3.3 Agriculture

3.3.1 Introduction

This section addresses the potential impacts that could result to agricultural land from construction and operation of each of the components and significance of those impacts, if anticipated, is analyzed for each of the four Project Alternatives and the No Project Alternative. Mitigation to reduce the impacts of the Proposed Project is provided where applicable.

3.3.2 Environmental Setting

This subsection provides an overview of agricultural resources known to occur in the HSA, specifically as related to each component. Agricultural resources include Important Farmlands, which are designated by the State of California Department of Conservation in terms of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide and Local Importance.

3.3.2.1 General Setting

The Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, provides oversight of agricultural lands in California. The Department on Conservation categorizes Important Farmland as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide and Local Importance. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the Department of Conservation uses soil surveys from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in conjunction with land use data to determine farmland classification. Farmland classifications do not include publicly owned lands for which an adopted policy preventing agricultural use is enforced. The California Land Conservation Act (also known as the Williamson Act), which protects farm and ranch land, is not addressed in this analysis because the County of Los Angeles does not participate in the Williamson Act. The following classifications of agricultural lands are defined in the FMMP.

Prime Farmland

Prime Farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained, high yields of crops when treated and managed according to current farming methods. Prime Farmland must meet specific criteria for soil pH, temperature, sodium content, permeability, and other defined characteristics.

Unique Farmland

Unique Farmland is land that does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance but that has been used for the production of specific high economic-value crops.

Farmland of Statewide Importance

Farmland of Statewide Importance is land other than Prime Farmland that has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. Similar to Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance must meet specific

criteria for soil pH, temperature, sodium content, permeability, and other defined characteristics.

Farmland of Local Importance

Farmland of Local Importance is that land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by the board of supervisors and a local advisory committee of each county.

3.3.2.2 Components

According to the Los Angeles County Important Farmland map, the Prime and Unique Farmland in Los Angeles County near Project elements is located in the San Fernando Valley (County of Los Angeles, 2002). As shown in Figure 3.3-1, pockets of Prime and Unique Farmland exist throughout the western half and inland portion of the San Fernando Valley.

The HSA contains no other Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance. The following subsections focus on the pertinent agricultural resources within the City and how they relate to project-level and program-level components.

Project-Level Components

Hyperion

No Important Farmlands exist at or in the vicinity of Hyperion, including Prime or Unique Farmlands, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance according to the General Plan Land Use Map, Westchester-Playa del Rey Community Plan (City of Los Angeles, 2004a).

Biosolids generated at Hyperion are trucked outside the County of Los Angeles for beneficial reuse through land application at the City-owned Green Acres Farm in Kern County. The Green Acres Farm is not located in the vicinity of Important Farmlands. It is located in an area primarily designated as Irrigated Farmland, according to the 2002 Kern County Important Farmland Map prepared by the Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection (Figure 3.3-2).

The farmland in the southern portion of the Kern County Important Farmland Map lacks a modern soil survey; consequently, the FMMP mapped the land as Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Farmland. The term “Irrigated Farmlands” is an interim classification. Because no soil data exist, no determination or further classification of the farmland has been made. If a modern soil survey is performed, this area could be reclassified eventually.

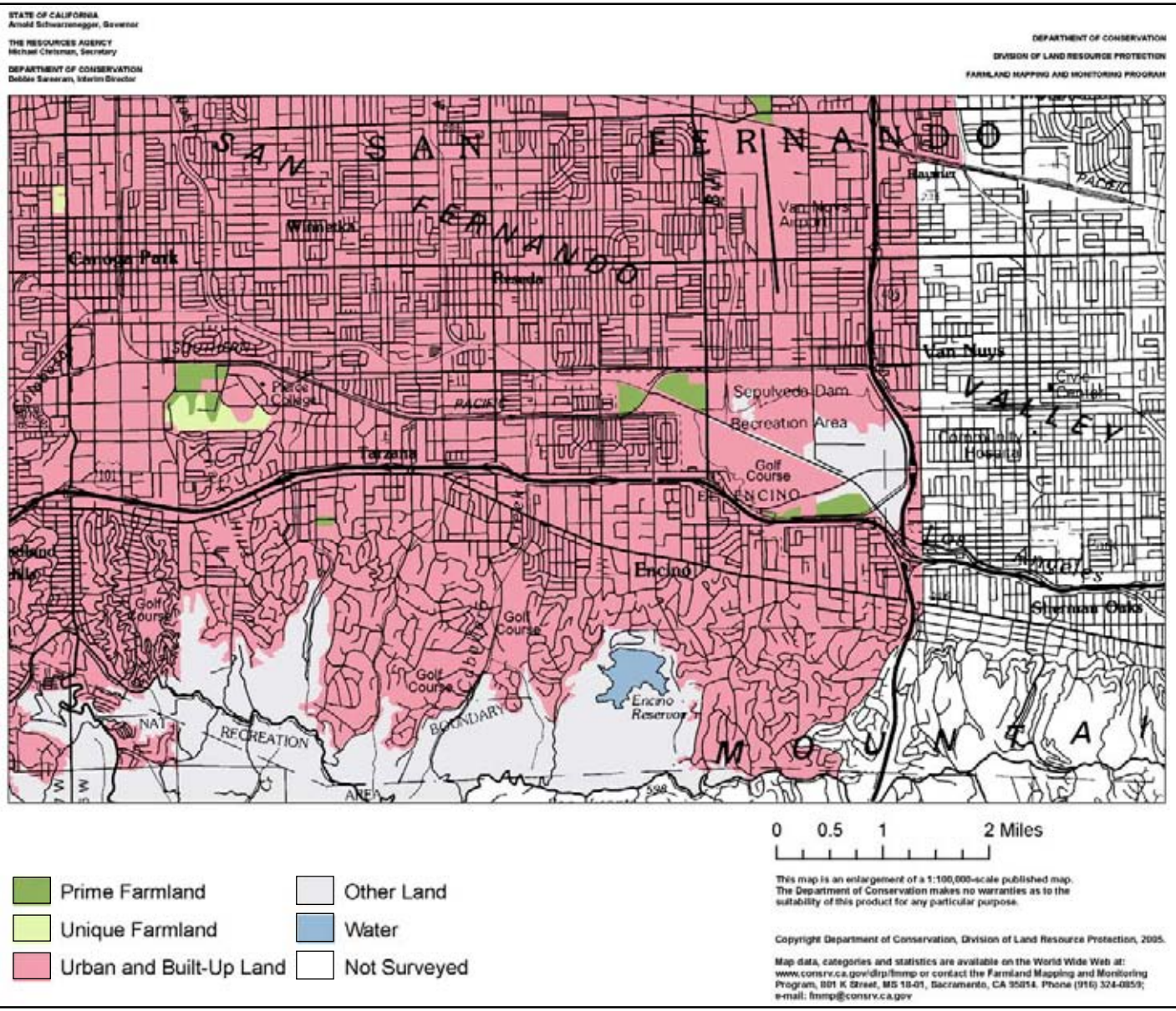

Figure 3.3-1
Los Angeles County Important Farmland 2002 Near Key Components

Source:
State of California, The Resource Agency, Department of Conservation

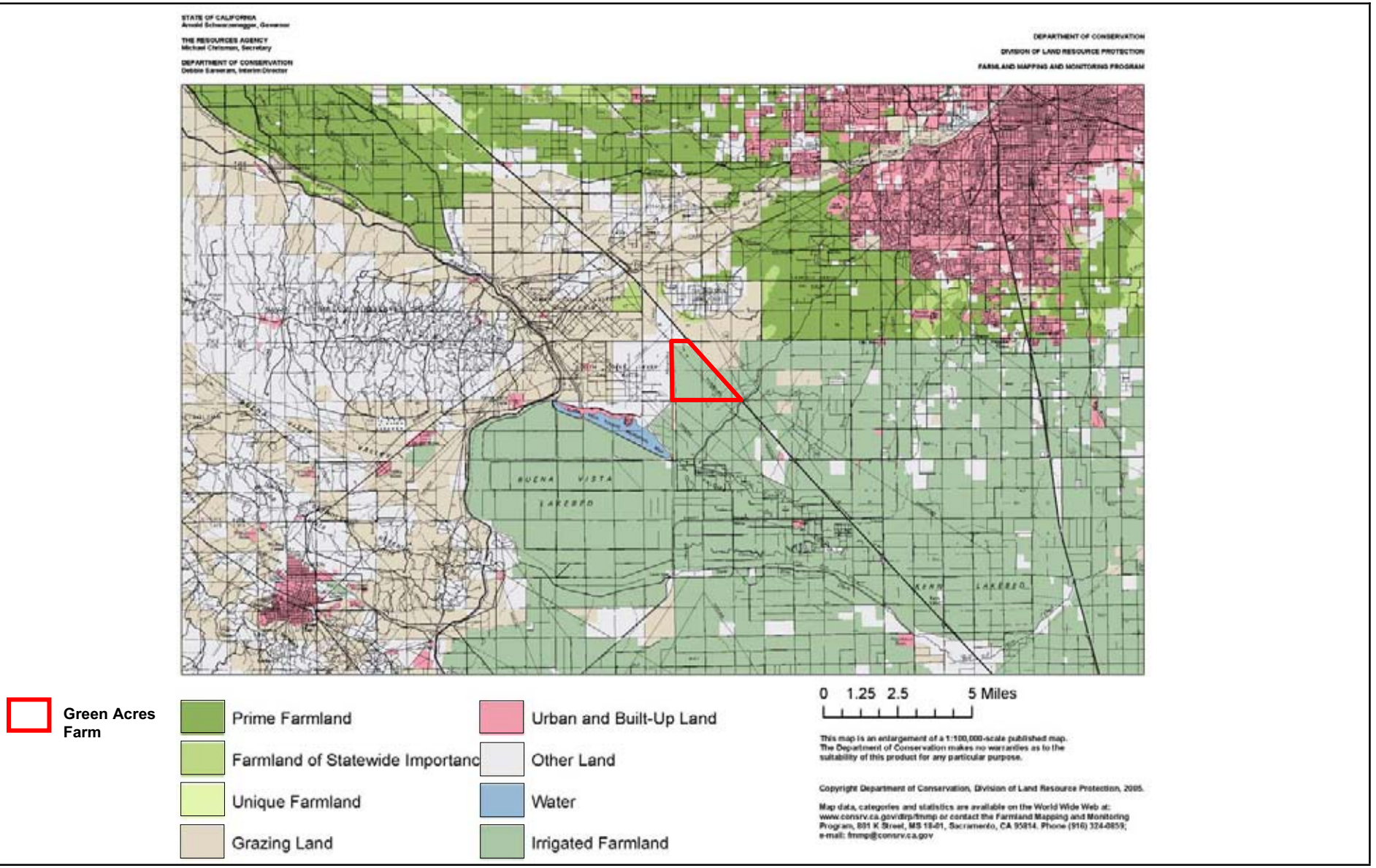

Figure 3.3-2
Kern County Important Farmland 2002

CH:CDM

Source:
State of California, The Resource Agency, Department of Conservation

Tillman
Tillman is situated in a primarily urbanized area in the San Fernando Valley with agricultural lands in the vicinity. The plant is not located on Prime or Unique Farmlands or on Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance according to the General Plan Land Use Map, Encino-Tarzana Community Plan (City of Encino-Tarzana, 1998). Prime Farmlands are located approximately 0.5-mile to the south and approximately 1 mile to the west of Tillman (FMMP, 2002).

LAG
LAG is located in an industrial, commercial, and urban area, and not on land designated as farmland. In addition, no farmlands are in the vicinity of LAG, including Prime or Unique Farmlands, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, according to the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan (City of Los Angeles, 1999) and the applicable Zoning Map (City of Glendale, 2004).

NEIS II
According to the Northeast Los Angeles Community Plan (Los Angeles, 1999), Hollywood Community Plan (City of Los Angeles, 2000), and the applicable Zoning Map (City of Glendale, 2004), no farmlands, including Prime or Unique Farmlands, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, are along or in the vicinity of the NEIS II alignments.

GBIS
No farmlands exist along or in the vicinity of the GBIS alignments, including Prime or Unique Farmlands, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, according to the Hollywood and Sherman Oaks-Studio City-Toluca Lake-Cahuenga Pass Community Plans (City of Los Angeles, 1998), and Zoning Maps prepared by City of Glendale Planning Department (2004) and by the City of Burbank Planning Division (2005).

Program-Level Components

VSLIS
VSLIS would extend from the western terminus of GBIS in the Toluca Lake area northwest to Tillman. The area near GBIS and Toluca Lake is urban land, although some Prime Farmland is located in the vicinity of Tillman.

Recycled Water Distribution
The new recycled water distribution facilities for irrigation and industrial uses would include pipelines, pump stations, and storage tanks. Groundwater recharge would require recycled water pipelines and possibly outlet structures and monitoring wells. The recycled water pipelines would be placed beneath city streets and other public rights-of-way, such as alleys or easements. The pump stations and storage tanks would be installed in the areas near the existing treatment plants and proposed pipelines. Pockets of Prime and Unique Farmland are dispersed throughout the western half of the San Fernando Valley; however, these pockets are not located in streets, alleys, or easements where most of the recycled water facilities would be constructed. With the exception of locations in the San Fernando Valley and the Sepulveda

Flood Control Basin (see Figure 3.3-1), no farmlands are in the vicinity of the recycled water distribution facilities, including Prime or Unique Farmlands and Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.

Dry Weather Runoff – Smart Irrigation
Smart irrigation would be implemented at individual residential, commercial, and industrial properties throughout the City and would not be implemented on agricultural lands.

Dry Weather Runoff – Low-Flow Diversions
The runoff diversions would occur in two primary areas, the coastal area along the Santa Monica Bay and an inland area in the San Fernando Valley. With the exception of the Prime Farmlands located in the San Fernando Valley near Tillman (see Figure 3.3-1), no farmlands are in the vicinity of the diversion structures, including Prime or Unique Farmlands and Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.

Dry Weather Runoff – Urban Runoff Plants or Treatment Wetlands
No Prime or Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance exists in the HSA, with the exception of the San Fernando Valley. Runoff sources exist in the San Fernando Valley in the vicinity of Prime Farmland (e.g., Bull Creek), but the farmlands are not adjacent to the drainages where URPs or treatment wetlands are likely to be implemented. The remaining runoff sources would not be on or in the vicinity of farmland (see Section 2, Table 2-9).

Wet Weather Runoff – Onsite Management
Capture and percolation improvements would occur at schools, government facilities, parks and open space areas, vacant lots, and non-used alleys. Onsite storage and use (cisterns) would be installed at schools and government facilities throughout the City. The location of these proposed facilities would not affect designated farmlands.

Wet Weather Runoff – Urban Runoff Plants
Three wet weather URPs are proposed for construction along the coast within the Santa Monica Bay watershed. No Prime or Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance exists in the HSA, except in the San Fernando Valley. Therefore, no designated farmlands would be used by the proposed wet weather URPs.

Wet Weather Runoff – Non-Urban Regional Recharge
This component proposes to capture non-urban wet weather runoff from the San Fernando Valley for recharge of the groundwater basin, at the Hansen and Pacoima spreading facilities. No Prime or Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance exists in the HSA except in the San Fernando Valley as previously described. Although this component would be located in the San Fernando Valley where Prime or Unique Farmland exists, the pipeline that would capture and convey non-urban runoff would be located under streets and public rights-of-way and

would be north of Tillman and the Van Nuys Airport where no designated farmland is located.

3.3.3 Environmental Impacts

3.3.3.1 Background

Presented below are brief discussions of the regulatory framework, methodology, and thresholds of significance used to analyze each Alternative.

Regulatory Framework

Federal

The definitions of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Farmland of Local Importance were developed by the USDA as part of their nationwide Land Inventory and Monitoring (LIM) system. Various states have modified the definitions for specific uses, including California.

State

The USDA LIM definitions have been modified for use in California by the State of California Department of Conservation. The most significant modification is that Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance must be irrigated. A description of each of the state agricultural designations is described in Section 3.3.2.1. None of the designations includes publicly owned lands for which a policy preventing agricultural use has been adopted.

Local

Farmland of Local Importance initially is identified by a local advisory committee and varies from county to county, as intended by the LIM. Because the County of Los Angeles does not participate in the Williamson Act, Farmland of Local Importance is not addressed in this analysis.

Methodology

Maps and documents were reviewed to determine the existing land uses. If the land is designated as Prime, Unique, or Important Farmland, the review determined if the components would result in the conversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural use. Included in the review were maps and documents from the Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, General Plan Land Use Maps, Zoning Maps, and other environmental documents.

Thresholds of Significance

The *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Thresholds Guide* does not address effects on agricultural resources (CELSOC, 2004). Therefore, the thresholds of significance were developed using the evaluation questions concerning agriculture in Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* (Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California [CELSOC], 2005). The following threshold of significance, AG-1, is applied in this analysis of agricultural resources.

AG-1: Conversion of Important Farmland, defined as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, to nonagricultural use

3.3.4 Component Impacts

3.3.4.1 Project-Level Impacts

Hyperion Expansion to 500 mgd

No land at or in the vicinity of Hyperion is designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Biosolids would continue to be applied within the existing footprint of the Green Acres Farm in Kern County, which is not located in the vicinity of Important Farmlands but is located in an area primarily designated as Irrigated Farmland. Land application of biosolids at the Green Acres Farm would continue to support agricultural production at the Farm. Consequently, the construction and operation of the proposed 500-mgd expansion of Hyperion would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use.

Hyperion Process Upgrades

As with the component expanding Hyperion to 500 mgd, process upgrades at Hyperion would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses.

Tillman Expansion to 100 mgd

The proposed expansion of Tillman to 100 mgd would occur within the existing plant boundary. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is present on the Tillman site. Consequently, expansion of Tillman to 100 mgd would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses.

Tillman Expansion to 80 mgd

Similar to the Tillman Expansion to 100 mgd, the Tillman Expansion to 80 mgd would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses.

Tillman Process Upgrades

Similar to the component expanding Tillman to 100 mgd, process upgrades at Tillman would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses.

Tillman Wastewater Storage

The proposed storage tank would be located immediately east of the Tillman plant, under the existing cricket field. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is present at this location. The nearest area of Prime Farmlands is located approximately 0.5-mile south of Tillman. Consequently, the addition of wastewater storage at Tillman would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses.

LAG Expansion to 30 mgd

The proposed expansion of LAG to 30 mgd would occur within the existing plant boundary. The LAG site does not contain land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique

Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Consequently, this component would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use.

LAG Wet Weather Storage Only

Similar to the LAG 30-mgd Expansion component, the addition of wet weather storage at LAG would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses.

NEIS II West Alignment

No farmlands are present in the vicinity of the NEIS II West Alignment, including Prime or Unique Farmlands and Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance. Consequently, the NEIS II West Alignment would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use.

NEIS II East Alignment

Similar to NEIS II West Alignment, no farmlands are present in the vicinity of the NEIS II East Alignment. Therefore, no conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use would occur.

GBIS South Alignment

No farmlands are present in the vicinity of GBIS South Alignment, including Prime or Unique Farmlands and Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance. Consequently, the construction and operation of the GBIS South Alignment would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use.

GBIS North Alignment

Similar to the GBIS South Alignment, no farmlands are present in the vicinity of GBIS North Alignment, including Prime or Unique Farmlands and Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance. Consequently, the GBIS North Alignment would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use.

Program-Level Impacts

VSLIS

Although some Prime Farmlands are located in the vicinity of Tillman, the majority of the VSLIS study area is urbanized. Therefore, the only agricultural land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance with the potential to be affected by the construction and operation of the VSLIS is located in the San Fernando Valley, 0.5-mile south of Tillman. If the VSLIS were constructed by open-trench methods, it would be in the public right-of-way and would not affect the existing designed farmland. If the VSLIS were constructed using tunneling methods, the designated farmland would not be affected because the sewer would not require surface construction through farmlands.

Recycled Water Distribution

With the exception of Prime and Unique Farmland located in isolated pockets in portions of the western San Fernando Valley, no farmlands, including Prime or Unique Farmlands and Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, exist in the vicinity of the proposed recycled water distribution facilities. Most of the recycled water distribution system for irrigation and agricultural uses, such as

pipes and pump stations, would be constructed and operated in streets and other public rights-of-way not used for farmland. Recycled water tanks generally would be constructed on off-street parcels and are not expected to occur on designated farmland because such farmland is limited.

In addition, groundwater recharge pipelines would not affect designated farmlands because the pipelines would be constructed and operated in streets and other public rights-of-way not used for farmland. Construction of the groundwater recharge pipelines to the Hansen Dam Spreading Grounds and the Pacoima Spreading Grounds was analyzed and approved under the *East Valley Water Reclamation Project Final EIR* (LADWP, 1991).

Dry Weather Runoff – Smart Irrigation
Although some areas in the San Fernando Valley are designated as Prime or Unique Farmland, implementation of smart irrigation would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use because it would be implemented only at individual residential, commercial, and industrial properties within the City of Los Angeles.

Dry Weather Runoff – Low-Flow Diversions
The runoff diversions would occur in two primary areas, the coastal area along the Santa Monica Bay and an inland area in the San Fernando Valley. With the exception of the Prime Farmlands located in the San Fernando Valley near Tillman, no farmland, including Prime or Unique Farmland and Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, exists in the vicinity of the proposed low-flow diversion structures. Consequently, the construction and operation of low-flow diversion structures would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural use.

Dry Weather Runoff – Urban Runoff Plants or Treatment Wetlands
URPs would be constructed and operated along Compton Creek and Ballona Creek and in the western San Fernando Valley. No Prime or Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance is present in the HSA, with the exception of isolated pockets in the San Fernando Valley.

In some instances, treatment wetlands may be constructed near the runoff source. Runoff sources in the San Fernando Valley (such as Bull Creek) may be located in the vicinity of Prime Farmland, but Prime Farmlands are not adjacent to the drainages where this component likely would occur. Therefore, construction and operation would not result in the conversion of the designated farmland to nonagricultural uses.

Wet Weather Runoff – Onsite Management
The location of onsite management improvements would occur at existing facilities (e.g., schools, government facilities, parks/open space areas, vacant lots, and non-used alleys), which are not anticipated to involve the conversion of designated farmlands to agricultural lands.

Wet Weather Runoff – Urban Runoff Plants
No Prime or Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance is located along the coast within the Santa Monica watershed. Consequently, the construction and operation of wet weather runoff URPs would not convert designated farmlands to nonagricultural uses.

Wet Weather Runoff – Non-Urban Regional Recharge
The pipeline would be located in the public right-of-way. Although designated farmland exists in the San Fernando Valley, the construction and operation of the non-urban regional recharge pipeline would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses because the pipeline would be located in the public right-of-way and because the existing designated farmland is located to the south.

Summary of Component Impacts

Table 3.3-1 below presents a summary of the impacts of the IRP Facilities Plan components to agricultural resources.

Table 3.3-1. Agriculture Component Impact Summary
Integrated Resources Plan EIR

IRP Component	Component Impact
	Prime, Unique, Important Farmland
Project-Level	
Hyperion Expansion to 500 mgd	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
Hyperion Biosolids Upgrade	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
Tillman Expansion to 100 mgd	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
Tillman Expansion to 80 mgd	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
Tillman Process Upgrade	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
Tillman Wastewater Storage	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
LAG Expansion to 30 mgd	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
LAG Storage Only	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
NEIS II West Alignment	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
NEIS II East Alignment	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
GBIS South Alignment	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.

Table 3.3-1. Agriculture Component Impact Summary *Integrated Resources Plan EIR*	
	Component Impact
IRP Component	**Prime, Unique, Important Farmland**
GBIS North Alignment	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
Program-Level	
VSLIS	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
Recycled Water Distribution	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
DWR – Smart Irrigation	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
DWR – Low-Flow Diversions	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
DWR – URPs or Treatment Wetlands	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
WWR – Onsite Management	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
WWR – URPs	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.
WWR – Non-Urban Recharge	The construction and operation would not result in impacts to Prime or Unique Farmland or to Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.

3.3.4.2 Alternative Impacts

Alternative 1

Components of Alternative 1 are described in Section 2.3.4.

Impact AG-1

Potential primary and secondary impacts resulting from Alternative 1 to agricultural resources are discussed below.

Primary Impacts. Land at and in the vicinity of Hyperion, LAG, NEIS II, and GBIS is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance. Designated farmland is present in the vicinity of Tillman, but not on or adjacent to the Tillman site where modifications would occur. As a consequence, implementation of the Hyperion, Tillman, LAG, NEIS II, and GBIS components under Alternative 1 would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses. Similarly, implementation of the recycled water distribution component, the dry weather runoff components, and the wet weather runoff components under Alternative 1 would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses because: (1) these components would be constructed in public rights-of-way or (2) designated farmland is limited to specific geographical areas that are not designated sites for these components.

Up to 550 wtpd of biosolids generated under Alternative 1 would be applied to land at the Green Acres Farm in Kern County. The Green Acres Farm is not located in the vicinity of Important Farmlands; it is located in an area primarily designated as Irrigated Farmland. Although the contract limit is 800 wtpd, approximately 650 to 700 wtpd of biosolids generated at Hyperion currently are trucked to the 4,688-acre farm. The decreased amount of biosolids taken to the farm under this Alternative would continue to facilitate agricultural production at the farm and could allow for land application over a longer period of time than the estimated 70-year lifespan. The upgrades to the biosolids process portion of the Hyperion Expansion to 500 mgd would not result in the conversion of agricultural lands to nonagricultural use or impact Prime or Unique Farmlands or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance.

Because implementing Alternative 1 would not result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses, significant impacts to agricultural resources would not occur.

Secondary Impacts. None of the components under Alternative 1 would result in physical environmental changes, which, in turn, could have secondary effects that result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses. Consequently, significant secondary impacts to agricultural resources would not occur.

The potential for secondary impacts on groundwater quality beneath the Green Acres Farm related to the land application of biosolids at the farm is evaluated in Section 3.11 – Hydrology and Water Quality.

Mitigation. No mitigation is required.

Impacts after Mitigation. No impact is anticipated.

Alternative 2

Components of Alternative 2 are described in Section 2.3.5.

Impact AG-1

Potential primary and secondary impacts resulting from Alternative 2 to agricultural resources are discussed below.

Primary Impacts. The primary impacts of implementing Alternative 2 are similar to those for Alternative 1. No impact would occur because Alternative 2 would not convert designated farmland to nonagricultural uses. In addition, the impacts relative to land application of biosolids would be the same under Alternative 2 as under Alternative 1. Though Alternative 2 includes treatment wetlands, this component would be located near the runoff source which is not anticipated to be close enough to designated farmlands to result in the conversion of those designated farmlands to nonagricultural uses.

Secondary Impacts. Comparable to Alterative 1, secondary effects that result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses would not occur under Alternative 2.

The potential for secondary impacts on groundwater quality beneath the Green Acres Farm related to the land application of biosolids at the farm is evaluated in Section 3.11 – Hydrology and Water Quality.

Mitigation. No mitigation is required.

Impacts after Mitigation. No impact is anticipated.

Alternative 3

Components of Alternative 3 are described in Section 2.3.6.

Impact AG-1

Potential primary and secondary impacts resulting from Alternative 3 to agricultural resources are discussed below.

Primary Impacts. The primary impacts of implementing Alternative 3 are similar to those for implementation of Alternative 1. No impact would occur because Alternative 3 would not convert designated farmland to nonagricultural uses. In addition, the impacts relative to land application of biosolids would be the same under Alternative 3 as under Alternative 1.

Secondary Impacts. Comparable to Alternative 1, secondary effects that result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses would not occur under Alternative 3.

The potential for secondary impacts on groundwater quality beneath the Green Acres Farm related to the land application of biosolids at the farm is evaluated in Section 3.11 – Hydrology and Water Quality.

Mitigation. No mitigation is required.

Impacts after Mitigation. No impact is anticipated.

Alternative 4

Components of Alternative 4 are described in Section 2.3.7.

Impact AG-1

Potential primary and secondary impacts resulting from Alternative 4 to agricultural resources are discussed below.

Primary Impacts. The primary impacts of implementing Alternative 4 are similar to those for implementation of Alternative 2. No impact would occur because Alternative 4 would not convert designated farmland to nonagricultural uses. In addition, the impacts relative to land application of biosolids would be the same under Alternative 4 as under Alternative 1. Similar to Alternative 2, no impact is anticipated from the construction and operation of treatment wetlands.

Secondary Impacts. Comparable to Alternative 1, secondary effects that result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses would not occur under Alternative 4.

The potential for secondary impacts on groundwater quality beneath Green Acres Farm related to the land application of biosolids at the farm is evaluated in Section 3.11 – Hydrology Water Quality.

Mitigation. No mitigation is required.

Impacts after Mitigation. No impact is anticipated.

No Project Alternative

The No Project Alternative, for the purposes of this EIR, is no action. Under this Alternative, integrated improvements to the wastewater treatment and collection system, recycled water system, or runoff system would not occur.

Individual wastewater, recycled water, or runoff projects are likely to be necessary to meet regulatory requirements and future demands, but such individual projects would be designed and constructed as the needs arise rather than being planned in a systemwide integrated manner. In this case, each project would be subject to its own separate environmental clearance in the future.

Impact AG-1

Potential primary and secondary impacts resulting from the No Project Alternative to agricultural resources are discussed below.

Primary Impacts. Under the No Project Alternative, no impacts would occur because none of the proposed integrated wastewater, recycled water, or runoff improvements throughout the City would be constructed. Biosolids would continue to be generated at Hyperion and sent to the Green Acres Farm in Kern County for land application under the existing contract. The planning, design, and implementation of wastewater, recycled water, and runoff improvements would continue to be pursued on a project-by-project basis by the various City departments and bureaus as demand requires and resources become available.

In the long term, however, various wastewater, recycled water, and runoff projects would be necessary to protect public health and safety or to meet regulatory requirements, as defined in the objectives for the EIR (see Section 1.3). In the absence of an integrated resources planning process for the City wastewater system, projects still would be implemented individually. The individual projects, however, would be constructed at unknown future dates and would not benefit from incremental consideration of various trigger mechanisms (discussed in Sections 2.4.1, 2.4.2, and 2.4.3) for maximizing efficiencies based on objectives.

Secondary Impacts. The No Project Alternative is void of components that would result in physical environmental changes, which, in turn, could have secondary effects that result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses. Consequently, significant secondary impacts to agricultural resources would not occur.

The potential for secondary impacts on groundwater quality beneath Green Acres Farm related to the land application of biosolids at the farm would

continue under the existing contract and is evaluated in the Environmental Setting portion of Section 3.11 – Hydrology and Water Quality.

Mitigation. No mitigation is required.

Impacts after Mitigation. No impact is anticipated.

3.3.4.3 Cumulative Impacts

The Proposed Alternatives would not result in impacts to existing Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance, nor would implementation of one of the Proposed Alternatives incrementally contribute to a cumulative impact that would result in the conversion of designated farmland to nonagricultural uses. Therefore, implementation of each Proposed Project Alternative in conjunction with the related plans or projects would not result in significant cumulative impacts to agricultural resources.