3.2 Agricultural Resources

3.2.1 Introduction

This section describes the agricultural resources that would be affected by the TRTP. The following discussion addresses existing environmental conditions in the affected area, identifies and analyzes environmental impacts for a range of Project alternatives, and recommends measures to reduce or avoid adverse impacts anticipated from Project construction and operation. In addition, existing laws and regulations relevant to agricultural resources are described. In some cases, compliance with these existing laws and regulations would serve to reduce or avoid certain impacts that might otherwise occur with the implementation of the Project. Agricultural resources that exist along the alternative routes include land designated as important farmland, other agricultural operations, and lands under Williamson Act contracts.

Scoping Issues Addressed

During the scoping period for the EIR/EIS (August-October 2007), a series of scoping meetings were conducted with the public and government agencies, and written comments were received by agencies and the public that identified issues and concerns (Aspen Environmental Group, 2007). No issues relevant to Agricultural Resources were raised during the scoping process.

Summary and Comparison of Alternatives

Table 3.2-1 on the following page presents some key factors related to agricultural resources for each alternative. It is important to note that the "Environmental Issues" indicated in Table 3.2-1 are not necessarily impact statements, but rather selected information items that provide a comparison between the alternatives. Specific impact statements that have been identified for the Project and alternatives, in accordance with the significance criteria introduced in Section 3.2.4.1 (Criteria for Determining Impact Significance) are described in Sections 3.2.5 through 3.2.11.

3.2.2 Affected Environment

In order to identify California's agricultural land resources, the California Department of Conservation (DOC) established the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) which applies the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) soil classifications. Agricultural data collected by the NRCS and DOC is compiled by county. Consequently, for the purposes of this analysis, agricultural resources are analyzed by county.

The regional setting for the proposed Project and alternatives includes parts of Kern County, the ANF, Los Angeles County (incorporated and unincorporated), and San Bernardino County (incorporated and unincorporated). The Project is also located within one-half mile of Riverside County (at Mira Loma Substation) and Orange County (along the proposed ROW for Segment 8A). The FMMP important farmland data for Los Angeles, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties includes a 10-acre minimum mapping unit, which means that units of land smaller than 10 acres are incorporated into the surrounding map classifications (DOC, 2004a). Important farmland is classified as the following: Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, Grazing Land, and agricultural land under Williamson Act Contract. See Section 3.2.3 for a description of these important farmland classifications.

Table 3.2-1. Summary Comparison of Environmental Issues – Agricultural Resources

Environmental Issues	Alternative 1 (No Project/Action)	Alternative 2 (SCE's Proposed Project)	Alternative 3 (West Lancaster)	Alternative 4 (Chino Hills)	Alternative 5 (Partial Underground)	Alternative 6 (Max. Heli. Construction in ANF)	Alternative 7 (66-kV Subtransmission)
Temporarily or permanently preclude the agricultural use of • Prime Farmland • Unique Farmland • Farmland of Statewide Importance	Potential projects would likely traverse the same geographic regions as either the proposed Project or Alternatives 3 through 7, and subsequently introduce similar types of impacts.	Prime: 7.98 miles Unique: 0.92 miles Statewide: 0.18 miles	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.
Acres of Farmland temporarily converted to non-agricultural use (Impact AG-1)	Same as above	54.75 acres	Same as Alternative 2.	33.07 acres	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.
Acres of Farmland permanently converted to non-agricultural use (Impact AG-2)	Same as above	5.83 acres	Same as Alternative 2.	4.35 acres	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.
Miles of agricultural land traversed by Project (Impacts AG-3, AG-4)	Same as above	75.55 miles	75.95 miles	Alt. 4A: 57.67 miles Alt. 4B: 58.22 miles Alt. 4C: 64.63 miles Alt. 4D: 61.23 miles	74.85 miles	Same as Alternative 2.	Same as Alternative 2.

Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties have a combined total of approximately 3,310,000 acres of agricultural land within their jurisdictions, with the majority of this total in Kern County. Table 3.2-2 indicates the total acreage of agricultural land in Los Angeles, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties along with the acreage of important farmland in each jurisdiction. As shown in Table 3.2-2, Kern County contains approximately 630,235 acres of Farmland, while Los Angeles County contains approximately 34,658 acres of Farmland, and San Bernardino County contains approximately 30,920 acres of Farmland (DOC, 2004b; DOC, 2006b; DOC, 2006c).

Table 3.2-2. Overview of Important Farmland and Williamson Act Land in Los Angeles, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties (acres)

County	Prime Farmland	Unique Farmland	Farmland of Statewide Importance	Farmland of Local Importance	Grazing Land	Total Agricultural Land	Williamson Act Contract Land
Kern	518,804	51,095	106,326	0	911,708	1,587,933	1,649,779
Los Angeles	32,610	1,024	1,024	8,973	228,730	272,371	0
San Bernardino	17,048	3,150	7,936	2,786	902,853	933,773	9,636

DOC, 2004b; DOC, 2006b; DOC, 2006c; DOC, 2007b

3.2.2.1 Alternative 2: SCE's Proposed Project

Table 3.2-3 shows the categories of Farmland crossed by each segment of Alternative 2 along with the total distance each category of Farmland is traversed.

Table 3.2-3. Farmland Traversed by Segment

Segment	Prime Farmland	Unique Farmland	Farmland of Statewide Importance
Segment 4	4.09 miles	0.0 miles	0.0 miles
Segment 5	0.15 miles	0.0 miles	0.0 miles
Segment 6	0.0 miles	0.0 miles	0.0 miles
Segment 7	0.0 miles	0.0 miles	0.0 miles
Segment 8A	1.63 miles	0.13 miles	0.09 miles
Segment 8B	0.98 miles	0.66 miles	0.0 miles
Segment 8C	1.13 miles	0.13 miles	0.09 miles
Segment 9	0.0 miles	0.0 miles	0.0 miles
Segment 10	0.0 miles	0.0 miles	0.0 miles
Segment 11	0.0 miles	0.0 miles	0.0 miles

The only segment of Alternative 2 that traverses land under Williamson Act contracts is Segment 4, which crosses 0.91 miles of Williamson Act contract land.

The following discussion provides further detail on the agricultural resources existing along the proposed Project route and all Project components for each of the three counties.

Kern County

Project components in Kern County range from the Windhub substation in the north, through Segment 10 to Whirlwind Substation and Segment 4. Segment 4 in Kern County extends from Cottonwind Substation to MP 6.9. Table 3.2-4 lists the Farmland, grazing lands, and Williamson Act contract lands traversed by Alternative 2 in Kern County by milepost.

Table 3.2-4. Kern County Farmland, Grazing Lands, and Williamson Act Contract Lands Traversed by Alternative 2

Project Component	Type of Agricultural Resource	Williamson Act Contract
S10 MP 0.0 – 6.9	Grazing Land	No
S9 Cottonwind Substation	Grazing Land	No
S4 MP 0.0 – 1.9	Grazing Land	No
S4 MP 4.7 – 6.9	Prime Farmland	Yes

DOC, 2007b; DOC, 2007c.

Segment 10 in Kern County traverses 6.8 miles of grazing land and 10 miles of other non-Farmland agricultural lands. Segment 4 crosses 2.14 miles of Prime Farmland, 1.95 miles of grazing land, and 2.8 miles of other agricultural land. Segment 4 also crosses 0.91 miles of Prime Farmland under Williamson Act contracts. Figure 3.2-1 shows Alternative 2 in relation to agricultural resources along its routes.

Los Angeles County

Project components in Los Angeles County include Segment 4 from MP 6.9 to MP 19.6, Segment 5, Segment 11, Segment 6, Segment 7, Segment 8A from MP 0.0 to MP 20.6, Antelope, Vincent, Gould, Goodrich, Rio Hondo, and Mesa Substations. Table 3.2-5 lists the Farmland, grazing lands, and Williamson Act contract lands traversed by Alternative 2 in Los Angeles County by milepost.

Table 3.2-5. Los Angeles County Farmland, Grazing Lands, and Williamson Act Contract Lands Traversed by Alternative 2

Project Component	Type of Agricultural Resource	Williamson Act Contract
S4 MP 6.9 – 7.4	Grazing Land	No
S4 MP 7.4 – 8.7	Prime Farmland	No
S4 MP 8.7 – 9.2	Grazing Land	No
S4 MP 9.2 – 9.9	Prime Farmland	No
S4 MP 9.9 – 19.6	Grazing Land	No
S5 MP 0.0 – 2.0	Grazing Land	No
S5 MP 2.0 – 2.1	Prime Farmland	No
S5 MP 2.1 – 5.8	Grazing Land	No
S5 MP 7.4 – 8.1	Grazing Land	No
S5 MP 9.6 – 10.2	Grazing Land	No

DOC, 2007b; DOC, 2007c.

Segment 4 in Los Angeles County traverses a total of 1.95 miles of Prime Farmland, 0.05 miles of Farmland of Local Importance, and 10.75 miles of grazing land. Segment 5 crosses 0.15 miles of Prime Farmland, 4.7 miles of grazing land, and 12.9 miles of other agricultural land. Segment 6 traverses 1.42 miles of other agricultural land. Segments 7, 8A, 11 and the substations would not affect agricultural lands. No Williamson Act Lands would be affected by Alternative 2. Figures 3.2-2a and 3.2-2b show agricultural lands in Los Angeles County in the vicinity of Alternative 2. Additionally, while the ANF was not mapped under the FMMP, portions of the ANF are used for tree plantations. These plantations, however, are over 0.5 miles from the transmission line (T/L) route.

San Bernardino County

Project components in San Bernardino County include Segment 8A from MP 20.6 to MP 35.2, Chino Substation, Segment 8B from MP 0.0 to MP 6.4, Segment 8C from MP 0.0 to MP 6.4 and Mira Loma Substation. Table 3.2-6 lists the Farmland, grazing lands, and Williamson Act contract lands traversed by Alternative 2 in San Bernardino County by milepost.

Table 3.2-6. San Bernardino County Farmland, Grazing Lands, and Williamson Act Contract Lands Traversed by Alternative 2

Project Component	Type of Agricultural Resource	Williamson Act Contract
S8A MP 21.0 – 23.0	Grazing Land	No
S8A MP 28.2 – 28.7	Grazing Land	No
S8A MP 28.6 – 29.2	Prime Farmland	No
S8A MP 30.0 – 30.1	Prime Farmland	No
S8A MP 30.3 – 30.4	Prime Farmland	No
S8A MP 30.4 – 30.5	Farmland of Statewide Importance	No
S8A MP 31.0 – 31.1	Unique Farmland	No
S8A MP 31.4 – 31.5	Prime Farmland	No
S8A MP 32.0 – 32.3	Prime Farmland	No
S8A MP 32.5 – 32.8	Prime Farmland	No
S8A MP 34.6 – 35.2	Prime Farmland	No
S8C MP 0.1 – 0.7	Prime Farmland	No
S8C MP 1.6 – 1.7	Prime Farmland	No
S8C MP 1.8 – 1.9	Prime Farmland	No
S8C MP 1.9 – 2.0	Farmland of Statewide Importance	No
S8C MP 2.5 – 2.6	Unique Farmland	No
S8C MP 2.9 – 3.0	Prime Farmland	No
S8C MP 3.5 – 3.8	Prime Farmland	No
S8C MP 4.0 – 4.3	Prime Farmland	No
S8B MP 0.1 – 0.7	Prime Farmland	No
S8B MP 1.3 – 1.5	Prime Farmland	No
S8B MP 3.6 – 3.9	Prime Farmland	No
S8B MP 4.8 – 4.9	Prime Farmland	No

DOC, 2007b; DOC, 2007c.

Segment 8A traverses a total of 1.63 miles of Prime Farmland, 0.13 miles of Unique Farmland, 0.09 miles of Farmland of Statewide importance, 1.5 miles of grazing land, and 5.16 miles of other agricultural land. Segment 8B crosses 0.98 miles of Prime Farmland, 0.66 miles of Unique Farmland, and 4.52 miles of other agricultural land. Segment 8C traverses 1.13 miles of Prime Farmland, 0.13 miles of Unique Farmland, 0.09 miles of Farmland of Statewide Importance, 0.1 miles of grazing land, and 3.82 miles of other agricultural land. Figure 3.2-3 shows agricultural lands in San Bernardino County in the vicinity of Alternative 2.

3.2.2.2 Alternative 3: West Lancaster Alternative

As described in Section 2.3 (Alternative 3: West Lancaster Alternative), this alternative includes one deviation from the proposed Project route, which would extend for 3.4 miles along Segment 4, between S4 MP 14.9 and S4 17.9 in Los Angeles County. No other portion of the proposed Project route would be altered under Alternative 3. While the portion of Segment 4 that would be re-routed for Alternative 3 is situated in an area that is predominately used for agriculture, this portion is surrounded by grazing land. Consequently, the amount of grazing land traversed by Segment 4 would be increased by 0.4 miles from 10.75 miles to 11.15 miles. No other types of agricultural land would be traversed by the re-routed portion of Segment 4. With the exception of this change in the amount of grazing land traversed by the Segment 4 re-route, the Affected Environment for Alternative 3 would be the same as the Affected Environment for the proposed Project.

3.2.2.3 Alternative 4: Chino Hills Route Alternatives

Under Alternative 4, the proposed transmission line would follow the same route as the proposed Project through Kern County and northern Los Angeles County. In southern Los Angeles County, Alternative 4 would diverge from the proposed Project route at S8A MP 19.2 and turn to the southeast, crossing through part of Orange County before entering San Bernardino County. The Affected Environment of Alternative 4 is identical to the Affected Environment of the proposed Project (Section 3.2.2.1) for all Segments except Segment 8A. In addition, the upgrades associated with Segments 8B and 8C would not occur; therefore any Affected Environment characteristics associated with Agricultural Resources for these Segments would not occur for Alternative 4. Although the Chino Hills Route Alternatives deviate from Segment 8A in Los Angeles County and traverse a portion of Orange County before entering San Bernardino County, this re-route would not cross any agricultural land in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Each of the four Alternative 4 routes (Routes A through D) would include a new 500-kV T/L and a new switching station in San Bernardino County. The switching station would be a minimum of 4 to 5 acres in size if the station uses gas-insulated technology and would be a minimum of 11 to 12 acres in size if the station uses air-insulated technology. The length of the transmission line and the location of the switching station would differ from route to route. Table 3.2-7 lists the Farmland, grazing lands, and Williamson Act contract lands traversed by each of the Alternative 4 routes in San Bernardino County by milepost.

Table 3.2-7. San Bernardino County Farmland, Grazing Lands, and Williamson Act Contract Lands Traversed by Alternative 4

Project Component	Type of Agricultural Resource	Williamson Act Contract
Route A	Grazing Land	No
Route B	Grazing Land	No
Route C	Grazing Land	No
Route D	Grazing Land	No

DOC, 2007b; DOC, 2007c.

Route A traverses a total of 1.72 miles of grazing land and Route B traverses approximately 3.97 miles of grazing land. The 220-kV reroute of Route C traverses approximately 1.75 miles of grazing land, while the 500-kV reroute of Route C crosses approximately 1.93 miles of grazing land. Route D traverses approximately 4.52 miles of grazing land. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or other categorized agricultural land would be crossed by Routes A through D. For each route, the switching station would be located on grazing land, but would not affect any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or other categorized agricultural lands. Figure 3.2-4 shows agricultural lands in San Bernardino County in the vicinity of Alternative 4.

3.2.2.4 Alternative 5: Partial Underground Alternative

The proposed route for Alternative 5 (Partial Underground Alternative), other than going underground, would not diverge from that of the proposed Project (Alternative 2) and, therefore, the Affected Environment for Alternative 5 would be identical to the Affected Environment for the proposed Project, as described in Section 3.2.2.1.

3.2.2.5 Alternative 6: Maximum Helicopter Construction in the ANF Alternative

While the proposed route for Alternative 6 (Maximum Helicopter Construction in the ANF Alternative) would be the same as that of the proposed Project (Alternative 2), Alternative 6 would include helicopter

staging and landing areas within the ANF to facilitate helicopter construction. These helicopter staging and landing areas would be located in the vicinity of the transmission line route in ANF as described for the proposed Project. Consequently, the Affected Environment for Alternative 6 would be identical to the Affected Environment for the proposed Project, as described in Section 3.2.2.1.

3.2.2.6 Alternative 7: 66-kV Subtransmission Alternative

The proposed route for Alternative 7 (66-kV Subtransmission Alternative) would be the same as that of the proposed Project (Alternative 2), although Alternative 7 would include three 66-kV subtransmission line elements in Segment 7 and the western end of Segment 8A. These elements would be located in the vicinity of the proposed Project transmission line route in Los Angeles County, although no portion of the 66-kV subtransmission lines would traverse agricultural lands. Consequently, the Affected Environment for Alternative 7 would be identical to the Affected Environment for the proposed Project, as described in Section 3.2.2.1.

3.2.3 Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Standards

3.2.3.1 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. Congress passed the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98) containing the FPPA—Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549. The final rules and regulations were published in the Federal Register on June 17, 1994.

The FPPA is intended to minimize the impact federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It assures that, to the extent possible, federal programs are administered to be compatible with state, local units of government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland. Federal agencies are required to develop and review their policies and procedures to implement the FPPA every two years. 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.

For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

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).

3.2.3.2 State

California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection.

The DOC applies the NRCS soil classifications to identify agricultural lands, and these agricultural designations are used in planning for the present and future of California's agricultural land resources. The DOC has a minimum mapping unit of 10 acres, with smaller than 10-acre parcels being absorbed into the surrounding classifications.

The list below provides a comprehensive description of all the categories mapped by the DOC (DOC, 2004a). Collectively, lands classified as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland is referred to as Farmland (DOC, 2004a).

- **Prime Farmland.** Farmland that has 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 four years prior to the mapping date.
- **Farmland of Statewide Importance.** Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.
- **Unique Farmland.** Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the State's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated, but may include nonirrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four 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 the grazing of livestock. This category was developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other groups interested in the extent of grazing activities. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.
- **Urban and Built-up Land.** Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, public administrative purposes, 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 land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.

California Land Conservation Act

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, is promulgated in California Government Code Section 51200-51297.4, and therefore is applicable only to specific land parcels within the State of California. 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 uses in return for reduced property tax assessments. Private land within locally designated agricultural preserve areas is eligible for enrollment under Williamson Act contracts. The Williamson Act program is administered by the DOC, in conjunction with local governments, which administer the individual contract arrangements with landowners. The landowner commits the parcel to a 10-year period wherein no conversion out of agricultural use is permitted. Each year the contract automatically renews unless a notice of non-renewal or cancellation is filed. In return, the land is taxed at a rate based on the actual use of the land for agricultural purposes, as opposed to its unrestricted market value. Participation in the Williamson Act program is dependent on county adoption and implementation of the program and is voluntary for landowners (DOC, 2007a).

The Williamson Act states that a board or council by resolution shall adopt rules governing the administration of agricultural preserves. The rules of each agricultural preserve specify the uses allowed.

Generally, any commercial agricultural use will be permitted within any agricultural preserve. In addition, local governments may identify compatible uses permitted with a use permit (DOC, 2006a).

The Farmland Security Zone is additional agricultural land conservation legislation that allows local governments and landowners to rescind a Williamson Act contract and simultaneously place the farmland under a Farmland Security Zone contract for an initial term of at least 20 years. A Farmland Security Zone contract offers landowners greater property tax reduction than the Williamson Act by valuing enrolled real property at 65 percent of its Williamson Act valuation, or its Proposition 13 valuation, whichever is lower (DOC, 2006a).

California Government Code Section 51238 states that unless otherwise decided by a local board or council, the erection, construction, alteration, or maintenance of electric and communication facilities, as well as other facilities, are determined to be compatible uses within any agricultural preserve. Also Section 51238 states that board of supervisors may impose conditions on lands or land uses to be placed within preserves to permit and encourage compatible uses in conformity with Section 51238.1.

Further, California Government Code Section 51238.1 allows a board or council to allow as compatible a use that without conditions or mitigations would otherwise be considered incompatible. However, this may occur only if the use meets the following conditions:

- The use will not significantly compromise the long-term productive agricultural capability of the subject contracted parcel or parcels or on other contracted lands in agricultural preserves.
- The use will not significantly displace or impair current or reasonably foreseeable agricultural operations on the subject contracted parcel or parcels or on other contracted lands in agricultural preserves. Uses that significantly displace agricultural operations on the subject contracted parcel or parcels may be deemed compatible if they relate directly to the production of commercial agricultural products on the subject contracted parcel or parcels or neighboring lands, including activities such as harvesting, processing, or shipping.
- The use will not result in the significant removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural or open-space use.

3.2.3.3 Local

The proposed Project would cross lands within Kern County, Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, and would come within 0.5 mile of Riverside County. A review of all agricultural resource policies that apply to the proposed Project was conducted, which includes all county and city plans, as well as applicable local area plans.

3.2.4 Impact Analysis Approach

3.2.4.1 Criteria for Determining Impact Significance

To satisfy CEQA requirements, conclusions are made regarding the significance of each identified impact that would result from the proposed Project and alternatives. Appropriate criteria have been identified and utilized to make these significance conclusions. The following agricultural resources significance criteria were derived from previous environmental impact assessments and from the CEQA Guidelines (Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form, Section IX). Impacts of the proposed Project or alternatives would be considered significant and would require mitigation if:

- Criterion AG1: The proposed Project would convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farm-

land Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, to non-agricultural use.

The conversion of Farmland would be considered significant if greater than ten acres is converted to non-agricultural use. This threshold is used because it is the minimum acreage requirement 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 uses. Ten acres is the minimum mapping unit on the DOC FMMP Important Farmland maps. The minimum mapping unit indicates the spatial scale of the maps and is the smallest unit or feature represented on the maps, with smaller than 10-acre features being absorbed into the surrounding classifications.

- Criterion AG2: The proposed Project would involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in interference with agricultural operations.
- Criterion AG3: The proposed Project would conflict with a Williamson Act contract.

Significance conclusions for individual impacts are not required for compliance with NEPA. Therefore, conclusions presented in the following analysis regarding the significance of identified impacts are provided for the purposes of CEQA only.

3.2.4.2 Applicant-Proposed Measures (APMs)

APMs were identified by SCE in the PEA. Table 3.2-8 presents the APMs that are relevant to the issue area of Agricultural Resources. APMs are a commitment by the Applicant (SCE) and are considered part of the proposed Project. Therefore, the following discussions of impact analysis assume that all APMs will be implemented as defined in the table. Additional mitigation measures are recommended in this section if it is determined that APMs do not fully mitigate the impacts for which they are presented.

Table 3.2-8. Applicant-Proposed Measures – Agricultural Resources

APM AG-1	Coordinate with Landowner. Prior to construction and as a part of acquisition of new easements on agricultural lands, SCE would coordinate with agricultural landowners and identify feasible site-specific measures to minimize impacts to ongoing agricultural operations, including, but not limited to, financial consideration for crop loss. General measures that would be implemented to the extent feasible are detailed below.
APM AG-2	Locate Project Activities to Minimize Impacts to Active Agricultural Operations. For example, to the extent practical, SCE would: • Locate new towers adjacent to existing towers in order to consolidate obstructions to the movement of agricultural machinery • Locate access roads, spur roads, staging areas, and pulling/splicing locations in areas that minimize impacts to agricultural operations • Minimize removal of perennial crops
APM AG-3	Avoid Harvest Season. To the extent feasible, construction in agricultural fields would be scheduled after the end of harvest season.

3.2.4.3 Impact Assessment Methodology

The extent of the area to be analyzed for land use impacts is considered the Agricultural Resources Study Area, and has been defined by the following:

- Agricultural land uses immediately adjacent to the alternative ROWs
- Agricultural land uses located near the construction equipment/materials transportation routes
- Agricultural land uses affected by alternative construction and operation activities
- Agricultural land uses that have national, regional, or local significance and are within one mile of alternative ROWs

Sections 3.2.5 through 3.2.11, below, provide a discussion of the impacts identified for the proposed Project and alternatives. Using the criteria presented in Section 3.2.4.1 above, the significance of each impact is also identified, according to the following classifications:

- Class I: Significant impact; cannot be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.
- Class II: Significant impact; can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant.
- Class III: Adverse impact; less than significant.
- Class IV: Beneficial impact.

Detailed discussions of each impact and the specific locations where each is identified are presented in the following sections. For the analysis of the conversion of Farmland and conflicts with Williamson Act contracts, impact acreages are calculated for the proposed Project and alternatives by determining how many transmission structures and pulling and stringing sites would traverse Farmland and the length of access and spur roads that would traverse these lands. Impact acreages are calculated based on figures in Section 2.2 (Alternative 2: SCE's Proposed Project), assuming 0.92 acres of temporary disturbance per transmission structure, 0.92 acres of temporary disturbance per pulling and stringing site, 0.003 acres of permanent disturbance per transmission structure, and access and spur road widths of 14 feet which would be counted for both temporary and permanent disturbance.

3.2.5 Alternative 1: No Project/Action

Under the No Project/Action Alternative neither the proposed Project (Alternative 2) nor one of its re-routed or structurally changed alternatives (Alternatives 3 though 7) would be implemented. Consequently, associated impacts to agricultural resources would not occur. However, in the absence of either the proposed Project or one of its physical alternatives, the purpose and need for the power transmission capabilities that would be met by Alternatives 2 though 7 would not be achieved. Under this scenario, it is possible that a similar type of transmission line project would be constructed in the future to meet the power transmission needs of developing wind energy in the TWRA. Due to the location of the TWRA, and the projected need for power in the greater Los Angeles area, such a project would likely traverse the same geographic regions as either the proposed Project or Alternatives 3 through 7, and subsequently introduce similar types of impacts to agricultural resources.

Environmental conditions in the Project Area are expected to change or evolve over time and therefore, independently of the proposed Project or an alternative to the Project (including the No Project/Action Alternative), the regional setting and baseline conditions in the Project Area which are discussed in Section 3.2.2 would not remain static. If the No Project/Action Alternative is implemented, agricultural resources within the Project Area will continue to change over time, independently of the potential impacts associated with the proposed TRTP. The following section describes how agricultural resources in the Project Area are expected to change in the future, under the No Project/Action Alternative. Because the potential impacts of the proposed Project would not occur under the No Project/Action Alternative, the significance criteria described in Section 3.2.4.1 are not used for analysis of the No Project/Action Alternative.

Under this alternative, electrical utilities would still need to accommodate the power load and upgrade existing transmission infrastructure or build new transmission. So while under the No Project/Action Alternative the proposed Project would not be constructed and the impacts associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of this Project would not occur, similar impacts would likely occur in other areas where the transmission infrastructure upgrades or new transmission would be located. Temporary or

permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses, such as roadways or tower structures, would not occur in this Project Area, but would likely occur elsewhere. Without construction, operation, or maintenance of the proposed Project, there would be no interference of agricultural operations in the vicinity of the proposed Project, but this would occur where the transmission infrastructure upgrades or new transmission would be located. The following discussion describes the effects of the No Project/Action Alternative in each of the counties affected by the proposed Project.

Kern County

As described in Section 3.2.2 the predominant existing land uses in Kern County in the vicinity of the TWRA include large expanses of undeveloped open space and agriculture. There are also several large tracts of undeveloped land which are planned for future development. Under the No Project/Action Alternative it would be expected that this region would continue to experience urban and suburban development particularly along the southern boundary of Kern County. Assuming that growth in this region continues it would be expected that agricultural lands would be converted to non-agricultural uses at a rate similar to that of development. All such development would require site-specific planning and environmental review prior to its implementation. Therefore, it is assumed that potential impacts to these agricultural resources would be identified and mitigated, as feasible and appropriate. Under this alternative, Segment 10 and the proposed Whirlwind Substation would not be constructed and, therefore, there would be no corresponding conversion of Farmland or disturbance to agricultural operations and no conflicts with Williamson Act contracts would occur. Consequently, in comparison to Alternatives 2 through 7, there would be fewer impacts to agricultural resources under the No Project/Action Alternative.

Los Angeles County

As described in Section 3.2.2 the predominant existing land uses in northern Los Angeles County include large expanses of undeveloped open space, agriculture and residential development. The Cities of Palmdale and Lancaster are both rapidly developing urban areas which include large tracts of residential development, as well as other uses such as commercial, business and industrial development. Under the No Project/Action Alternative it would be expected that this region would continue its rapid rate of urban and suburban development. Assuming that growth in this region continues, it would be expected that lands which are currently used for agricultural production would be converted to non-agricultural uses. However, as all such development would require site-specific planning (e.g., the development of a Specific Plan, Master Plan, or similar land use planning document) and environmental review prior to its implementation, it is assumed that potential impacts to agricultural resources would be identified and mitigated, as feasible and appropriate.

Under the No Project/Action Alternative the existing Antelope-Magunden No. 1, Midway-Vincent No. 3, Antelope-Vincent and Antelope-Mesa transmission lines would continue to operate under their current conditions. Therefore, no new temporary or long-term impacts to existing and planned land uses within or adjacent to their respective ROWs would occur. However, as Segment 10 and the proposed Whirlwind Substation would not be constructed under this alternative, the No Project/Action Alternative would result in no impacts to agricultural resources. In comparison to Alternatives 2 through 7, there would be fewer impacts to agricultural resources under this alternative.

Southern Los Angeles County is characterized by mountainous regions, including the ANF, and substantial areas of urban land. Little agricultural land exists in these portions of Los Angeles County, so

there is little potential for future projects in this area to result in substantial impacts to agricultural resources.

San Bernardino County

As described in Section 3.2.2 southwestern San Bernardino County includes highly productive agricultural land, but this is fragmented and interspersed with growing residential and urban development. Under the No Project/Action Alternative it would be expected that this region would continue its rapid rate of urban and suburban development. Assuming that growth in this region continues, it would be expected that lands which are currently used for agricultural production would be converted to non-agricultural uses. As all such development would require site-specific planning and environmental review prior to its implementation, it is assumed that potential impacts to agricultural resources would be identified and mitigated, as feasible and appropriate. Under this alternative Segments 8A, 8B, and 8C would not be constructed, and, therefore, there would be no corresponding conversion of Farmland or disturbance to agricultural operations. Consequently, in comparison to Alternatives 2 through 7, there would be fewer impacts to agricultural resources under the No Project/Action Alternative.

3.2.6 Alternative 2: SCE's Proposed Project

3.2.6.1 Direct and Indirect Effects Analysis

Potential impacts of Alternative 2 that could affect agricultural resources are presented in Table 3.2-9. In preparing this table, each category of agricultural resource identified in Section 3.2.2 by milepost was individually evaluated in comparison with the identified Project impacts (discussed below Table 3.2-9) to determine which of the Project impacts, if any, could occur in a way as to affect the resource. All identified agricultural resource impacts of Alternative 2 are discussed in detail following Table 3.2-9.

Table 3.2-9. Impacts Applicable to Agricultural Resources

Project Component	Type of Agricultural Resource	Potentially Applicable Impacts
Kern County		
S10 MP 0.0 – 6.9	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S9 Cottonwind Substation	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S4 MP 0.0 – 1.9	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S4 MP 4.7 – 6.9	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
Los Angeles County		
S4 MP 6.9 – 7.4	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S4 MP 7.4 – 8.7	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S4 MP 8.7 – 9.2	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S4 MP 9.2 – 9.9	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S4 MP 9.9 – 19.6	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S5 MP 0.0 – 2.0	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S5 MP 2.0 – 2.1	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S5 MP 2.1 – 5.8	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S5 MP 7.4 – 8.1	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S5 MP 9.6 – 10.2	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
San Bernardino County		
S8A MP 21.0 – 23.0	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 28.2 – 28.7	Grazing Land	AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 28.6 – 29.2	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 30.0 – 30.1	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 30.3 – 30.4	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 30.4 – 30.5	Farmland of Statewide Importance	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4

Table 3.2-9. Impacts Applicable to Agricultural Resources		
Project Component	Type of Agricultural Resource	Potentially Applicable Impacts
Kern County		
S8A MP 31.0 – 31.1	Unique Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 31.4 – 31.5	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 32.0 – 32.3	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 32.5 – 32.8	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8A MP 34.6 – 35.2	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8C MP 0.1 – 0.7	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8C MP 1.6 – 1.7	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8C MP 1.8 – 1.9	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8C MP 1.9 – 2.0	Farmland of Statewide Importance	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8C MP 2.5 – 2.6	Unique Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8C MP 2.9 – 3.0	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8C MP 3.5 – 3.8	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8C MP 4.0 – 4.3	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8B MP 0.1 – 0.7	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8B MP 1.3 – 1.5	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8B MP 3.6 – 3.9	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4
S8B MP 4.8 – 4.9	Prime Farmland	AG-1, AG-2, AG-3, AG-4

Potential impacts of Alternative 2 are described below, according to the significance criteria presented in Section 3.2.4.1.

Convert Farmland to non-agricultural use (Criterion AG1)

As described above in Section 3.2.2.1, Segments 6, 7, 10, 11 and the substations would not be located on Farmland (Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance). Consequently, these components of Alternative 2 would have no direct or indirect impacts on Farmland. Portions of Segments 4, 5, 8A, 8B, and 8C, however, would traverse Farmland. The impacts associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of these segments of Alternative 2 on Farmland are discussed below.

Impact AG-1: Construction activities would temporarily preclude the agricultural use of some Farmland.

Alternative 2 would be constructed across 7.98 miles of Prime Farmland, 0.92 miles of Unique Farmland, and 0.18 miles of Farmland of Statewide Importance, totaling a distance of 9.08 miles of Farmland traversed. Construction activities across these lands would include the construction and erection of 220-kV and 500-kV T/Ls, installation of structure foundations, extension of spur roads, and the stringing of conductor and overhead groundwire. These activities would require the use of heavy equipment, such as graders, dozers, excavators, cranes, and various trucks for clearing and grading, tower assembly and erection, and stringing and pulling. In Farmland traversed by Segment 4, 24 T/L towers would be constructed, 8 stringing and pulling areas would be cleared, and approximately 2.13 miles of access and spur road would be graded. While Segment 5 would cross approximately 0.15 miles of Prime Farmland, no construction would occur within this parcel of Farmland. In Farmland crossed by Segments 8A, 8B, and 8C, 20 T/L towers would be constructed, 2 stringing and pulling areas would be cleared and approximately 0.86 miles of access and spur roads would be graded. In total, Alternative 2 would require the construction of 44 T/L towers, 10 stringing and pulling areas, and 2.99 miles of access and spur roads on Farmland.

Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 54.75 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses, broken down as follows.

- Construction activities and the presence of road work construction equipment could temporarily convert areas adjacent to the road, as well as the actual footprint of the access road to non-agricultural use as construction areas. As described in Section 2.2, access and spur roads would be graded to 12 feet with two feet of shoulder for a total width of 14 feet. Consequently, grading 2.99 miles of access and spur roads through Farmland would result in the disturbance of 5.07 acres of Farmland.
- Installation of T/L towers would consist of: installation of foundations, assembly of the structure sections, erection of the tower, and cleanup of the site. As described in Section 2.2, construction of T/L towers would temporarily disturb approximately 0.92 acres per tower location. With 44 T/L towers constructed on Farmland under Alternative 2, approximately 40.48 acres of Farmland would be disturbed due to these construction activities.
- Similarly, as described in Section 2.2, stringing and pulling areas would require approximately 0.92 acres temporarily disturbed per stringing and pulling site. Alternative 2 would require approximately 10 stringing and pulling sites on Farmland, resulting in another approximately 9.2 acres of Farmland disturbed.

Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners), which would require coordination with property owners of Farmland to determine construction scheduling, compensation for damages, and specifications for the restoration of disturbed land, is recommended to reduce impacts to Farmland.

Mitigation Measure for Impact AG-1

AG-1 **Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners.** SCE shall coordinate with property owners of Farmland (Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland) and Williamson Act lands that will be used for construction of the Project, including access and spur roads, staging areas, and other Project-related activities. The purpose of this coordination is to establish the use of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Williamson Act lands during construction in order to: (1) schedule construction activities at a location and time when damage to agricultural operations would be minimized , to the extent practicable; and (2) ensure that any areas damaged or disturbed by construction are restored to a condition that closely approximates conditions that existed prior to construction-related disturbance, to the extent practicable.

SCE's coordination with the agricultural landowners in the areas where Farmland or Williamson Act land will be temporarily disturbed is intended to minimize disruption to agricultural operations. This includes avoiding construction during peak planting, growing, and harvest seasons, if feasible, based on outage limitations. If damage or destruction occurs, SCE shall perform restoration activities on the disturbed area in order to return the area to a condition that closely approximates conditions that existed prior to construction-related disturbance. This could include activities such as soil preparation, regrading, and reseeding. SCE shall document its coordination efforts with affected agricultural landowners regarding the continued use of Farmland and/or Williamson Act lands and shall submit this documentation to the CPUC at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction activities on the affected agricultural parcels.

CEQA Significance Conclusion

As the conversion of Farmland would be substantially greater than the 10-acre threshold described in the significance criteria, these impacts would be considered significant. SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would work to site towers, roads, and pulling and splicing areas in locations that would minimize the

impacts to agricultural lands, compensate agricultural operations for lost crops, and schedule work outside of harvest season. These APMs would reduce some of the effect of these impacts, but address only a portion of the impacts to Farmlands. Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) expands on SCE's APMs, clarifies timing and reporting requirements, and requires the restoration of disturbed land to pre-determined or pre-construction conditions. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1, temporary impacts to Farmland would be adverse, but would be reduced to a level that is not significant (Class II).

Impact AG-2: Operation would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural use.

As described above for Impact AG-1, Alternative 2 would traverse 7.98 miles of Prime Farmland, 0.92 miles of Unique Farmland, and 0.18 miles of Farmland of Statewide Importance and would include 2.99 miles of access and spur roads, 44 T/L towers, and approximately 10 stringing and pulling sites. As described in Section 2.2 (Alternative 2: SCE's Proposed Project), while the stringing and pulling sites would be restored following the completion of construction activities, tower footings and foundations and access and spur roads would represent permanent disturbances to land uses, including Farmland.

Of the 44 T/L towers, 24 towers would be LSTs along Segment 4 and 20 towers would be a mix of LSTs and TSPs along Segments 8A, 8B, and 8C. Towers installed in the portions of Segments 8A and 8C traversing Farmland would be TSPs while towers installed in the portions of Segment 8B traversing Farmland would be LSTs. Segments 8A and 8C would include 12 TSPs on Farmland while Segment 8B would include 8 LSTs on Farmland. As described in Section 2.2 (Alternative 2: SCE's Proposed Project), a single LST would permanently convert 0.003 acres of land while a single TSP would permanently convert 0.001 acres of land. Consequently, T/L towers associated with Alternative 2 would permanently convert a total of 0.76 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses, broken down as follows.

- The 24 LSTs in Segment 4 would result in 0.72 acres of Farmland permanently converted to non-agricultural uses.
- The 8 LSTs in Segment 8B would result in 0.03 acres of Farmland permanently converted to non-agricultural uses.
- The 12 TSPs in Segments 8A and 8C would result in 0.01 acres of Farmland permanently converted to non-agricultural uses.

The acreage of access and spur roads permanently converting Farmland to non-agricultural uses would be the same as described for Impact AG-1. Access and spur roads traversing Farmland would be 14 feet wide and a total of 2.99 miles long, resulting in 5.07 acres of Farmland permanently converted to non-agricultural uses.

CEQA Significance Conclusion

While Alternative 2 would have a substantial area of Farmland temporarily converted to non-agricultural uses as described under Impact AG-1, only 5.83 acres of Farmland would be permanently converted to non-agricultural uses. As this total area would be less than the minimum area necessary for sustainable agriculture and less than the minimum DOC mapping unit, the permanent conversion of Farmland under Alternative 2 to non-agricultural uses would be considered adverse, but not significant (Class III).

Interfere with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2)

Impact AG-3: Construction activities would interfere with agricultural operations.

Alternative 2 would be constructed across approximately 23.69 miles of agricultural land in Kern County, approximately 31.92 miles of agricultural land in Los Angeles County, and approximately 19.94 miles of agricultural land in San Bernardino County. Construction activities across these agricultural lands would primarily consist of construction of the 220-kV and 500-kV T/Ls in Segments 4, 5, 6, 8A, 8B, and 8C, but would also include the construction of Cottonwind Substation on grazing land in Kern County and the expansion of the Antelope Substation in Los Angeles County. These construction activities could conflict with existing agricultural operations.

As described above for Impact AG-1, clearing and grading could be required to build spur roads associated with new tower structures. The presence and use of heavy equipment, including road graders, dozers, excavators, and trucks, needed to construct the new spur roads could interfere with agricultural operations by damaging crops or soil, impeding access to certain fields or plots of land, obstructing farm vehicles, or potentially disrupting drainage and irrigation systems. These events could result in the temporary reduction of agricultural productivity in the area. Similar to the construction of spur roads, the construction of the 220-kV and 500-kV T/Ls, including tower installation and wire stringing, the construction of the Cottonwind Substation, and expansion of the Antelope Substation would also interfere with agricultural operations. These interferences could result in a temporary decrease in agricultural productivity. As such, implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) is recommended to reduce construction impacts to agricultural operations.

CEQA Significance Conclusion

SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would be implemented to site construction in locations that would minimize the impacts to agricultural lands, compensate agricultural operations for lost crops, and schedule work outside of harvest season. These APMs would reduce some of the impacts to agricultural operations, but address only a portion of the impacts. Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) expands on SCE's APMs, clarifies timing and reporting requirements, and requires the restoration of disturbed land to pre-determined or pre-construction conditions. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1, impacts to agricultural operations would be avoided and minimized such that impacts would be adverse, but would be reduced to a level that is not significant (Class II).

Impact AG-4: Operation would interfere with agricultural operations.

As presented for Impact AG-3, Alternative 2 would cross approximately 23.69 miles of agricultural land in Kern County, approximately 31.92 miles of agricultural land in Los Angeles County, and approximately 19.94 miles of agricultural land in San Bernardino County. Operation and maintenance of Alternative 2 would result in the presence of a 220-kV and 500-kV T/Ls, including tower structures and wire, and spur roads. The presence of these roads and structures would interfere with agricultural operations along the Alternative 2 T/L route.

The presence of spur roads across agricultural operations could divide farm properties, which could create an obstacle to farming that impedes access to certain fields or plots, and creates irregularly shaped fields in which it would be difficult to maneuver farm equipment. New roadways could also disrupt drainage and irrigation systems, affect the efficacy of windbreaks, fragment farms, and allow for the introduction

of invasive weeds within and around disturbed areas. These interferences could also permanently decrease the agricultural productivity of agricultural operations. Similar to the presence of new spur roads, the 220-kV and 500-kV T/Ls, Cottonwind Substation, and the Antelope Substation expansion could also interfere with agricultural operations, and could permanently decrease agricultural productivity. As such, implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) is recommended to reduce operational impacts to agricultural operations.

CEQA Significance Conclusion

SCE's APMs AG-1 and AG-2 would be implemented to site roads and structures in locations that would minimize the impacts to agricultural operations and compensate agricultural operations for lost crops. These APMs would reduce some of the impacts to agricultural operations, but address only a portion of the impacts. Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) expands on SCE's APMs, clarifies timing and reporting requirements, and requires the restoration of disturbed land to pre-determined or pre-construction conditions. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1, long-term impacts to agricultural operations would be avoided and minimized such that impacts would be adverse, but would be reduced to a level that is not significant (Class II).

Conflict with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3)

Segment 4 of Alternative 2 would cross 0.91 miles of land under Williamson Act contract in Kern County. This would be the only portion of the alternative to traverse or run adjacent to Williamson Act contract land. Construction activities across this land would include the construction and erection of a 500-kV T/L energized at 220 kV, installation of structure foundations, extension of spur roads, and the stringing of conductor and overhead groundwire. Similar to the construction described for Impact AG-1, construction in this area would require the use of graders, dozers, excavators, cranes, and various trucks for clearing and grading, tower assembly and erection, and stringing and pulling. In the 0.91 miles of Williamson Act contract land traversed by Segment 4, 11 T/L towers would be constructed, 1 stringing and pulling area would be cleared, and approximately 1.05 miles of access and spur road would be graded.

Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 12.82 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts to non-agricultural uses, broken down as follows.

- As described above for Impact AG-1, construction activities and the presence of road work construction equipment could temporarily convert areas adjacent to the road, as well as the actual footprint of the access road to non-agricultural use as construction areas. Grading 1.05 miles of access and spur roads through land under Williamson Act contract would result in the disturbance of 1.78 acres.
- Installation of T/L towers would be the same as described for Impact AG-1 and would consist of: installation of foundations, assembly of the structure sections, erection of the tower, and cleanup of the site. With 11 T/L towers constructed on land under Williamson Act contract under Alternative 2, approximately 10.12 acres of this land would be disturbed due to these construction activities.
- Similarly, as described for Impact AG-1, stringing and pulling areas would require approximately 0.92 acres temporarily disturbed per stringing and pulling site. With only 1 stringing and pulling site on Williamson Act contract land, another approximately 0.92 acres of Williamson Act contract land would be disturbed.

While the stringing and pulling site would be restored following the completion of construction activities, tower footings and foundations and access and spur roads would represent permanent disturbances to lands under Williamson Act contract. All of the T/L towers installed in Segment 4 would be LSTs, and so

would permanently convert 0.003 acres of land per LST. Consequently, the 11 T/L towers installed on land under Williamson Act contract would permanently convert a total of 0.033 acres to non-agricultural uses. The acreage of access and spur roads permanently converting land under Williamson Act contracts to non-agricultural uses would be the same as described for temporary impacts. Access and spur roads traversing Farmland would be 14 feet wide and a total of 1.05 miles long, resulting in 1.78 acres of Williamson Act contract lands permanently converted to non-agricultural uses.

Although Alternative 2 would result in both temporary and permanent conversion of lands under Williamson Act contracts, because the Project is an electrical infrastructure project licensed by the CPUC, Kern County considers these components to be allowable uses under Williamson Act contracts (Kern County Planning Department, 2007). Consequently, there would be no conflict with Williamson Act contracts.

3.2.6.2 Cumulative Effects Analysis

Geographic Extent

Although the data on Farmland and lands under Williamson Act contract are collected and analyzed by county, because of the large geographic extent of the counties affected by the Project and limited geographic scope of agricultural impacts associated with the Project, analysis of the cumulative impact of the Project at a county-wide level would not yield valuable results. Consequently, the geographic scope of this cumulative effects analysis is limited to the area in the vicinity of the Project, a corridor of approximately 2 miles on either side of the Project in southern Kern County, eastern Los Angeles County, and southwestern San Bernardino County.

Existing Cumulative Conditions

Existing cumulative conditions for agricultural resources are defined by past and present use and conversion of agricultural lands.

Kern County. The portion of Kern County in the vicinity of Alternative 2 is largely characterized by open space and agricultural areas. While in more urban parts of Kern County, such as Bakersfield and Rosedale, agricultural lands are being converted for residential development, in the rural area around Alternative 2, conversion of irrigated Farmland is usually a result of taking it out of production to allow for grazing.

Los Angeles County. The northern portion of Alternative 2 from Kern County to the ANF is characterized by open space and agricultural areas, although the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale are experiencing growth that is driving the expansion of residential development into open spaces, such as with the Ritter Ranch, Ana Verde, and Agua Dulce Residential Project (TR 50385). While little irrigated Farmland has been converted for residential development, as in Kern County, this land is being taken out of production for use as grazing land.

While some agricultural production occurs within the central portion of Alternative 2 in the ANF, this is characterized by tree plantations rather than by irrigated agricultural lands. These plantations are not threatened by development, but rather by fire, insects, and disease. Consequently, these plantations receive fuel management and vegetation management treatments to ensure the continued health of the plantations with projects such as the Silvicultural Treatments in Plantations for Forest Health CE as listed in the Cumulative Scenario.

Little agricultural land remains in southern Los Angeles County, particularly in the vicinity of Alternative 2. Residential development continues to expand in open space areas. While there are a large number of projects in southern Los Angeles County under the cumulative scenario, because of the lack of agricultural land in this area, there are few agricultural resources to be affected.

San Bernardino County. Southwestern San Bernardino County in the vicinity of Alternative 2 is a patchwork of residential, industrial, and agricultural areas. Farmland and agricultural lands around the Cities of Ontario, Chino, and Chino Hills have and continue to face conversion to residential and other urban development. As in both Kern and Los Angeles Counties, some Farmland is being converted for residential use, but the largest proportion is taken out of production to be used for grazing.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects and Changes

As discussed above, ongoing development throughout the cumulative effects area for agricultural resources is dominated by the conversion of Farmland to grazing land, and grazing land to residential developments, clustered in and around community developments on non-NFS lands. This trend in residential development is also representative of reasonably foreseeable future projects in the cumulative effects area, as supported by the aggressive population growth forecasted throughout the Project Area. Due to the relatively limited extent of agricultural resources compared to the total area traversed by Alternative 2, a list approach is used to identify foreseeable projects in the vicinity of agricultural resources affected by Alternative 2. Reasonably foreseeable future projects within the Project Area are expected to be characteristic of past and ongoing projects.

Kern County. Kern County is currently undergoing rapid population growth and development, particularly in and surrounding Bakersfield and Rosedale. The Cumulative Scenario states that the population in Kern County is expected to rise by 113 percent between the years 2000 and 2050. Residential development is also increasing and some developments, such as the Christine Bower property and the Frazier Park Estate listed in the Cumulative Scenario, are encroaching on agricultural lands. Additionally, the Kern County 2004 General Plan calls for full realization of the County's wind energy generation capacity, including land-intensive projects such as the PdV/Manzana Wind Energy Project, Alta Wind Energy Center, and Pine Tree Wind Development, which have the potential to substantially affect agricultural lands.

Los Angeles County. The population in Los Angeles County is expected to rise by varying degrees, depending on the city, with the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale experiencing growth of 117.5 percent and 186.5 percent, respectively. As such, development and urbanization in Los Angeles County is expected to continue and increase substantially to accommodate the increasing population. Accommodation of this population growth requires infrastructure projects such as the Antelope Transmission Project Segments 1-3, the Antelope Valley Water Bank Project, the California High Speed Rail, and the Orangeline High Speed Maglev Project, all of which are in the vicinity of agricultural lands. As with Kern County, Farmland is typically taken out of production and converted to grazing land which is then later converted for residential development.

While fuel and vegetation management treatments are being performed on plantations within the ANF, it is foreseeable that projects such as the Silvicultural Treatments in Plantations for Forest Health CE will continue on a regular basis to ensure the continued health of the plantations. It is anticipated that these areas would continue to be protected from development and that plantations could potentially be expanded within ANF.

In southern Los Angeles County, no agricultural resources in the vicinity of Alternative 2 were identified that would be affected by proposed projects such as those listed in the Cumulative Scenario.

San Bernardino County. As shown in the Cumulative Scenario, growth in San Bernardino County is also expected to rise by different amounts, but in the Cities of Chino and Chino Hills, growth is expected to be between 26.7 percent and 69.3 percent, respectively. Similar to Los Angeles County, development and infrastructure are expected to accommodate this increasing population. As with Kern and Los Angeles Counties, relatively little Farmland is being converted directly to residential or urban uses, but instead is converted to grazing land which is later converted to these uses. Projects such as the Western Hills by Meritage Homes, Vellano, Woodview Terrace, and PD 9-163, as described in the Cumulative Scenario, are located on or adjacent to agricultural lands and could potentially affect agricultural resources.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Impacts AG-1, AG-3, and AG-4, as described and analyzed for Alternative 2, would combine with the similar effects of other projects to be cumulatively considerable. In the case of Impact AG-2, the area of land that would be permanently converted for the use of Alternative 2 following site restoration and Project completion would be under the ten acre minimum mapping unit (5.83 acres of Farmland and 1.83 acres of land under Williamson Act contract) resulting in a less than significant impact for the Project. However, this conversion would have the potential to combine with similar impacts of other projects and therefore would be considered cumulatively considerable.

The potential for cumulatively considerable Agricultural Resources impacts of the proposed Project to combine with similar impacts of other projects within the geographic scope of the cumulative analysis is described below.

- **Construction activities would temporarily preclude the agricultural use of some Farmland (Impact AG-1).** Alternative 2 would result in the temporary conversion of 54.75 acres of Farmland due to construction activities across Segments 4 and 8 (Impact AG-1). In these areas, construction of residential and urban development projects, such as the Christine Bower property and the Frazier Park Estate in Kern County and the Western Hills by Meritage Homes, Vellano, Woodview Terrace, and PD 9-163 projects in San Bernardino County, as well as wind generation projects in Kern County like the PdV/Manzana Wind Energy Project, Alta Wind Energy Center, and Pine Tree Wind Development would result in substantial areas of Farmland converted to non-agricultural uses. The effects of the construction of these other planned projects would be cumulatively significant. The following mitigation measure would be implemented for Alternative 2 and would help to reduce the Project's incremental contribution to the cumulative significance of Impact AG-1: Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). However, despite implementation of this mitigation measure for the Project, Impact AG-1 would have the potential to combine with other, similar impacts of other projects and as such, Impact AG-1 would be cumulatively significant and unavoidable (Class I).
- **Construction activities would interfere with agricultural operations (Impact AG-3).** Alternative 2 would traverse 75.55 miles of agricultural land across Segments 4, 5, 6, and 8 and construction activities across these lands would interfere with agricultural operations in these areas (Impact AG-3). Construction of residential and urban projects like the Christine Bower property, Frazier Park Estate, Western Hills by Meritage Homes, Vellano, Woodview Terrace, and PD 9-163 projects and infrastructure projects such as the PdV/Manzana Wind Energy Project, Alta Wind Energy Center, Pine Tree Wind Development, Antelope Transmission Project Segments 1-3, Antelope Valley Water Bank Project, California High Speed Rail, and Orangeline High Speed Maglev Project would disrupt agricultural operations both through the disruption of agricultural land as well as through construction activities on and adjacent to agricultural lands. The effects of the construction of these other planned projects on agricultural operations would be cumulatively significant. The following mitigation measure would be implemented for Alternative 2 and would help to reduce the Project's incremental contribution to the cumulative significance of Impact AG-3: Mitigation Measure AG-1

(Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). However, despite implementation of this mitigation measure for the Project, Impact AG-3 would have the potential to combine with other, similar impacts of other projects and as such, Impact AG-3 would be cumulatively significant and unavoidable (Class I).

- **Operation would interfere with agricultural operations (Impact AG-4).** The operation of Alternative 2 across 75.55 miles of agricultural land would interfere with agricultural operations by dividing farm properties, creating irregularly shaped fields, disrupting drainage and irrigation systems, affecting the efficacy of windbreaks, fragmenting farms, and allowing for the introduction of invasive weeds within and around disturbed areas (Impact AG-4). The residential, urban, and infrastructure projects listed above for Impact AG-3 would also result in these similar impacts, although on a larger scale, and cumulatively interfere with a substantial number of agricultural operations. The effects of the operation of these other planned projects on agricultural operations would be cumulatively significant. The following mitigation measure would be implemented for Alternative 2 and would help to reduce the Project's incremental contribution to the cumulative significance of Impact AG-4: Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). However, despite implementation of this mitigation measure for the Project, Impact AG-4 would have the potential to combine with other, similar impacts of other projects and as such, Impact AG-4 would be cumulatively significant and unavoidable (Class I).

Mitigation to Reduce the Project's Contribution to Significant Cumulative Effects

Mitigation introduced for the proposed Project in Section 3.2.6.1 would help to reduce the proposed Project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts. However, no additional mitigation measures have been identified that would reduce cumulative impacts to be less than significant for agricultural resources.

3.2.7 Alternative 3: West Lancaster Alternative

3.2.7.1 Direct and Indirect Effects Analysis

The significance criteria used to identify impacts to agricultural resources are introduced in Section 3.2.4.1. Impacts associated with Alternative 3 are presented below under the applicable significance criterion.

Convert Farmland to non-agricultural use (Criterion AG1)

Impacts associated with the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Criterion AG1) for Alternative 3 would be the same as impacts associated with this criterion for Alternative 2. Although this alternative introduces a re-route of part of the proposed transmission line in northern Los Angeles County, the re-route would not cross any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, the impacts of Alternative 3 on Farmland would be the same as Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 54.75 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-1). While SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would work to reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts to Farmlands. As the conversion of Farmland would be greater than the 10-acre threshold described in the significance criteria, these impacts would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Operation and maintenance of the T/Ls and access and spur roads would permanently convert 5.83 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-2). As this total area would be less than the minimum area necessary for sustainable agriculture and less than the minimum DOC mapping unit, the permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses would be considered adverse, but not significant (Class III).

Interfere with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2)

The impacts associated with the interference with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2) would be similar to those described for Alternative 2, but as the Alternative 3 re-route would traverse an additional 0.4 miles of grazing land than Alternative 2, impacts to grazing land would be slightly greater. All other impacts would be the same as described for Alternative 2. The presence and use of heavy equipment, including road graders, dozers, excavators, and trucks, needed to construct the new spur roads could interfere with agricultural operations by damaging crops or soil, impeding access to certain fields or plots of land, obstructing farm vehicles, or potentially disrupting drainage and irrigation systems (Impact AG-3). These events could result in the temporary reduction of agricultural productivity in the area. While SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts on agricultural operations. Construction activities' interference with agricultural operations would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Similarly, the presence of new roads, tower structures, and wire used for the operation and maintenance of Alternative 3 would also interfere with agricultural operations (Impact AG-4). As with the temporary impacts, SCE's APMs AG-1 and AG-2 would reduce some of these impacts, but implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) would be necessary to ensure that the significant impact (Class II), would be mitigated to be less than significant.

Conflict with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3)

Impacts associated with conflicts with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3) for Alternative 3 would be the same as impacts associated with this criterion for Alternative 2. Although this alternative introduces a re-route of part of the proposed transmission line in northern Los Angeles County, the re-route would not cross any lands under Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the impacts of Alternative 3 on Farmland would be the same as Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 12.82 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts, and operation and maintenance would permanently convert 1.81 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts to non-agricultural uses. As the Project is infrastructure licensed by the CPUC, however, Alternative 3 would be considered an allowable use. Consequently, the alternative would not conflict with any Williamson Act contracts and no impact would occur.

3.2.7.2 Cumulative Effects Analysis

As discussed in Section 3.2.2.2, the rerouted portion of Alternative 3 traverses the same or similar land uses as the portion of the proposed Project route it is proposed to replace, would require the same types of construction activities to build, and would result in the same operational capacity as the proposed Project. Based on the substantial similarity of Alternative 3 to the proposed Project, this alternative's contribution to cumulative impacts would be identical to that of the proposed Project.

Geographic Extent

Alternative 3 only differs from the proposed Project for a very small portion of the proposed route in the City of Lancaster, near Antelope Substation. This area is still encompassed by the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis defined for Alternative 2 in Section 3.2.6.2. Therefore, the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis for Alternative 3 is exactly the same as that for Alternative 2 and would include

lands within 2 miles of the proposed Project in southern Kern County, eastern Los Angeles County, and southwestern San Bernardino County.

Existing Cumulative Conditions

The existing cumulative conditions for Alternative 3 are exactly the same as for Alternative 2, as described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects and Changes

Reasonably foreseeable future projects and changes to the cumulative scenario for Alternative 3 would be exactly the same as Alternative 2, described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The minor re-route of the proposed Project transmission line associated with Alternative 3 would only slightly affect the proposed Project's contribution to cumulative impacts and therefore, cumulative impacts of Alternative 3 would be exactly the same as cumulative impacts for Alternative 2, as described below.

The following impact would not be cumulatively considerable: Impact AG-2 (Operation would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural uses). The following impacts would be cumulatively considerable and would combine with similar impacts of other projects to result in impacts that would be significant and unavoidable: Impact AG-1 (Construction activities would temporarily convert Farmland to non-agricultural use), Impact AG-3 (Construction activities would interfere with agricultural operations), and Impact AG-4 (Operation would interfere with agricultural operations).

As the cumulative effects of Alternative 3 would be the same as for the proposed Project, please see Section 3.2.6.2 for a full description of these effects.

Mitigation to Reduce the Project's Contribution to Significant Cumulative Effects

Mitigation measures introduced for Alternative 3 in Section 3.2.7.1 would help to reduce this alternative's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts. However, no additional mitigation measures have been identified that would reduce cumulative impacts to a less-than-significant level for agricultural resources.

3.2.8 Alternative 4: Chino Hills Route Alternatives

3.2.8.1 Direct and Indirect Effects Analysis

The significance criteria used to identify the agricultural resource impacts of Alternative 4 are introduced in Section 3.2.4.1. As described in Section 3.2.2.3, this alternative would follow the same route as the proposed Project through the Kern and northern Los Angeles Counties, diverging from the proposed Project route along Segment 8A in southern Los Angeles County at Segment 8A MP 19.2. Therefore, any impacts of the proposed Project that would occur between Segment 8A MP 19.2 and 35.2 (16 miles) through Chino Hills, Chino, and Ontario would not occur under Alternative 4. In addition, impacts associated with Segments 8B and 8C of the proposed Project also would not occur under Alternative 4. When the proposed route for Alternative 4 diverges from the proposed Project route at Segment 8A MP 19.2, it would turn to the southeast, crossing through part of Orange County, San Bernardino County, and the Chino Hills State Park (CHSP). Therefore, Alternative 4 would introduce agricultural resource impacts to these areas which would not be introduced through the proposed Project.

Convert Farmland to non-agricultural use (Criterion AG1)

Impacts associated with the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Criterion AG1) for Alternative 4 would be similar to the impacts associated with this criterion for Alternative 2, although the impacts to Farmland along Segments 8A, 8B, and 8C would be absent in Alternative 4. Routes A, B, C, and D would traverse grazing land, but would not cross any Farmland so impacts would be the same for each of the routes. Consequently, the impacts of Alternative 4 on Farmland would be the same as the impacts on Segments 4 and 5 under Alternative 2. In Farmland traversed by Segments 4 and 5, 24 T/L towers would be constructed, 8 stringing and pulling areas would be cleared, and approximately 2.13 miles of access and spur road would be graded. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 33.07 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-1). While SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would work to reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts to Farmland. As the conversion of Farmland would be greater than the 10-acre threshold described in the significance criteria, these impacts would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Operation and maintenance of the T/Ls and access and spur roads would permanently convert 4.35 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-2). As this total area would be less than the minimum area necessary for sustainable agriculture and less than the minimum DOC mapping unit, the permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses would be considered adverse, but not significant (Class III).

Interfere with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2)

Interference with agricultural operations resulting from construction activities or from operation and maintenance of Alternative 4 would be similar to Alternative 2, but instead of traversing 19.94 miles of agricultural land under Segments 8A, 8B, and 8C, Alternative 4 would instead cross grazing land as shown below for each re-route:

- Route A – 1.66 miles of grazing land
- Route B – 4.25 miles of grazing land
- Route C – 8.8 miles of grazing land
- Route D – 5.22 miles of grazing land

Additionally, each of these routes would affect between 4 and 12 acres of grazing land for installation and use of the switching station.

All other impacts would be the same as described for Alternative 2. The presence and use of heavy equipment, including road graders, dozers, excavators, and trucks, needed to construct the new spur roads could interfere with agricultural operations by damaging crops or soil, impeding access to certain fields or plots of land, obstructing farm vehicles, or potentially disrupting drainage and irrigation systems (Impact AG-3). Interference of agricultural operations associated with construction could result in a temporary decrease in agricultural productivity. While SCE's APMs AG-1 and AG-2 would reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts on agricultural operations. While there would be some difference in the amount of agricultural operations disrupted by construction between the Alternative 4 routes, each route would be subject to interference that would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Similarly, the presence of new roads, tower structures, and wire used for the operation and maintenance of Alternative 4 would

also interfere with agricultural operations (Impact AG-4). As with the temporary impacts, SCE's APMs AG-1 and AG-2 would reduce some of these impacts, but implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) would be necessary to ensure that the significant impact (Class II), would be mitigated to be less than significant. For both Impact AG-3 and Impact AG-4, Route A would result in the least agricultural land disrupted, Route B would have the next most agricultural land disrupted, Route D would have the second-most agricultural land disrupted, and Route C would have the most agricultural land disrupted.

Conflict with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3)

Under Alternative 4, Segments 8A, 8B, and 8C would be replaced with one of Routes A, B, C, or D. No lands under Williamson Act contract exist along Segments 8A, 8B, 8C, or Routes A through D. Consequently, the impacts associated with Williamson Act contract conflicts (Criterion AG3) for Alternative 4 would be the same as for Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 12.82 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts, and operation and maintenance activities would permanently convert 1.81 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts to non-agricultural uses. As the Project is infrastructure licensed by the CPUC, however, Alternative 4 would be considered an allowable use. Consequently, the alternative would not conflict with any Williamson Act contracts and no impact would occur.

3.2.8.2 Cumulative Effects Analysis

The route for Alternative 4 would be exactly the same as that of the proposed Project for all segments except Segment 8, where the Alternative 4 routing options (Routes A through D) would diverge from the proposed Project alignment at S8A MP 19.2. Furthermore, Alternative 4 would require the same types of construction activities to build, and would result in the same operational capacity as the proposed Project. Based on the substantial similarity of Alternative 4 to the proposed Project, this alternative's contribution to cumulative impacts would be similar or identical to that of the proposed Project. However, when compared to the proposed Project, each alternative's contribution to the amount of Farmland converted or to the miles of agricultural land traversed may be incrementally increased or decreased as a result of the rerouted portion of the alternative. With regards to Alternative 4, any incremental increases or decreases in the Project's contribution to the cumulative scenario would result from the location of the alternative alignments associated with Routes A, B, C, and D.

Geographic Extent

Alternative 4 only differs from the proposed Project for a portion of the proposed route in southern Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. This area is primarily still encompassed by the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis defined for Alternative 2 in Section 3.2.6.2, but also includes a small portion of northeastern Orange County. Therefore, the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis for Alternative 4 is largely the same as that for Alternative 2 and would include lands within 2 miles of the proposed Project in southern Kern County, and eastern Los Angeles County, but would follow a different corridor in northeastern Orange and southwestern San Bernardino Counties.

Existing Cumulative Conditions

The existing cumulative conditions for Alternative 4 are exactly the same as for Alternative 2, as described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects and Changes

Reasonably foreseeable future projects and changes to the cumulative scenario for Alternative 4 would be exactly the same as Alternative 2, described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

The proposed re-route options of Alternative 4 would have the potential to incrementally increase or decrease the contribution of Alternative 2 to cumulative impacts because they would have the potential to affect agricultural resources that would not be affected by Alternative 2, and they would likewise avoid effects to some agricultural resources that would be impacted by Alternative 2. The analysis of the Alternative 4 routing options provided in Section 3.2.8.1 indicates that there would be some location-specific differences between Alternative 2 and Alternative 4 limited to a portion of southeastern Los Angeles County and southwestern San Bernardino County. Across the entirety of the rest of the proposed routes, the nature of impacts that would occur is the same between Alternative 2 and Alternative 4. As such, the contribution of Alternative 4 to cumulative impacts would be largely the same as the contribution of Alternative 2, as summarized below.

The following impact would not be cumulatively considerable: Impact AG-2 (Operation would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural uses). The following impacts would be cumulatively considerable and would combine with similar impacts of other projects to result in impacts that would be significant and unavoidable: Impact AG-1 (Construction activities would temporarily convert Farmland to non-agricultural use), Impact AG-3 (Construction activities would interfere with agricultural operations), and Impact AG-4 (Operation would interfere with agricultural operations).

As the cumulative effects of Alternative 4 would be the same as for the proposed Project, please see Section 3.2.6.2 for a full description of these effects.

Mitigation to Reduce the Project's Contribution to Significant Cumulative Effects

Mitigation measures introduced for Alternative 4 in Section 3.2.8.1 would help to reduce this alternative's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts. However, no additional mitigation measures have been identified that would reduce cumulative impacts to a less-than-significant level for agricultural resources.

3.2.9 Alternative 5: Partial Underground Alternative

3.2.9.1 Direct and Indirect Effects Analysis

The significance criteria used to identify the agricultural resource impacts of Alternative 5 are introduced in Section 3.2.4.1. As described in Section 3.2.2.4, this alternative would follow the same route as the proposed Project through the Kern and northern Los Angeles Counties, diverging from the proposed Project route along Segment 8A in southern Los Angeles County at Segment 8A MP 21.9, but roughly following the existing ROW to Segment 8A MP 25.4. Therefore, any impacts of the proposed Project that would occur up to Segment 8A MP 21.9 and from Segment 8A MP 25.4 to S8A MP 35.2 through Chino Hills, Chino, and Ontario would be the same as described for the proposed Project. Under Alternative 5, only the construction of the Western Transition Station would occur on agricultural lands. Installation and operation of the ventilation shafts and Eastern Transition Station would occur on non-agricultural lands. By routing the transmission line underground, with the exception of construction, operation, and maintenance of the Western Transition Station, other impacts to agricultural resources between S8A MP 21.9 and S8A MP 25.4 would be eliminated.

Convert Farmland to non-agricultural use (Criterion AG1)

With the exception of the portion of the route between S8A MP 21.9 and S8A MP 25.4, construction, operation, and maintenance of the alternative would be the same as described for Alternative 2 (proposed Project). Additionally, while construction and operation of the Western Transition Station would occur on grazing land, this land is not considered Farmland and no Farmland occurs between S8A MP 21.9 and S8A MP 25.4. Similar to Alternative 2, construction, operation, and maintenance of Alternative 5 would not convert any Farmland to non-agricultural use between S8A MP 21.9 and S8A MP 25.4. As such, the impacts of Alternative 5 on Farmland would be the same as Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 54.75 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-1). While SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would work to reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts to Farmland. As the conversion of Farmland would be greater than the 10-acre threshold described in the significance criteria, these impacts would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Operation and maintenance of the T/Ls and access and spur roads would permanently convert 5.83 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-2). As this total area would be less than the minimum area necessary for sustainable agriculture and less than the minimum DOC mapping unit, the permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses would be considered adverse, but not significant (Class III).

Interfere with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2)

Interference with agricultural operations resulting from construction activities or from operation of Alternative 5 would be similar to Alternative 2, but instead of traversing 19.94 miles of agricultural land under Segment 8A, Alternative 5 would instead cross approximately 19.04 miles of agricultural land. Additionally, boring at the Western Transition Station would affect approximately 1.84 acres of grazing land for installation and use of the station.

All other impacts would be the same as described for Alternative 2. The presence and use of heavy equipment, including road graders, dozers, excavators, and trucks, needed to construct the new spur roads could interfere with agricultural operations by damaging crops or soil, impeding access to certain fields or plots of land, obstructing farm vehicles, or potentially disrupting drainage and irrigation systems (Impact AG-3). Interference of agricultural operations associated with construction could result in a temporary decrease in agricultural productivity. While SCE's APMs AG-1 and AG-2 would reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts on agricultural operations. Consequently, Alternative 5 would be subject to interference that would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Similarly, the presence of new roads and structures used for the operation of Alternative 5 would also interfere with agricultural operations (Impact AG-4). As with the temporary impacts, SCE's APMs AG-1 and AG-2 would reduce some of these impacts, but implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) would be necessary to ensure that the significant impact (Class II) would be mitigated to be less than significant.

Conflict with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3)

Under Alternative 5, Segment 8A from MP 21.9 to MP 25.4 would be replaced with an underground route. No lands under Williamson Act contract exist along Segment 8A. Consequently, the impacts associated with Williamson Act contract conflicts (Criterion AG3) for Alternative 5 would be the same as for Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 12.82 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts, and operation and maintenance activities would permanently convert 1.81 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts to non-agricultural uses. As the Project is infrastructure licensed by the CPUC, however, Alternative 5 would be considered an allowable use. Consequently, the alternative would not conflict with any Williamson Act contracts and no impact would occur.

3.2.9.2 Cumulative Effects Analysis

This alternative would largely require the same types of construction activities to build as the proposed Project, with the addition of boring activities associated with construction of the underground portion of the route, and would result in the same operational capacity as the proposed Project. Based on the substantial similarity of Alternative 5 to the proposed Project, this alternative's contribution to cumulative agricultural impacts would be identical to that of the proposed Project.

Geographic Extent

Alternative 5 only differs from the proposed Project in terms of infrastructure; the transmission line route proposed under Alternative 5 is the same as the proposed Project. Therefore, the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis defined for Alternative 2 in Section 3.2.6.2 is also appropriate for Alternative 5. As such, the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis for Alternative 5 is exactly the same as that for Alternative 2 and would include lands within 2 miles of the proposed Project in southern Kern County, eastern Los Angeles County, and southwestern San Bernardino County.

Existing Conditions

The existing cumulative conditions for Alternative 5 are exactly the same as for Alternative 2, as described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects and Changes

Reasonably foreseeable future projects and changes to the cumulative scenario for Alternative 5 would be exactly the same as Alternative 2, described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Based on the substantial similarity of Alternative 5 to Alternative 2, as well as the fact that the proposed route for Alternative 5 is the same as Alternative 2, the contribution of Alternative 5 to cumulative impacts would be identical to that of Alternative 2, as summarized below.

The following impact would not be cumulatively considerable: Impact AG-2 (Operation would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural uses). The following impacts would be cumulatively considerable and would combine with similar impacts of other projects to result in impacts that would be significant and unavoidable: Impact AG-1 (Construction activities would temporarily convert Farmland to non-agricultural use), Impact AG-3 (Construction activities would interfere with agricultural operations), and Impact AG-4 (Operation would interfere with agricultural operations).

As the cumulative effects of Alternative 5 would be the same as for the proposed Project, please see Section 3.2.6.2 for a full description of these effects.

Mitigation to Reduce the Project's Contribution to Significant Cumulative Effects

Mitigation measures introduced for Alternative 5 in Section 3.2.9.1 would help to reduce this alternative's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts. However, no additional mitigation measures have been identified that would reduce cumulative impacts to a less-than-significant level for agricultural resources.

3.2.10 Alternative 6: Maximum Helicopter Construction in the ANF Alternative

3.2.10.1 Direct and Indirect Effects Analysis

The significance criteria used to identify impacts to agricultural resources are introduced in Section 3.2.4.1. Impacts associated with Alternative 6 are presented below under the applicable significance criterion.

Convert Farmland to non-agricultural use (Criterion AG1)

The route for Alternative 6 would be the same as the route described for Alternative 2, with the only change to the Project being the inclusion of helicopter staging and landing areas within the ANF. As there are no agricultural resources within the ANF, the impacts associated with the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Criterion AG1) for Alternative 6 would be the same as impacts associated with this criterion for Alternative 2. Therefore, the impacts of Alternative 6 on Farmland would be the same as Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 54.75 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-1). While SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would work to reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts to Farmland. As the conversion of Farmland would be greater than the 10-acre threshold described in the significance criteria, these impacts would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Operation and maintenance of the T/Ls and access and spur roads would permanently convert 5.83 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-2). As this total area would be less than the minimum area necessary for sustainable agriculture and less than the minimum DOC mapping unit, the permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses would be considered adverse, but not significant (Class III).

Interfere with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2)

As the route for Alternative 6 would be the same as described for Alternative 2 and the helicopter staging and landing areas would affect no agricultural lands, the impacts associated with the interference with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2) would be the same as those described for Alternative 2. The presence and use of heavy equipment, including road graders, dozers, excavators, and trucks, needed to construct the new spur roads could interfere with agricultural operations by damaging crops or soil, impeding access to certain fields or plots of land, obstructing farm vehicles, or potentially disrupting drainage and irrigation systems (Impact AG-3). These interferences could result in a temporary decrease in agricultural productivity. While SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts on agricultural operations. Construction activities' interference with agricultural operations would be considered significant (Class II), but could be

mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Similarly, the presence of new roads, tower structures, and wire used for the operation and maintenance of Alternative 6 would also interfere with agricultural operations (Impact AG-4). As with the temporary impacts, SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would reduce some of these impacts, but implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) would be necessary to ensure that the significant impact (Class II) would be mitigated to be less than significant.

Conflict with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3)

As the route for Alternative 6 would be the same as described for Alternative 2 and the helicopter staging and landing areas would affect no agricultural lands, impacts associated with conflicts with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3) for Alternative 6 would be the same as impacts associated with this criterion for Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 12.82 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts, and operation and maintenance activities would permanently convert 1.81 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts to non-agricultural uses. As the Project is infrastructure licensed by the CPUC, however, Alternative 6 would be considered an allowable use. Consequently, the alternative would not conflict with any Williamson Act contracts and no impact would occur.

3.2.10.2 Cumulative Effects Analysis

Based on the substantial similarity of Alternative 6 to the proposed Project, as well as the fact that the proposed route for Alternative 6 is the same as the proposed Project, this alternative's contribution to cumulative impacts would be similar or identical to that of the proposed Project.

Geographic Extent

Alternative 6 only differs from the proposed Project in the inclusion of ANF helicopter staging and landing areas; the transmission line route proposed under Alternative 6 is the same as the proposed Project. Therefore, the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis defined for Alternative 2 in Section 3.2.6.2 is also appropriate for Alternative 6. As such, the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis for Alternative 6 is exactly the same as that for Alternative 2 and would include lands within 2 miles of the proposed Project in southern Kern County, eastern Los Angeles County, and southwestern San Bernardino County.

Existing Cumulative Conditions

The existing cumulative conditions for Alternative 6 are exactly the same as for Alternative 2, as described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects and Changes

Reasonably foreseeable future projects and changes to the cumulative scenario for Alternative 6 would be exactly the same as Alternative 2, described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Based on the substantial similarity of Alternative 6 to Alternative 2, as well as the fact that the proposed route for Alternative 6 is the same as Alternative 2, Alternative 6's contribution to cumulative impacts would be identical to that of Alternative 2, as summarized below.

The following impact would not be cumulatively considerable: Impact AG-2 (Operation would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural uses). The following impacts would be cumulatively considerable and would combine with similar impacts of other projects to result in impacts that would be significant and unavoidable: Impact AG-1 (Construction activities would temporarily convert Farmland to non-agricultural use), Impact AG-3 (Construction activities would interfere with agricultural operations), and Impact AG-4 (Operation would interfere with agricultural operations).

As the cumulative effects of Alternative 6 would be the same as for the proposed Project, please see Section 3.2.6.2 for a full description of these effects.

Mitigation to Reduce the Project's Contribution to Significant Cumulative Effects

Mitigation measures introduced for Alternative 6 in Section 3.2.10.1 would help to reduce this alternative's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts. However, no additional mitigation measures have been identified that would reduce cumulative impacts to a less-than-significant level for agricultural resources.

3.2.11 Alternative 7: 66-kV Subtransmission Alternative

3.2.11.1 Direct and Indirect Effects Analysis

The significance criteria used to identify impacts to agricultural resources are introduced in Section 3.2.4.1. Impacts associated with Alternative 7 are presented below under the applicable significance criterion.

Convert Farmland to non-agricultural use (Criterion AG1)

The route for Alternative 7 would be the same as the route described for Alternative 2, with the only change to the Project being the inclusion of three 66-kV subtransmission lines. As there are no agricultural resources in this area, the impacts associated with the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Criterion AG1) for Alternative 7 would be the same as impacts associated with this criterion for Alternative 2. Therefore, the impacts of Alternative 7 on Farmland would be the same as Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 54.75 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-1). While SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would work to reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts to Farmland. As the conversion of Farmland would be greater than the 10-acre threshold described in the significance criteria, these impacts would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Operation and maintenance of the T/Ls and access and spur roads would permanently convert 5.83 acres of Farmland to non-agricultural uses (Impact AG-2). As this total area would be less than the minimum area necessary for sustainable agriculture and less than the minimum DOC mapping unit, the permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses would be considered adverse, but not significant (Class III).

Interfere with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2)

As the route for Alternative 7 would be the same as described for Alternative 2 and the 66-kV subtransmission lines would affect no agricultural lands, the impacts associated with the interference with agricultural operations (Criterion AG2) would be the same as those described for Alternative 2. The presence and use of heavy equipment, including road graders, dozers, excavators, and trucks, needed to

construct the new spur roads could interfere with agricultural operations by damaging crops or soil, impeding access to certain fields or plots of land, obstructing farm vehicles, or potentially disrupting drainage and irrigation systems (Impact AG-3). These interferences could result in a temporary decrease in agricultural productivity. While SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would reduce some of the effect of these impacts, they address only a portion of the impacts on agricultural operations. Construction activities' interference with agricultural operations would be considered significant (Class II), but could be mitigated to be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners). Similarly, the presence of new roads, tower structures, and wire used for the operation and maintenance of Alternative 7 would also interfere with agricultural operations (Impact AG-4). As with the temporary impacts, SCE's APMs AG-1, AG-2, and AG-3 would reduce some of these impacts, but implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 (Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners) would be necessary to ensure that the significant impact (Class II) would be mitigated to be less than significant.

Conflict with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3)

As the route for Alternative 7 would be the same as described for Alternative 2 and the 66-kV subtransmission lines would affect no agricultural lands, impacts associated with conflicts with Williamson Act contract lands (Criterion AG3) for Alternative 7 would be the same as impacts associated with this criterion for Alternative 2. Construction of access and spur roads, T/L towers, and stringing and pulling sites would temporarily convert a total of approximately 12.82 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts, and operation and maintenance activities would permanently convert 1.81 acres of land under Williamson Act contracts to non-agricultural uses. As the Project is infrastructure licensed by the CPUC, however, Alternative 7 would be considered an allowable use. Consequently, the alternative would not conflict with any Williamson Act contracts and no impact would occur.

3.2.11.2 Cumulative Effects Analysis

Based on the substantial similarity of Alternative 7 to the proposed Project, as well as the fact that the proposed route for Alternative 7 is the same as the proposed Project, this alternative's contribution to cumulative impacts would be similar or identical to that of the proposed Project.

Geographic Extent

Alternative 7 only differs from the proposed Project in the inclusion of three 66-kV subtransmission lines; the transmission line route proposed under Alternative 7 is the same as the proposed Project. Therefore, the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis defined for Alternative 2 in Section 3.2.6.2 is also appropriate for Alternative 7. As such, the geographic extent of the cumulative analysis for Alternative 7 is exactly the same as that for Alternative 2 and would include lands within 2 miles of the proposed Project in southern Kern County, eastern Los Angeles County, and southwestern San Bernardino County.

Existing Cumulative Conditions

The existing cumulative conditions for Alternative 7 are exactly the same as for Alternative 2, as described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects and Changes

Reasonably foreseeable future projects and changes to the cumulative scenario for Alternative 7 would be exactly the same as Alternative 2, described in Section 3.2.6.2.

Cumulative Impact Analysis

Based on the substantial similarity of Alternative 7 to Alternative 2, as well as the fact that the proposed route for Alternative 7 is the same as Alternative 2, Alternative 7's contribution to cumulative impacts would be identical to that of Alternative 2, as summarized below.

The following impact would not be cumulatively considerable: Impact AG-2 (Operation would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural uses). The following impacts would be cumulatively considerable and would combine with similar impacts of other projects to result in impacts that would be significant and unavoidable: Impact AG-1 (Construction activities would temporarily convert Farmland to non-agricultural use), Impact AG-3 (Construction activities would interfere with agricultural operations), and Impact AG-4 (Operation would interfere with agricultural operations).

As the cumulative effects of Alternative 7 would be the same as for the proposed Project, please see Section 3.2.6.2 for a full description of these effects.

Mitigation to Reduce the Project's Contribution to Significant Cumulative Effects

Mitigation measures introduced for Alternative 7 in Section 3.2.11.1 would help to reduce this alternative's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts. However, no additional mitigation measures have been identified that would reduce cumulative impacts to a less-than-significant level for agricultural resources.

3.2.12 Impact Significance Summary

Table 3.2-10 summarizes the direct and indirect environmental impacts of the proposed Project (Alternative 2) and the other alternatives on agricultural resources. The direct and indirect effects of the Project and alternatives have been fully described in Sections 3.2.6 through 3.2.11 above. Alternative 1 (No Project/No Action) impacts are fully described in Section 3.2.5; however, since no potential future project information is available an impact significance level for Alternative 1 is not included in the table below.

Table 3.2-10. Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures – Agricultural Resources

Impact	Impact Significance								Mitigation Measures
	Alt. 1+	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4	Alt. 5	Alt. 6	Alt. 7	NFS Lands*	
AG-1: Construction activities would temporarily preclude the agricultural use of some Farmland	N/A	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	No	AG-1: Coordinate construction activities with agricultural landowners.
AG-2: Operation would permanently convert Farmland to non-agricultural use	N/A	Class III	Class III	Class III	Class III	Class III	Class III	No	None recommended.
AG-3: Construction activities would interfere with agricultural operations	N/A	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	No	AG-1: (see Impact AG-1)
AG-4: Operation would interfere with agricultural operations	N/A	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	Class II	No	AG-1: (see Impact AG-1)

N/A = Not Available

* Indicates whether this impact is applicable to the portion of the Project on National Forest System lands.

+ Potential projects would likely traverse the same geographic regions as either the proposed Project or Alternatives 3 through 7, and subsequently introduce similar types of impacts.

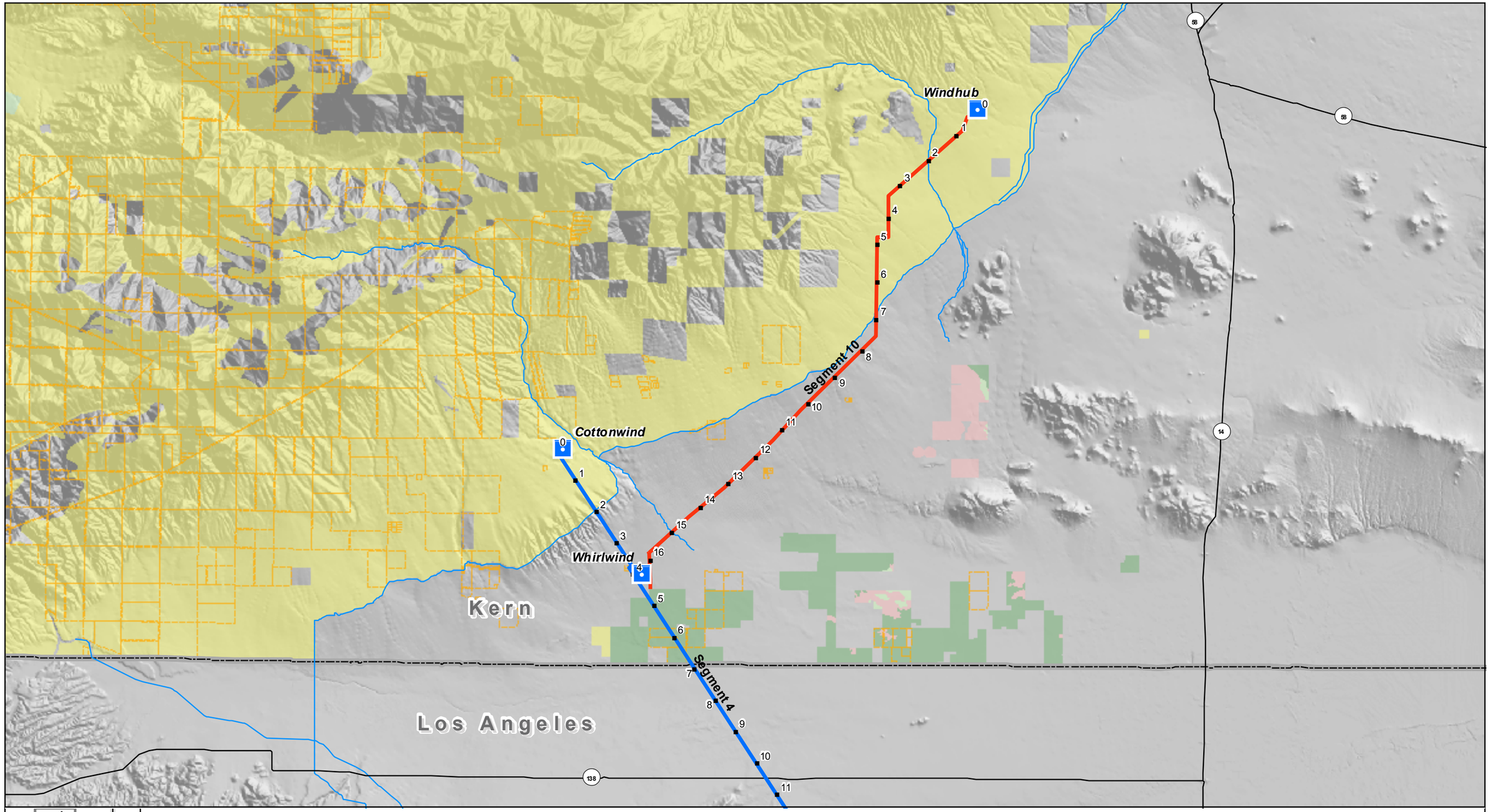


Figure 3.2-1

Kern County Agricultural Lands Traversed by Alternative 2

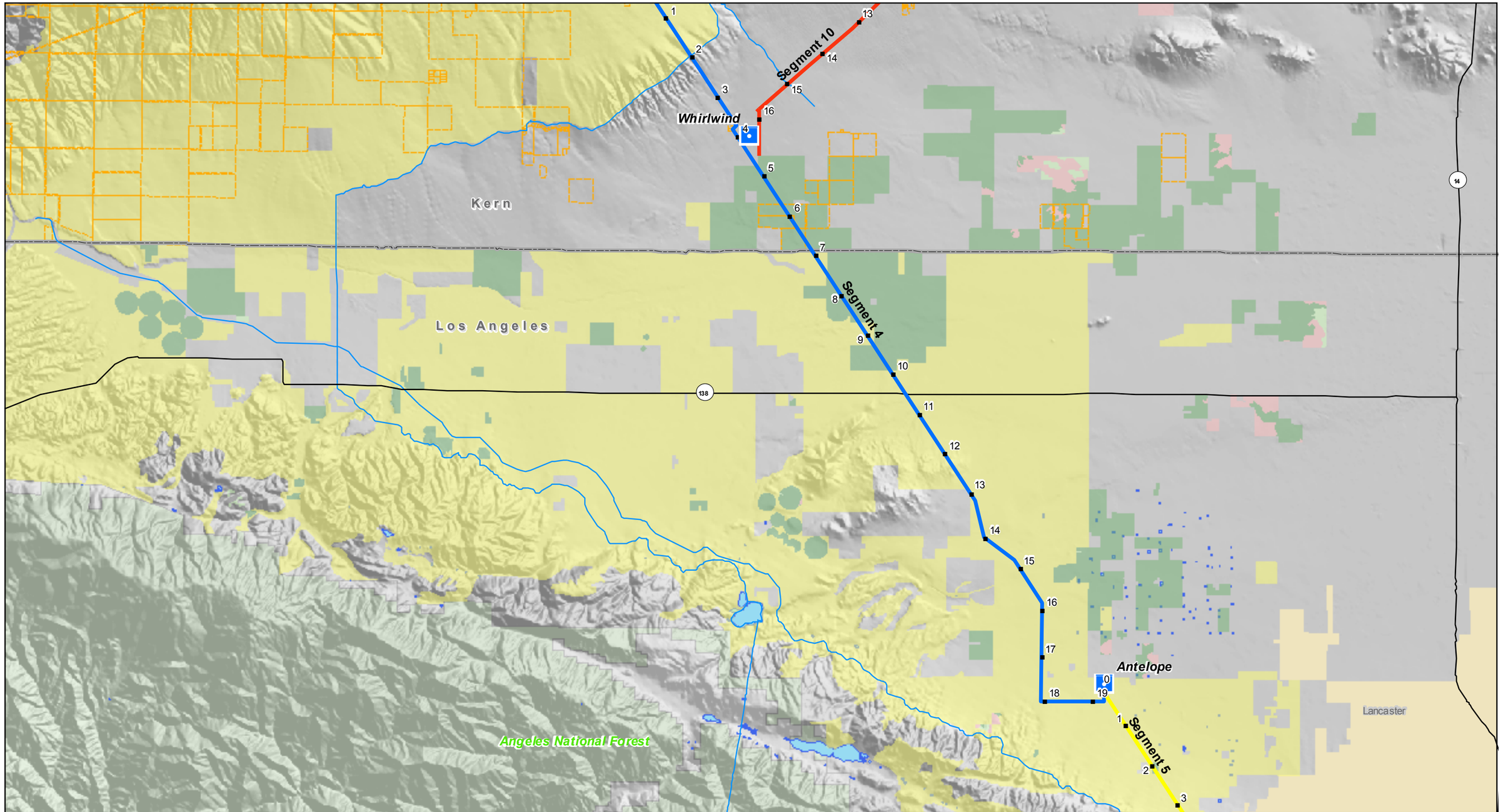


Figure 3.2-2a

Northern Los Angeles County
Agricultural Lands Traversed by Alternative 2 (1of 2)

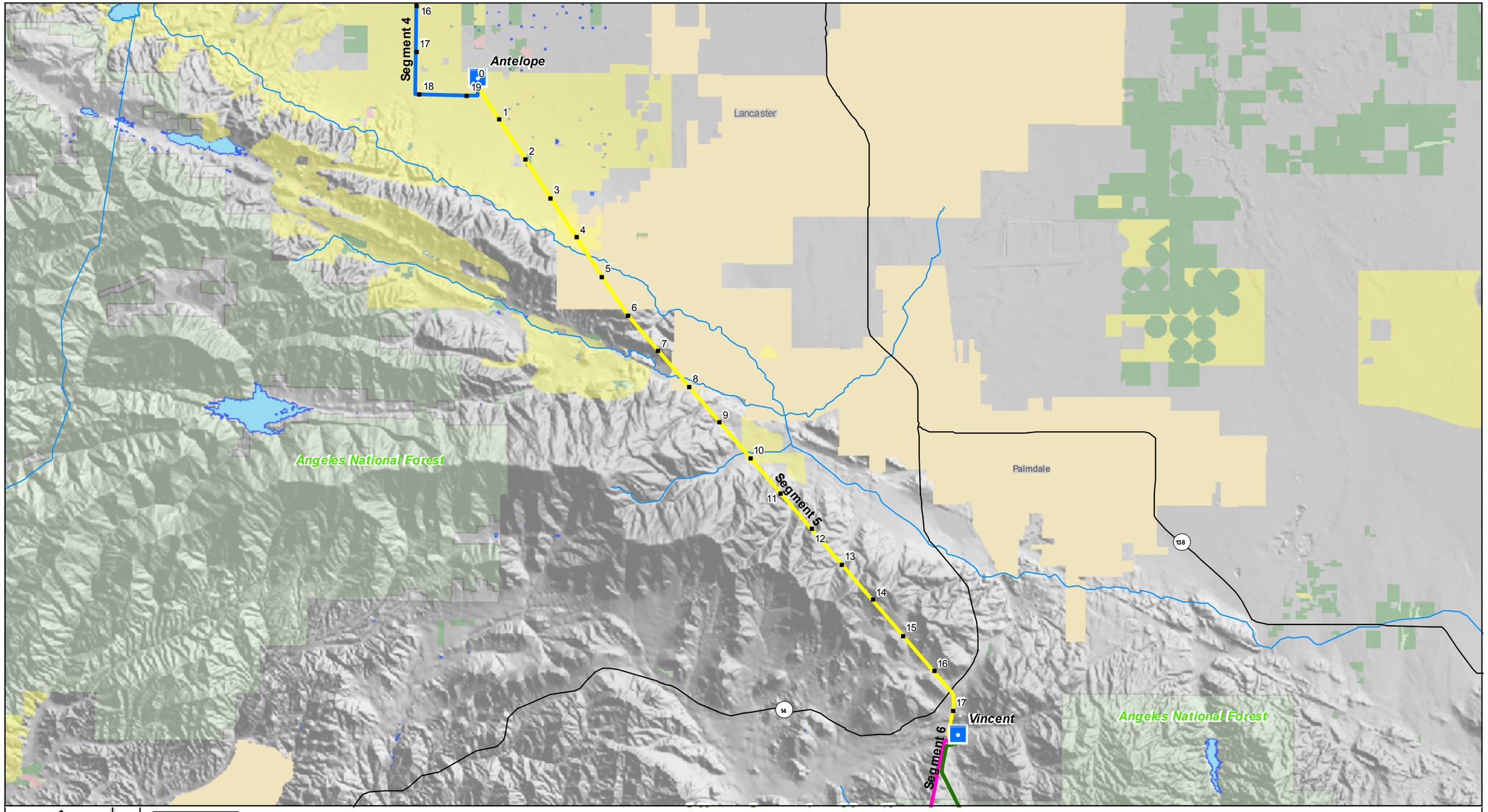
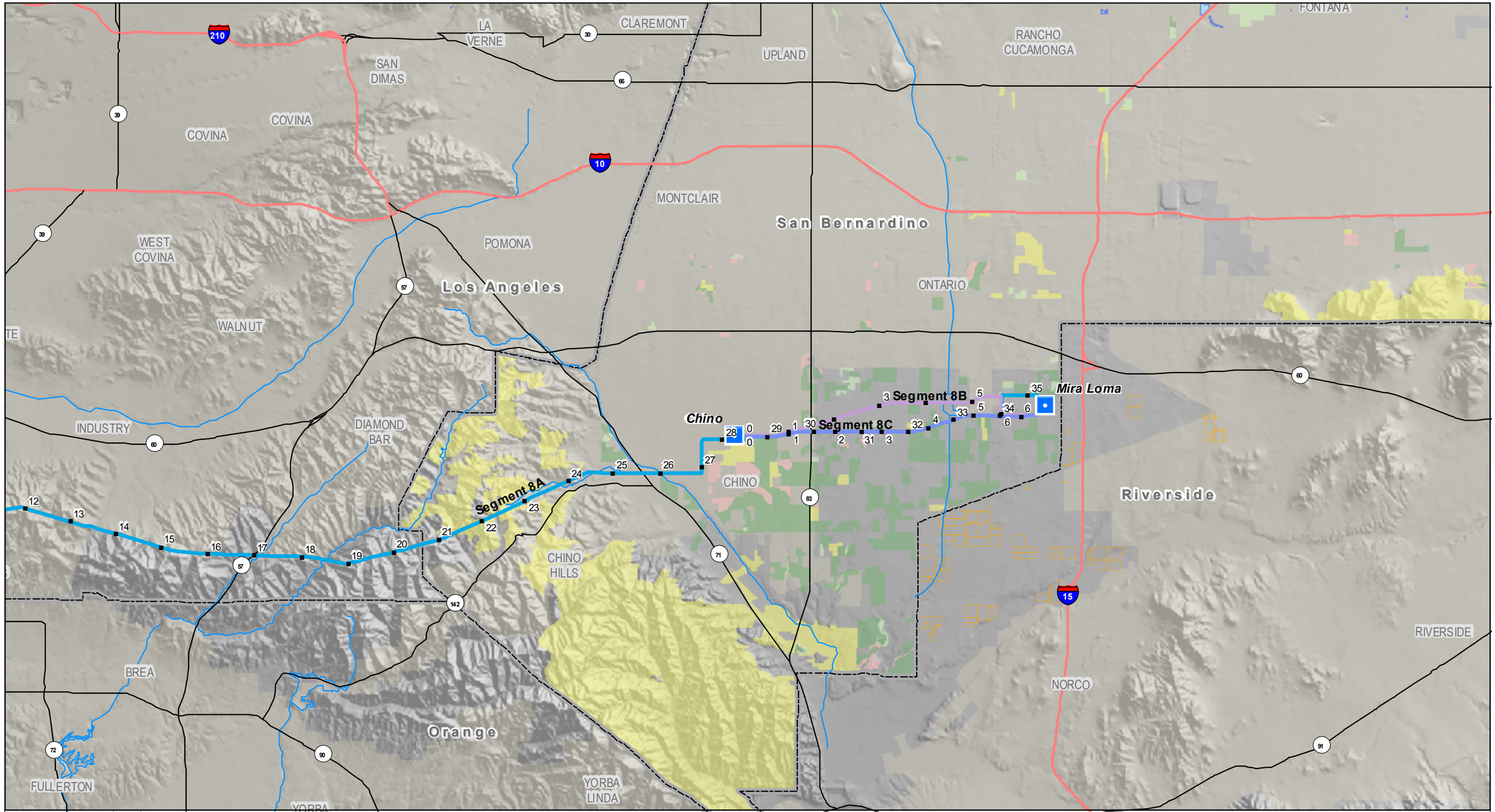
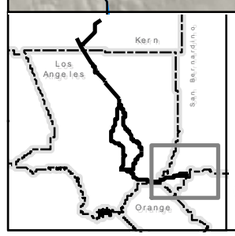


Figure 3.2-2b

Northern Los Angeles County
Agricultural Lands Traversed by Alternative 2 (2 of 2)





Aspen Environmental Group

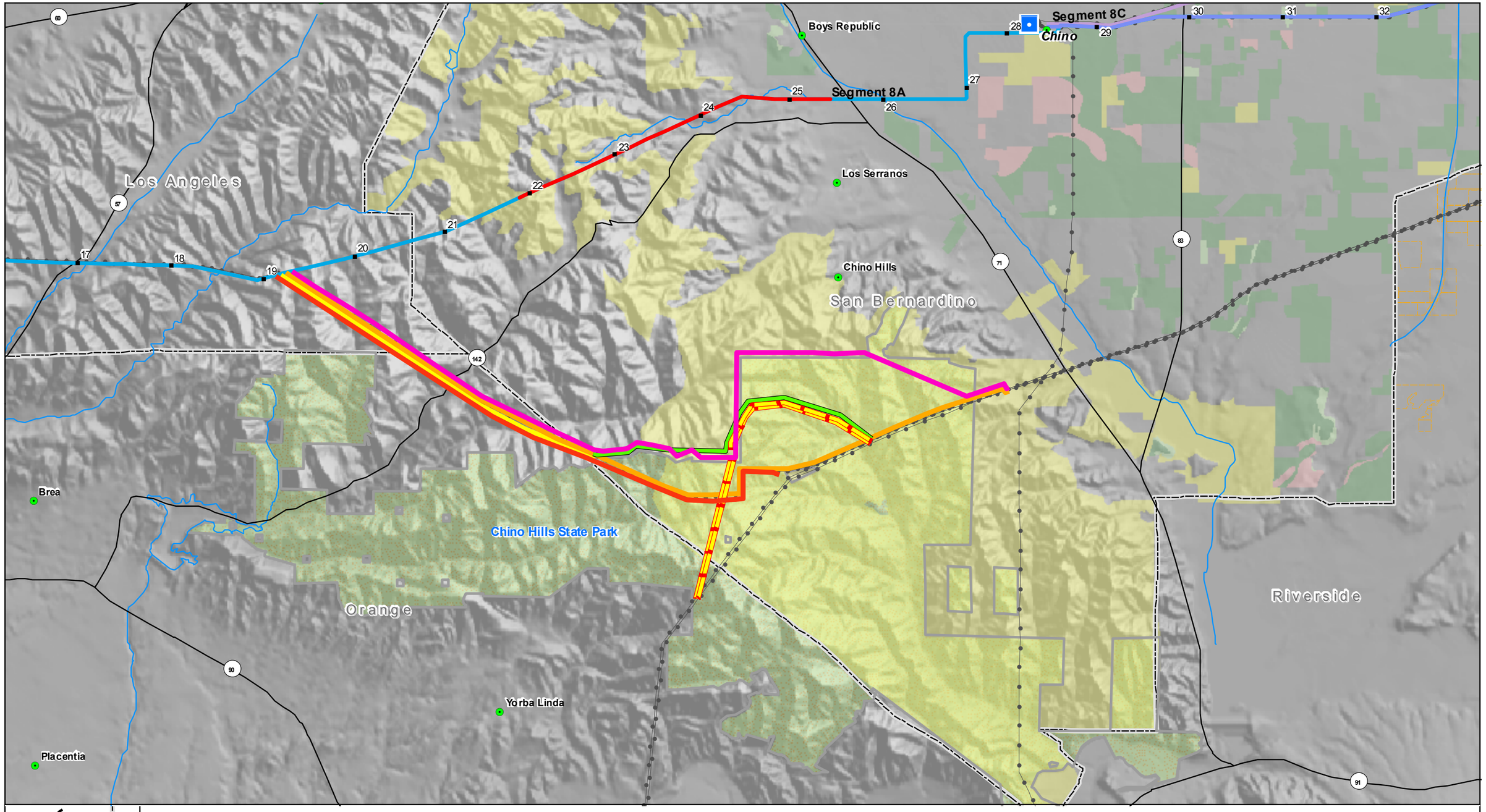
1" = 2 miles
1:126,720
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

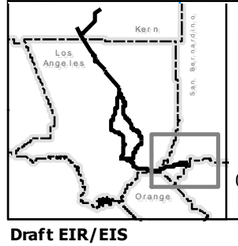
San Bernardino Agricultural Land
- Prime Farmland
- Unique Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Grazing Land
- Williamson Act

Proposed TRTP Routes
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Segment 6
- Segment 7
- Segment 8A
- Segment 8B
- Segment 8C
- Segment 10
- Segment 11
- Substation

Figure 3.2-3

San Bernardino County
Agricultural Lands Traversed by Alternative 2





Aspen Environmental Group

1" = 1 miles
1:63,360
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

San Bernardino Agricultural Land
- Prime Farmland
- Unique Farmland
- Farmland of Statewide Importance
- Grazing Land
- Williamson Act

Proposed TRTP Routes
- Segment 8A
- Segment 8B
- Segment 8C
- Substation

Chino Hills Alternative 4 Route
- Route A Alternative 500kV
- Route B Alternative 500kV
- Route C Alternative
- Route C Re-route 220kV
- Route C Re-route 500kV
- Route D Alternative 500kV

- Chino Hills State Park
- Existing Transmission Lines

Figure 3.2-4

San Bernardino County
Agricultural Lands Traversed by Alternative 4