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## 4.2 - Agricultural Resources

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### 4.2.1 - Introduction

This section describes existing agricultural resources and potential effects from project implementation on the sites and their surrounding areas. It also considers impacts likely to be incurred in the future if additional sites are proposed or if existing sites are modified.

### 4.2.2 - Existing Conditions

Prime locations of agricultural land in California are determined by soil quality and irrigation status, which make particular locations attractive for agricultural operations. Feasibility of such operations is generally based on climate and quality of the soils in the area together with the economic infrastructure that makes farming possible. As can be seen in the individual site descriptions in Appendix A, most of the tower sites are located on mountaintops or ridgelines (topographic highpoints), and in urban areas. These locations are typically not conducive to agricultural production, nor do they possess the physical characteristics (soils, availability or irrigation) to make agricultural operations feasible. Presently there are no agricultural uses on any of the project sites. The potential for agricultural operations to ever exist in these areas is therefore very low.

### 4.2.3 - Thresholds of Significance

According to the CEQA Guidelines' Appendix G, Environmental Checklist, to determine whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, the following questions are analyzed and evaluated:

Would the project:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

### 4.2.4 - Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section discusses potential impacts associated with the development of the project and provides mitigation measures where appropriate.

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## Convert Farmland to Non-Agricultural Use

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Impact AG-1	<p>Would the project: Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?</p> <p>[CEQA Agricultural Resources Threshold 2(a)]</p>
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### ***Impact Analysis***

The majority of the towers are located on mountaintops, ridgelines, or in urban areas where site characteristics are not favorable for prime farmland. There is no existing agriculture on any of the project sites. The likelihood of any of the sites converting prime farmland to non-agricultural use is very low. However, if there were prime farmland on a particular site, the individual footprint of the project site would be such a small size (approximately 65 feet by 65 feet square) that agriculture would remain possible in the unlikely event that it would be proposed. Therefore, given the low potential for prime farmland to be located within the project areas, potential impacts associated with the conversion of prime farmland are considered less than significant.

### ***Level of Significance Before Mitigation***

Less than significant impact.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

### ***Level of Significance After Mitigation***

Less than significant impact.

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## Conflict with Existing Zoning or Williamson Act Contract

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Impact AG-2	<p>Would the project: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</p> <p>[CEQA Agricultural Resources Threshold 2(b)]</p>
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### ***Impact Analysis***

None of the proposed sites is under a Williamson Act Contract. Therefore, the project would not conflict in this regard and there would be no impact.

### ***Level of Significance Before Mitigation***

No impact

### ***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

### ***Level of Significance After Mitigation***

No impact.

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## Other Changes Resulting in Farmland Conversion to Non-Agricultural Use

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**Impact AG-3**      **Would the project: Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?**

**[CEQA Agricultural Resources Threshold 2(c)]**

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### ***Impact Analysis***

As stated previously, there are no agricultural operations existing within or adjacent to any of the proposed project sites. In addition, the location of a telecommunication site near an agricultural operation would not necessarily inhibit the continued use of agricultural lands in the vicinity. Therefore, if such a situation were to occur, impacts in this regard would be less than significant.

### ***Level of Significance Before Mitigation***

Less than significant impact.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is required.

### ***Level of Significance After Mitigation***

Less than significant impact.

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