

2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Overview

This section provides significance thresholds and guidelines for impacts on agricultural and forestry resources in unincorporated Ventura County. The impact analysis focuses on potential loss of agricultural resources and forest lands, conversion of these resources to other uses, as well as conflicts with Williamson Act contract and zoning for agricultural uses, forest land, or timberland production.

This topic section is updated from the following section(s) from the existing ISAGs:

5a. Agricultural Resources - Soils

5b. Agricultural Resources – Land Use Compatibility

Thresholds of Significance

Impact analysis guidelines (formerly referred to as “Methodology”) were updated accordingly to better align with the following updated thresholds.

A project may have a significant impact if it would:

AGR-1 Result in the loss of Important Farmland exceeding the thresholds set forth below.

General Plan Land Use Designation	Important Farmland Category	Acres Lost
Agricultural	Prime/Statewide	5
	Unique	10
	Local	15
Open Space/Rural	Prime/Statewide	10
	Unique	15
	Local	20
All Other Land Use Designations	Prime/Statewide	20
	Unique	30
	Local	40

AGR-2 Result in a significant impact on agricultural resources based on land use incompatibility if it is located closer than the radius distances set forth below.

Proposed Project	Distance from Non-Agricultural Structure or Use to Important Farmland Within the Applicable Radius Distance
Without Vegetative Screening	300 feet
With Vegetative Screening	150 feet
New K-12 School	1,320 feet

AGR-3 a) Conflict with an existing Williamson Act Contract and b) result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict.

AGR-4 Involve changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the loss of forest land, conversion of forest land to non-forest use, or causes the rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned T-P for non-forest use.

Legend:

 Derived from standards specific to the County

 Derived from Appendix G of CEQA

 Derived from a combination of specific County standards and Appendix G of CEQA

2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources (cont.)

Related Technical Terms

The following technical terms related to this topic section have been updated or incorporated:

- Agricultural conservation easement
- Forest land
- Restricted material
- Timberland
- Williamson Act contract
- Important Farmland
 - Farmland of Local Importance
 - Farmland of Statewide Importance
 - Prime Farmland
 - Unique Farmland