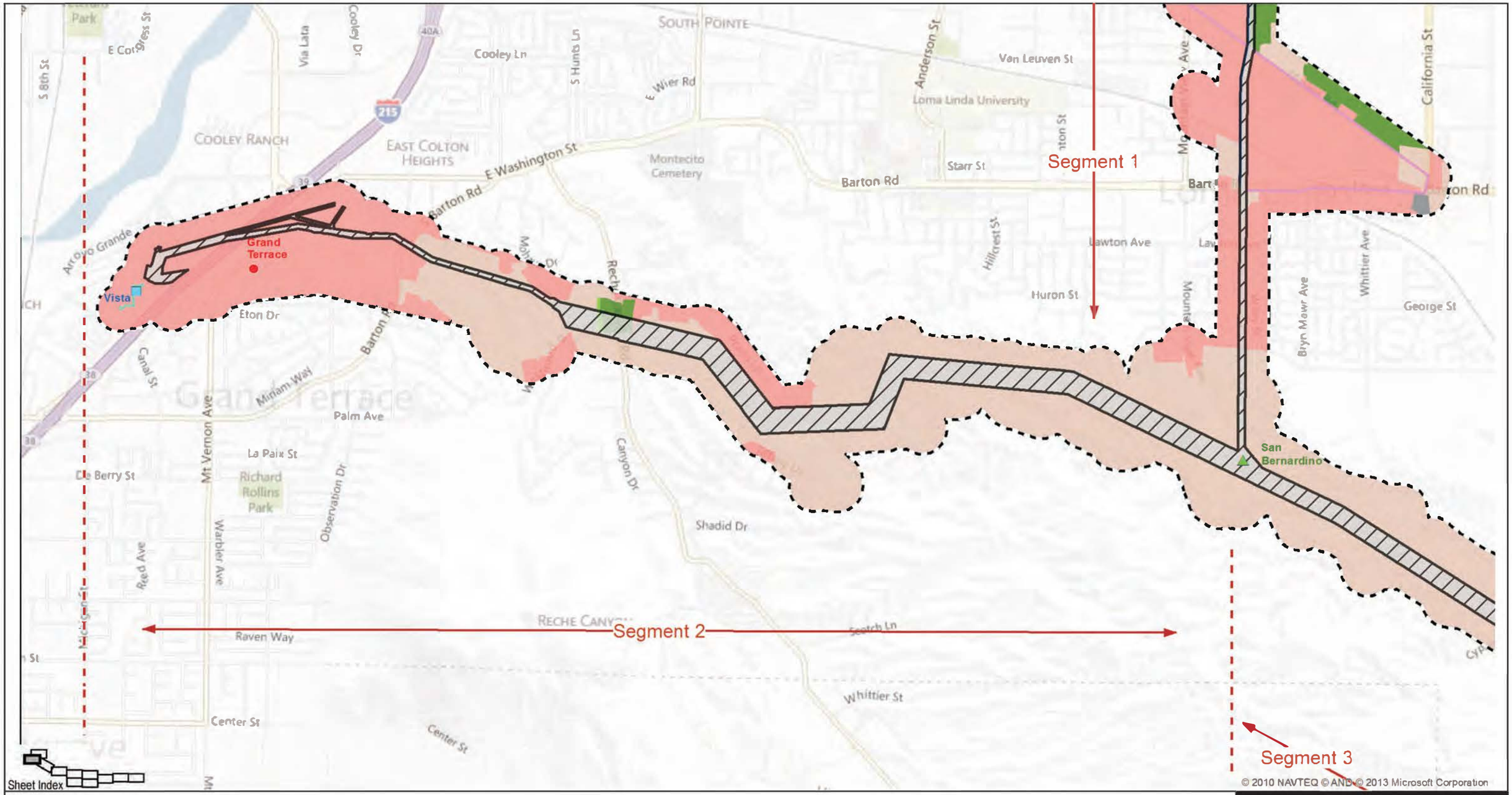
0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1a

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 1

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (Land LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1b

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 2

This page intentionally blank.

Source: SCE, 2013.

0 1000 2000
FEET

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

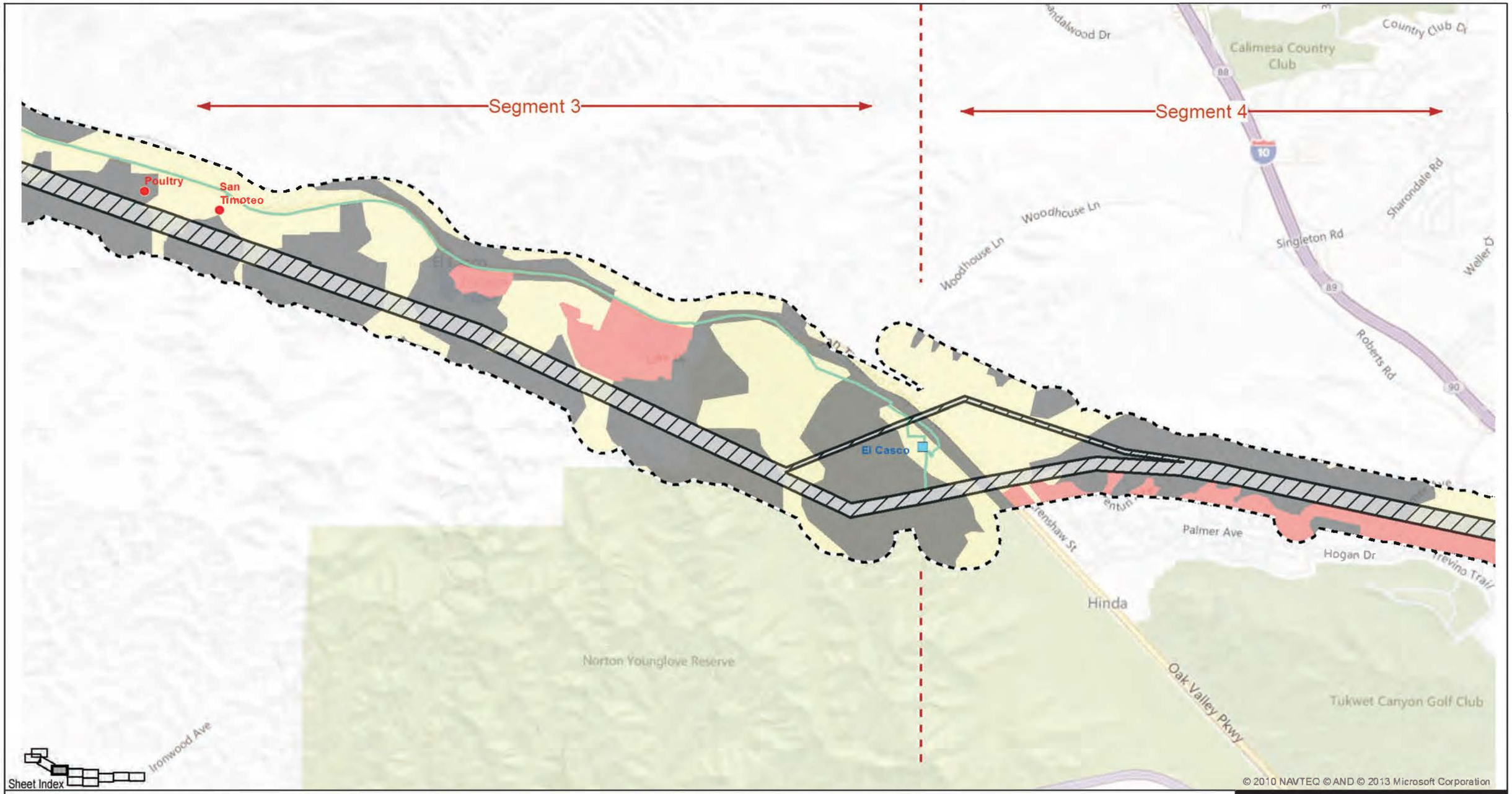
- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (L and LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1c

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 3

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

0 1000 2000 FEET

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

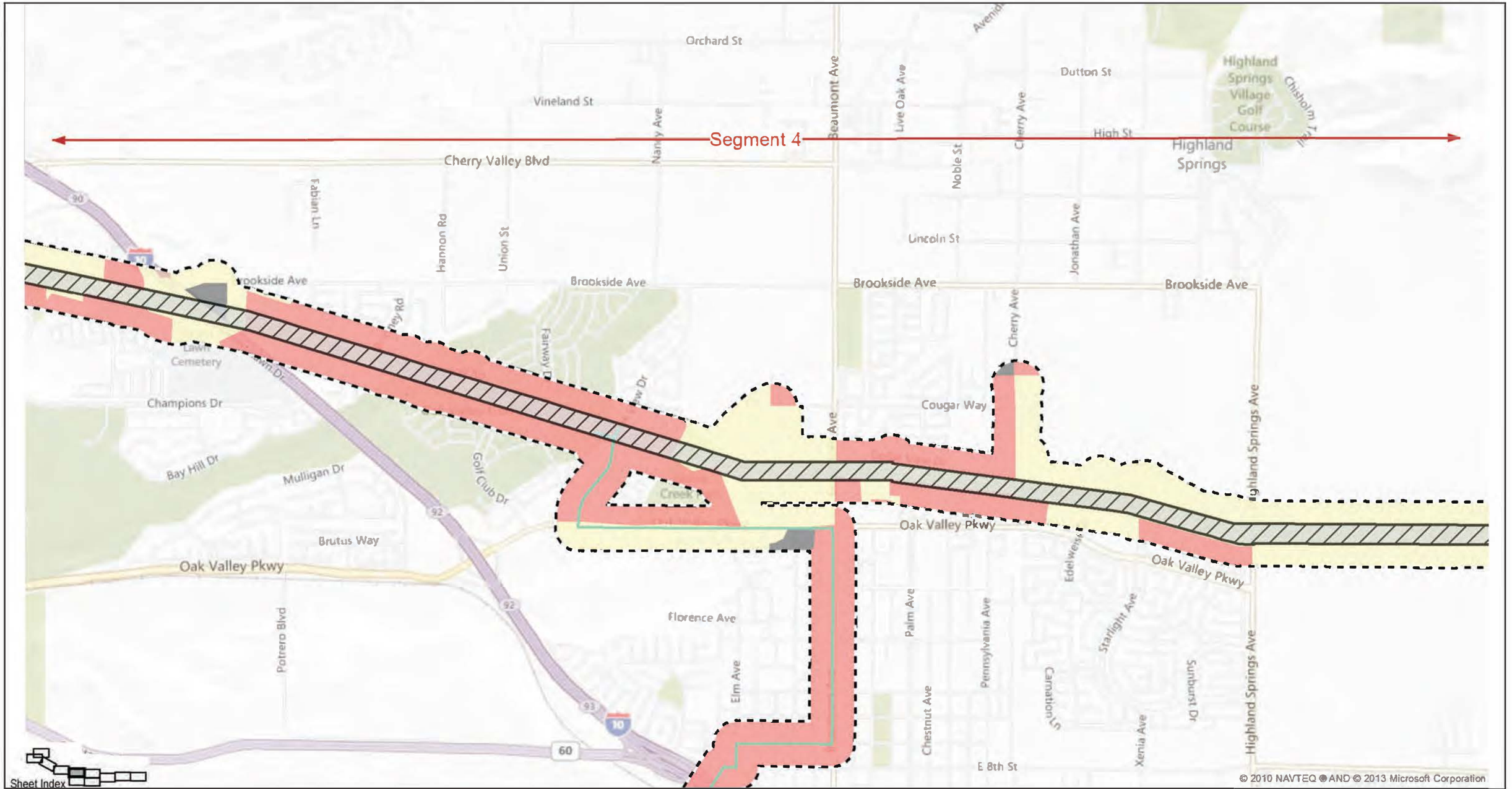
- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (L and LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1d

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 3 & 4

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (Land LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

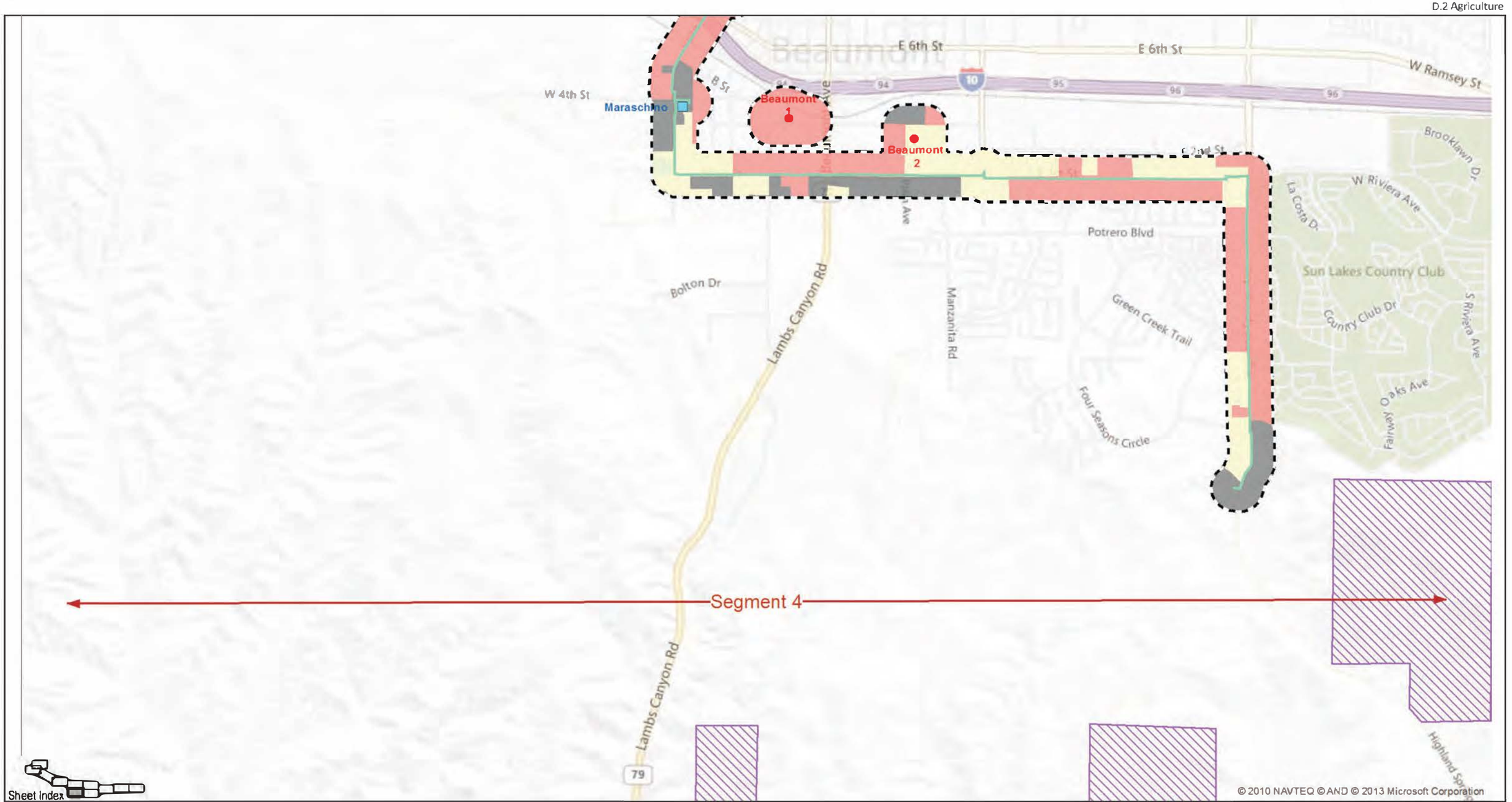
0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1e

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 4

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (Land LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

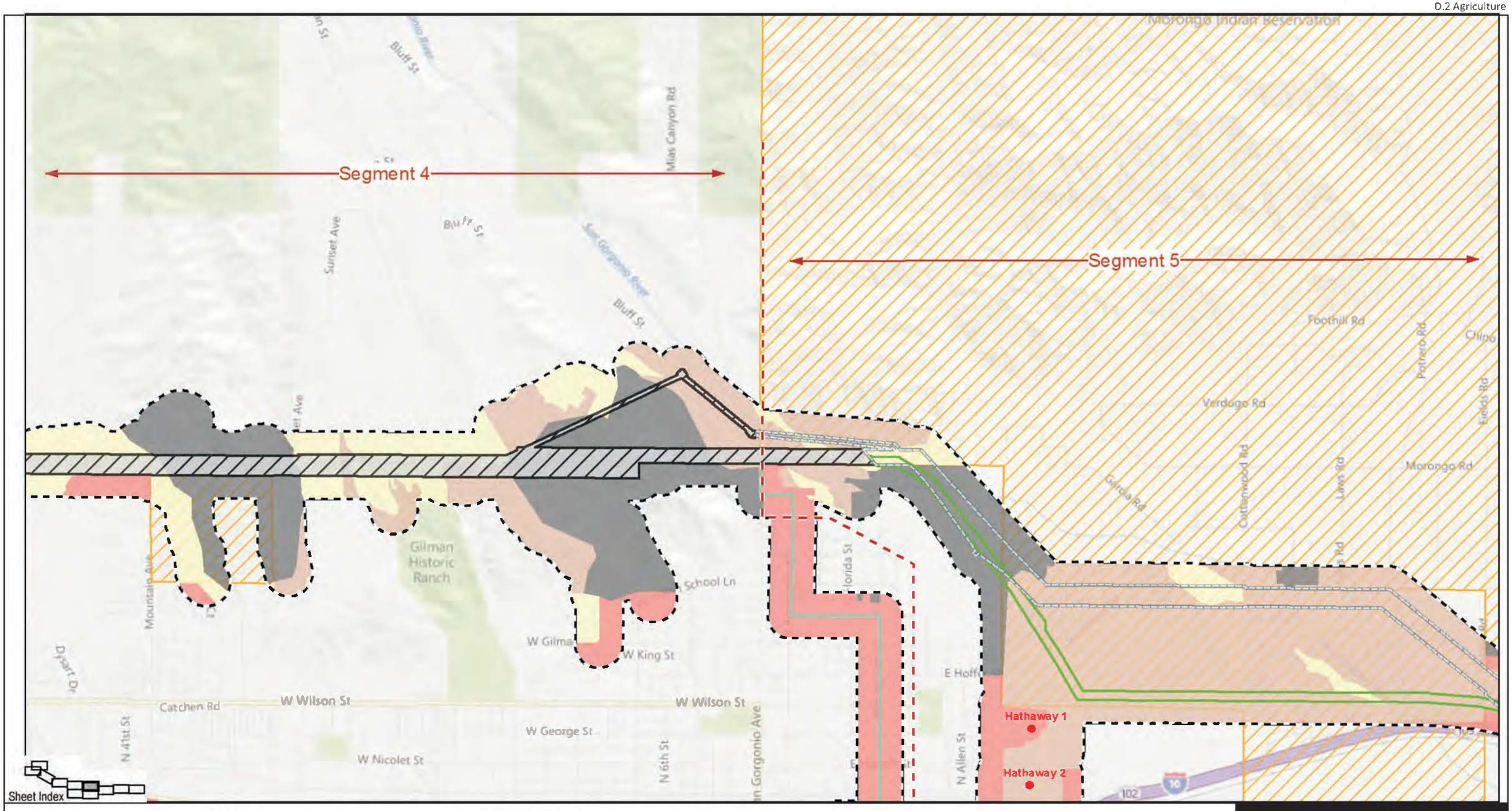
0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1f

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 4

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- Farmlands Study Area
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management Lands
- Segment Breaks
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (L and LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

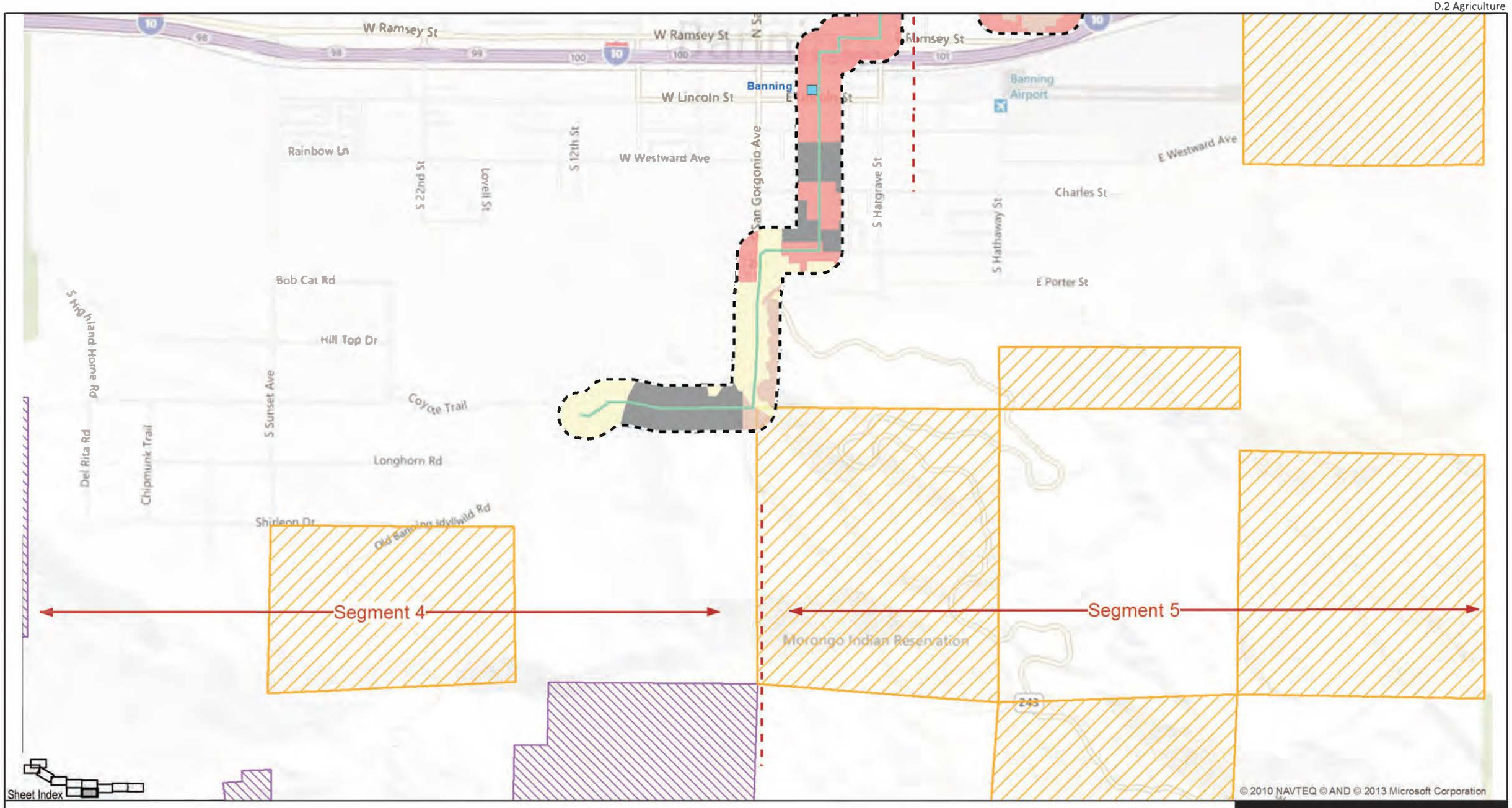
0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1g

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 4 & 5

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indinn Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (L and LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

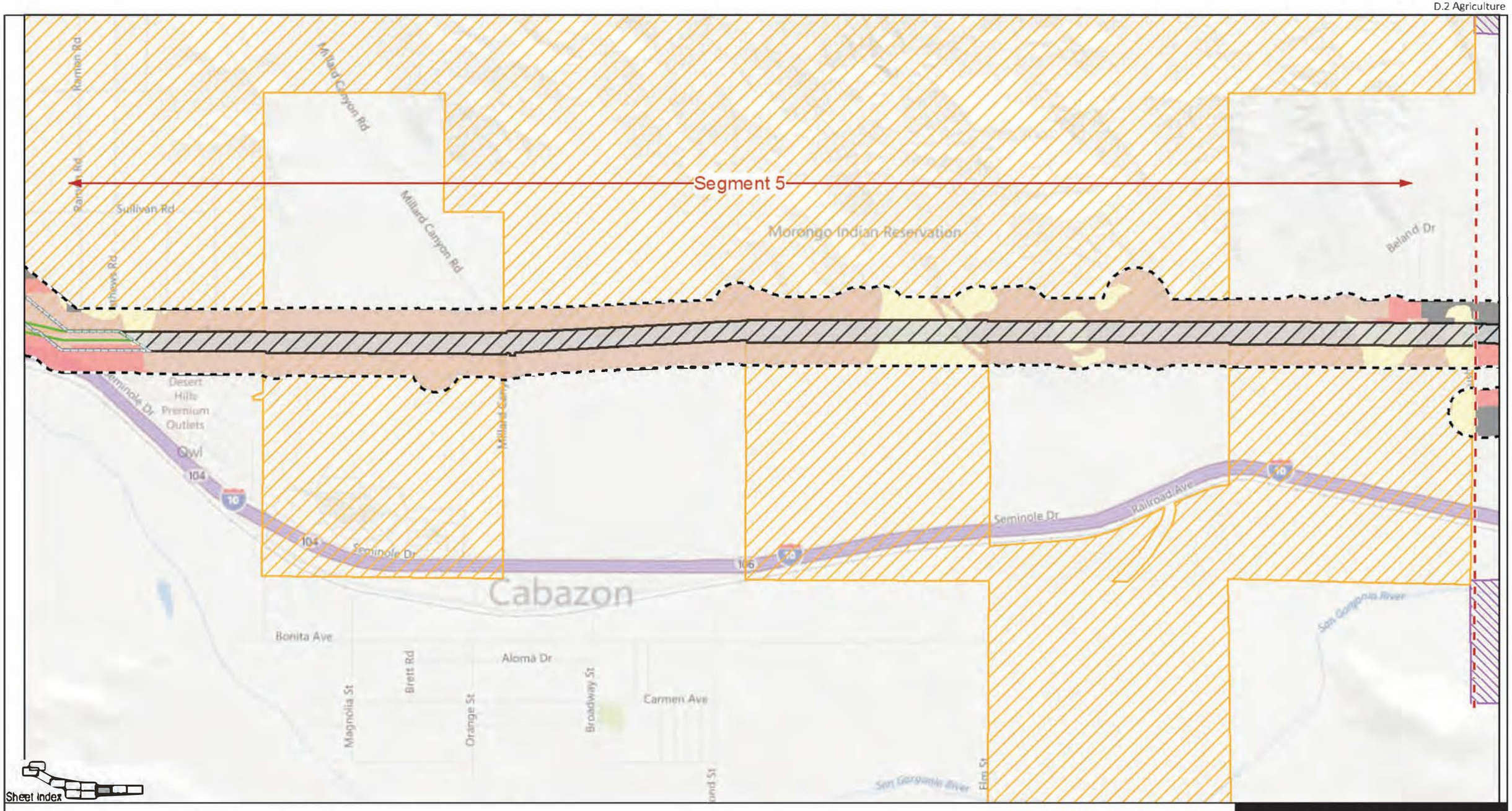
0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1h

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 4 & 5

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (L and LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

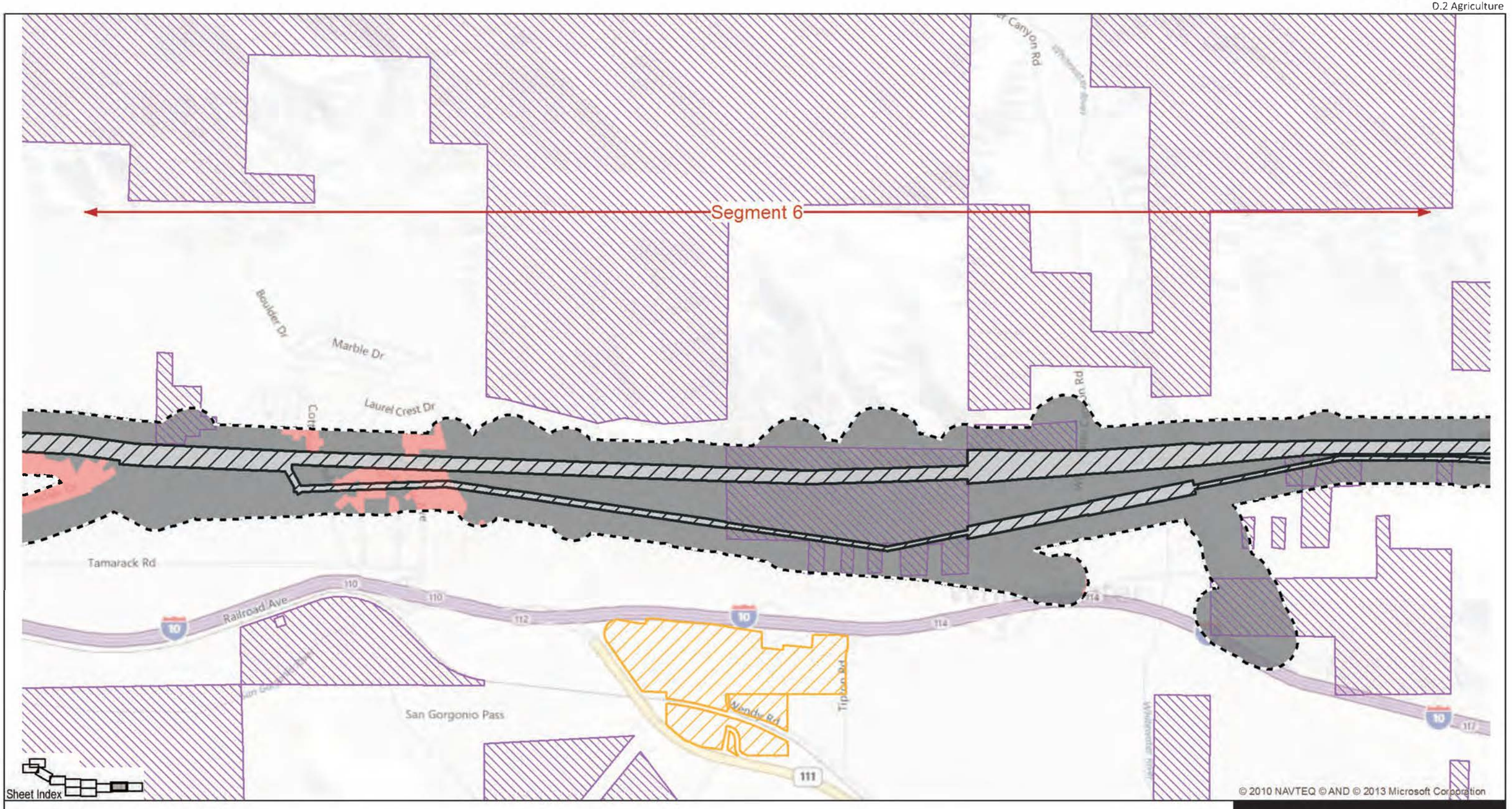
0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1i

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 5

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (L and LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

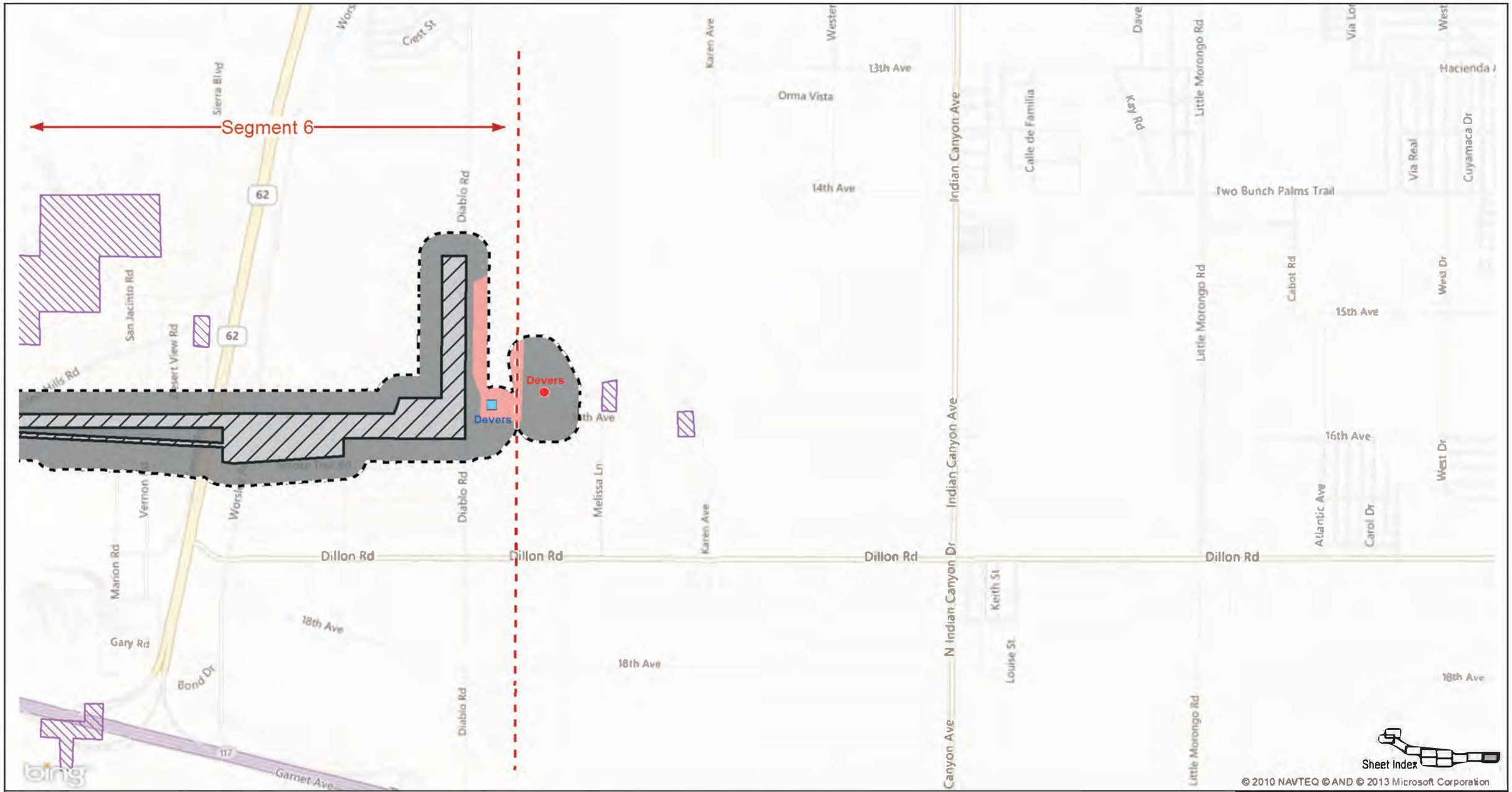
0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1j

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 6

This page intentionally blank.



Source: SCE, 2013.

LEGEND

- Transmission Line Right of Way
- Transmission Line Right of Way to be Removed
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Alternative Transmission Line Right of Way
- Proposed Transmission Line Right of Way Common to Both
- Staging Yards
- Substations
- Junction
- Telecommunication Line Routes
- Relocated Subtransmission Line Routes
- Relocated Distribution Line Routes
- Segment Breaks
- Morongo Indian Reservation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Farmlands Study Area

FMMP Farmland (2010)

- Prime Farmland (P)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (S)
- Unique Farmland (U)
- Farmland of Local Importance (Land LP)
- Grazing Land (G)
- Urban and Built Up Land (D)
- Other Land (X)

0 1000 2000 FEET

West of Devers Upgrade Project

Figure D.2-1k

Farmland in Project Corridor, Segment 6

This page intentionally blank.