# Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model

STONERIDGE COMMERCE CENTER PROJECT PREPARED BY: T&B PLANNING, INC.

# Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model for the Stoneridge Commerce Center Project

County of Riverside, California

Prepared For:
Richland Developers, Inc.
3161 Michelson Drive, Suite 425
Irvine, CA 92612



May 17, 2023

#### **Abstract**

The Stoneridge Commerce Center Project site encompasses 582.6 acres within the Stoneridge Specific Plan area. The Stoneridge Specific Plan area, including the Project site, is within the Lakeview/Nuevo community of unincorporated Riverside County, California, south of Lake Perris and the Ramona Expressway, east of the City of Perris, and north of the City of Menifee. The Stoneridge Commerce Center Project includes applications for a General Plan Amendment (GPA No. 190008), first Specific Plan Amendment to the Stoneridge Specific Plan 239 (SP 239A1), and Change of Zone (CZ No. 1900024) for the construction and operation of light industrial, business park, and commercial retail land uses and establishment of open space land uses. The Project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In this report, the California Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) Model is used as an evaluation tool to determine if the subject property qualifies as an important agricultural resource. Based on the methodology established by the California LESA Model, this report concludes that the Project site is considered to have a relatively low value for agricultural production and implementation of the Project would result in a less-than-significant impact to agricultural lands.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Section Nu	<u>imber/Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.0 Intr	oduction	1
1.1 D	ocument Purpose	1
1.2 P	roject Location	1
1.3 P	roject Summary	1
2.0 Agri	culture in California	3
2.1 W	/illiamson Act	3
2.2 Fa	armland Classification	3
3.0 Asse	essment Methodology	5
3.1 L	ESA Model	5
3.2 Ca	alifornia LESA Model Scoring System	5
3.2.1	Land Evaluation (LE)	5
3.2.2	Site Assessment (SA)	6
4.0 Proj	ect Site Evaluation	11
4.1 La	and Evaluation (LE)	11
4.1.1	Land Capability Classification	11
4.1.1	Storie Index	11
4.2 Si	te Assessment (SA)	12
4.2.1	Project Size	12
4.2.2	Water Resource Availability	12
4.2.3	Surrounding Agricultural Land	13
4.2.4	Surrounding Protected Resource Land	13
4.3 T	otal LESA Score	15
5.0 Con	clusion	15
6.0 Refe	erences	16
	FIGURES	
Figure Nun	nber/Title	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1	Aerial Photograph	
Figure 2 Figure 3	Farmland Monitoring and Mapping Program MapZone of Influence	
Figure 4	Surrounding Agricultural and Protected Resources Land	

### **TABLES**

Table Number	er/Title	<u>Page</u>
Table 3-1	Numeric Conversion of Land Capability Classification Units	5
Table 3-2	Project Size Scoring	6
Table 3-3	Water Resources Availability Scoring	7
Table 3-4	Surrounding Agricultural Land Score	8
Table 3-5	Surrounding Protected Resource Land Score	10
Table 4-1	Land Capability Classification Score	
Table 4-2	Storie Index Score	
Table 4-3	Project Size Score	
Table 4-4	Surrounding Agricultural Land Score	13
Table 4-5	Surrounding Protected Resource Land Score	13
Table 4-6	Total LESA Score Sheet - Project Site	15
Table 5-1	California LESA Model Scoring Thresholds	

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Document Purpose

The Stoneridge Commerce Center Project (hereafter, "Project") includes applications for a General Plan Amendment (GPA No. 190008), first Specific Plan Amendment to the Stoneridge Specific Plan No. 239 (SP 239A1), and a Change of Zone (CZ 1900024) for the construction and operation of light industrial, business park, and commercial retail land uses and establishment of open space land uses. The purpose of this Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) Model is threefold: 1) to determine the presence or absence of important agricultural resources on the Project site; 2) assess potential effects, if any, to any important agricultural resources that may be present on the Project site; and 3) if any impacts to important agricultural resources would occur, determine the significance of impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

CEQA Guidelines § 15126.2(a) requires that environmental documentation "identify and focus on the significant environmental effects" of a proposed project. The CEQA Guidelines definition of environment "means the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project including <u>land</u>, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance." (<u>emphasis added</u>, CEQA Guidelines § 15360). Per the CEQA Guidelines, the Project will result in a significant effect on the environment if the site contains important agricultural resources that would be converted to a non-agricultural use.

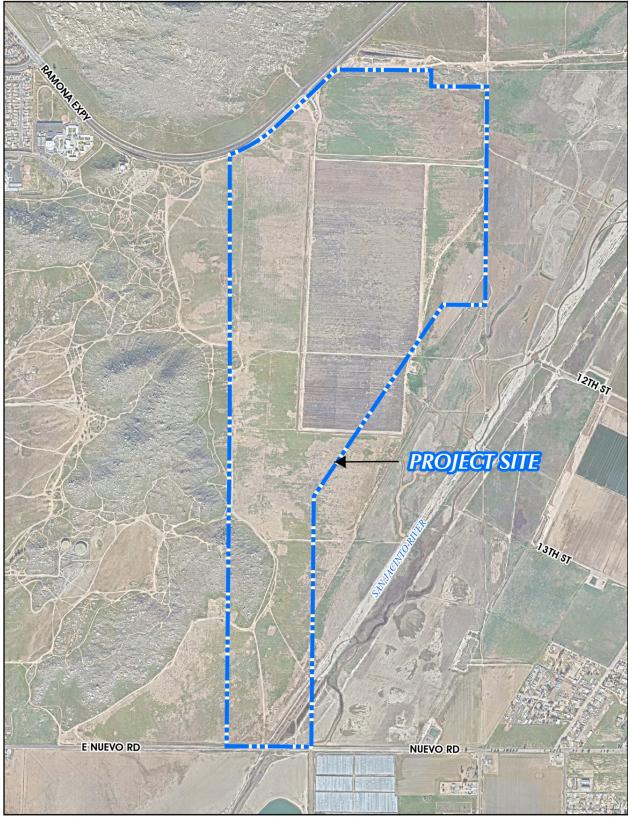
According to CEQA Guidelines § 21060.1(a), "agricultural land" is defined as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California.

#### 1.2 Project Location

The Project site encompasses 582.6 acres within the Stoneridge Specific Plan area. The Stoneridge Specific Plan area, including the Project site, is within the Lakeview/Nuevo community of unincorporated Riverside County, south of Lake Perris and the Ramona Expressway, east of the City of Perris, and north of the City of Menifee. Specifically, the Project site is located south of the Ramona Expressway, north of Nuevo Road, east of Foothill Drive, and west of the future extension of Menifee Road. (see Figure 1, *Aerial Photograph*). The Project site consists of the following Assessor Parcel Number (APN): 307-070-003, 307-080-(005, 006, 008), 307-090-(001, 002, 004, 005, 006), 307-100-(001, 003, 004, 005), 307-110-(003, 007, 008), 307-220-001, and 307-230-(019, 020).

#### 1.3 Project Summary

The Project involves GPA No. 190008, SP 239A1, CZ 1900024, and associated grading for the development of light industrial uses on 388.5 acres, business park uses on 49.1 acres, and commercial retail uses on 8.0 acres. This analysis assumes that future development associated with the Project would consist of up to 9,652,896 square feet of development. 18.1 acres of the Project site would be preserved open space conservation and 81.6 acres would be preserved as open space conservation habitat, totaling 99.7 acres. The Project includes up to approximately 37.3 acres of circulation.



Source(s): ESRI, NearMap (2023)

Figure 1





#### 2.0 AGRICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA

#### 2.1 Williamson Act

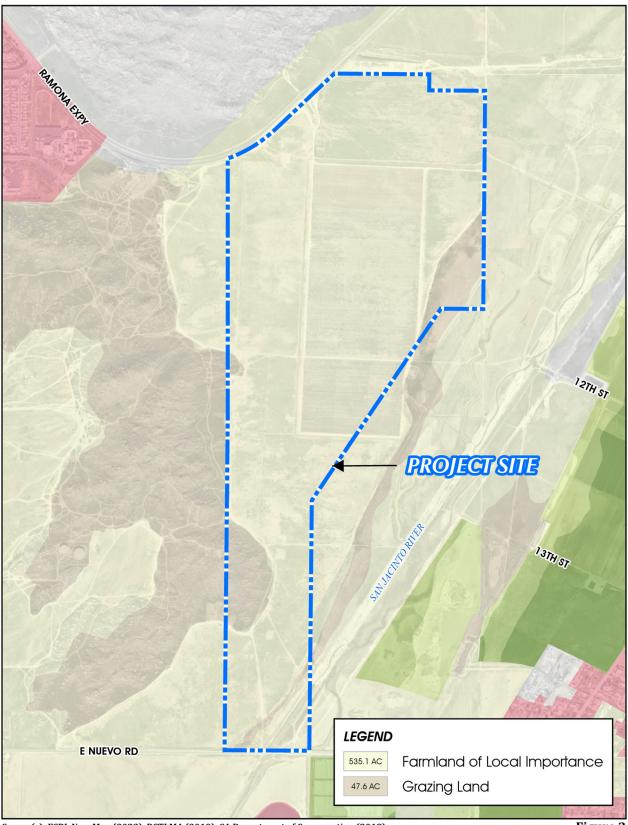
In 1965, the California Assembly established the California Land Conservation Act, also known as the Williamson Act, in response to the increasing pressure occurring throughout California during the post-World War II period to convert agricultural lands to urban development. The Williamson Act allows local governments to enter contracts with landowners to restrict property to agricultural or related open space uses for a minimum of 10 years in exchange for a lower property tax assessment to the landowner. After the initial 10-year contract term, the contract remains in effect until canceled by the landowner or the local government. Once canceled, a contract winds down over a period of 10 years (CDC, 2019a). The Project site is not subject to a Williamson Act contract or agricultural preserve. (Riverside County, 2023)

#### 2.2 Farmland Classification

As part of the State's efforts to protect agricultural resources, the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) was established in 1982 to provide data to public, academia, and government entities for the purposes of making informed decisions regarding the use of California's agricultural land resources. The FMMP is required by California Government Code § 65570 to report on the conversion of agricultural lands in the *California Farmland Conversion Report* and maintain the *Important Farmland Maps* database system to record changes in the use of agricultural lands over time (CDC, 2019b).

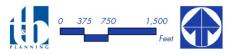
- <u>Prime Farmland:</u> "Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long term agricultural production. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date."
- <u>Farmland of Statewide Importance:</u> "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."
- <u>Unique Farmland:</u> "Farmland of less quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date."
- <u>Farmland of Local Importance:</u> "Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and local advisory committee."
- <u>Grazing Land:</u> "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."

According to the California Department of Conservation (CDC) Important Farmland Finder Map (see Figure 2, *Farmland Monitoring and Mapping Program Map*), the Project site is classified as "Farmland of Local Importance" and "Grazing Land." (CDC, 2018)



Source(s): ESRI, NearMap (2023), RCTLMA (2019), CA Department of Conservation (2018)

Figure 2



#### 3.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 LESA Model

The LESA Model is a point-based approach that uses measurable factors to quantify the relative value of agricultural land resources and assist in the determination of the significance of agricultural land conversions. Many states have developed LESA Models specific to their local contexts. The California LESA Model was created as a result of Senate Bill 850 (Chapter 812/1993) and provides lead agencies with an optional methodology to ensure that potentially significant effects on the environment associated with agricultural land conversions are quantitatively and consistently considered in the environmental review process (CDC, 1997, p. 4). The California LESA Model is the methodology used by the County of Riverside to determine whether important agricultural resources are present on a property.

#### 3.2 California LESA Model Scoring System

The California LESA Model is made up of two components, known as "Land Evaluation" (LE) and "Site Assessment" (SA), that are scored and weighted separately to yield a total LE subscore and SA subscore. The Final LESA Score is the sum of the LE and SA subscores and has a maximum possible score of 100 points. Based on the Final LESA Score, numerical thresholds are used to determine the significance of a project's impacts on agricultural resources (CDC, 1997, p. 31).

#### 3.2.1 Land Evaluation (LE)

The LE subscore consists of two factors, including the Land Capability Classification (LCC) rating and the Storie Index rating, which were devised to measure the inherent soil-based qualities of land as they relate to agricultural production. The LCC Rating and Storie Index rating scores are based upon the soil map unit(s) identified on a property and the acreage of each soil mapping unit relative to the property's total acreage. Data for the soil map unit(s), LCC, and Storie Index are obtained from soil survey data provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (CDC, 1997, pp. 7-9).

#### A. LCC Rating

There are eight (8) classes of LCC (I through VIII). Soils designated "I" have the fewest limitations for agricultural production and soils designated "VIII" are least suitable for farmland. The LCC is further divided into subclasses (designated by lowercase letters *e*, *w*, *s*, or *c*) to describe limitations, including a soil's susceptibility to erosion ("e"), limitations due to water in or on the soil ("w"), shallow or stony soils ("s"), or climate ("c") (USDA, 2023).

Once the LCC for each soil mapping unit is obtained from the USDA NRCS soil survey, the LCC classification is converted into a numeric score established by the California LESA Model. Table 3-1, *Numeric Conversion of Land Capability Classification Units*, summarizes the LCC numeric conversion scores used by the LESA model. The LCC Score accounts for 25 percent of the total California LESA Model Score (CDC, 1997, p. 7).

**Table 3-1** Numeric Conversion of Land Capability Classification Units

LCC	I	IIe	IIs, w	IIIe	IIIs, w	IVe	IVs, w	V	VI	VII	VIII	
-----	---	-----	--------	------	---------	-----	--------	---	----	-----	------	--

Rating	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10	0

Source: (CDC, 1997)

For properties with multiple soil mapping units, the LCC Score used in the LESA Model is determined by multiplying the LCC Rating for each map unit by the corresponding map unit's proportion of the property's total acreage. The LCC Score for each map unit is summed together for a total, single LCC Score for the property (CDC, 1997, p. 7).

#### **B.** Storie Index Rating

The Storie Index is a quantitative method of rating the agricultural capability of soils. The Storie Index has been used in California for over 50 years, with the most recent version of the Storie Index being published in 1978. The Storie Index is based on four factors: 1) degree of soil profile development; 2) surface texture; 3) slope; 4) other soil and landscape conditions including drainage, alkalinity, nutrient level, acidity, erosion, and microrelief. Soils are graded on a 100-point scale that represents the relative value of a given soil when used for intensive agricultural purposes (University of California, 1978, p. 1). The Storie Index Score accounts for 25 percent of the total California LESA Model Score (CDC, 1997, p. 12).

For properties with multiple soil mapping units, the Storie Index Score is calculated by multiplying the Storie Index rating by the map unit's proportion of the property's total acreage. The Storie Index Score for each map unit is added together to provide a single Storie Index Score for the property (CDC, 1997, p. 12).

#### 3.2.2 Site Assessment (SA)

The SA subscore consists of four factors that measure social, economic, and geographic features that contribute to the overall value of agricultural land. The SA factors include Project Size, Water Resource Availability, Surrounding Agricultural Land, and Protected Resource Land (CDC, 1997, p. 13).

#### A. Project Size

The Project Size rating evaluates the potential viability of potential agricultural productivity on a property. Generally, high quality soils (high rate of economic return per acre planted) only need to be present in relatively small quantities on a property to be considered important, whereas lower quality soils (low or moderate rate of economic return per acre planted) need to be present in larger quantities to be considered important.

The Project Size rating corresponds with the acreage of each LCC Class identified on a property. Table 3-2, *Project Size Scoring*, summarizes the different Project Size scoring combinations. For properties with multiple map units within the subject property, the mapping unit that generates the highest Project Size score is used as the final Project Size score for the Project site. The Project Size score accounts for 15 percent of the total California LESA Model Score (CDC, 1997, pp. 13-15).

**Table 3-2** Project Size Scoring

LCC Class I of II soils LCC Class III soils LCC Class IV of lower	LCC Class I or II soils	LCC Class III soils	LCC Class IV or lower
---	-------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------

Acreage	Points	Acreage	Points	Acreage	Points
80 or above	100	160 or above	100	320 or above	100
60-79	90	120-159	90	240-319	80
40-59	80	80-119	80	160-239	60
20-39	50	60-79	70	100-159	40
10-19	30	40-59	60	40-99	20
Fewer than 10	0	20-39	30	Fewer than 40	0
		10-19	10		
		Fewer than 10	0		

Source: (CDC, 1997)

#### B. Water Resources Availability

The Water Resources Availability rating measures the reliability of a property's water resources that could be used for agricultural production during non-drought and drought years (water availability score) and the proportion of the property served by each water source (weighted availability score). The water availability score established by the California LESA Model is summarized in Table 3-3, *Water Resources Availability Scoring.* The total Water Resources score is the sum of the weighted availability score(s). The Water Resources Availability score accounts for 15 percent of the total California LESA Score (CDC, 1997, pp. 16, 29).

**Table 3-3** Water Resources Availability Scoring

Non-Drought Years						
	Restrictions			SCORE		
Irrigation	Physical	Economic	Irrigation	Physical	Economic	SCORE
Feasible	Restrictions	Restrictions	Feasible	Restrictions	Restrictions	
YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	100
YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	95
YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	90
YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	85
YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	80
YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	75
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	65
YES	NO	NO	NO			50
YES	NO	YES	NO			45
YES	YES	NO	NO			35
YES	YES	YES	NO			30
Irrigated production not feasible, but rainfall adequate for dryland production in both						
drought and non-drought years						
Irrigated production not feasible, but rainfall adequate for dryland production in non-						20
drought years (but not in drought years)						
Neither irrigat	ed nor dry land	production feas	ible			0

Source: (CDC, 1997)

#### C. Surrounding Agricultural Land

The Surrounding Agricultural Land rating accounts for the potential effect of development on properties containing important agricultural resources that surround a project site. The Surrounding Agricultural Land rating is dependent on the amount of agricultural land or related open space within a project's "Zone of Influence" (ZOI). The ZOI is determined by drawing the smallest rectangle that

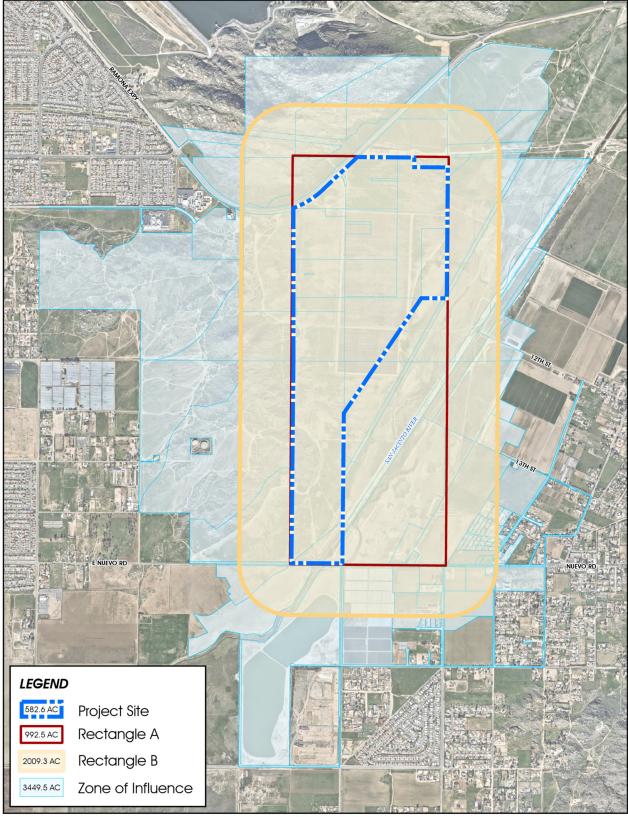
will completely contain the Project site on a map (Rectangle A) and creating a second rectangle that extends 0.25-mile beyond Rectangle A on all sides (Rectangle B). All parcels that are within or intersected by Rectangle B are included within the project's ZOI (CDC, 1997, pp. 23-25). The ZOI for the Project site is illustrated on Figure 3.

The Surrounding Agricultural Land rating is determined by the proportion of land within a project's ZOI that is currently used for agricultural production. The Surrounding Agricultural Land score established by the California LESA Model is summarized in Table 3-4, *Surrounding Agricultural Land Score*. Data for surrounding agricultural land can be obtained from the Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Map Series, the Department of Water Resources' Land Use Map Series, locally derived maps, and/or inspection of the site. The surrounding agricultural land score accounts for 15 percent of the total California LESA Model Score (CDC, 1997, pp. 26, 29).

**Table 3-4** Surrounding Agricultural Land Score

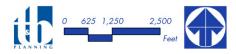
Percent of Project's ZOI in Agricultural Use	Surrounding Agricultural Land Score
90 - 100 percent	100 Points
80 – 89	90
75 – 79	80
70 – 74	70
65 - 69	60
60 - 64	50
55 - 59	40
50 - 54	30
45 - 49	20
40 - 44	10
<40	0

Source: (CDC, 1997)



Source(s): ESRI, NearMap (2023), RCTLMA (2023)

Figure 3



#### D. Surrounding Protected Resource Land

Similar to the Surrounding Agricultural Land rating, the California LESA Model considers the potential effect of development on protected resource lands surrounding a project site. Protected resource lands include Williamson Act contracted lands, publicly owned lands maintained as park, forest, or watershed resources, and lands with natural resource easements (e.g., agricultural, wildlife habitat, open space).

The Surrounding Protected Resource Land rating is determined by the proportion of protected resource lands within a project's ZOI. The Surrounding Protected Resource Land scoring system established by the California LESA Model is summarized in Table 3-5, *Surrounding Protected Resource Land Score*. The Surrounding Protected Resource Land score accounts for 5 percent of the total California LESA Score (CDC, 1997, pp. 28-29).

**Table 3-5 Surrounding Protected Resource Land Score** 

Percent of Project's ZOI Defined as Protected	Surrounding Protected Resource Land Score (Points)
90 – 100	100
80 – 89	90
75 – 79	80
70 – 74	70
65 - 69	60
60 - 64	50
55 - 59	40
50 - 54	30
45 - 49	20
40 - 44	10
<40	0

Source: (CDC, 1997)

# 4.0 PROJECT SITE EVALUATION

In this section, the California LESA Model is applied to the Project site to evaluate whether the Project site contains important agricultural resources.

#### 4.1 Land Evaluation (LE)

As discussed in Subsection 3.2.1, the LE subscore measures the agricultural suitability of soils identified on a property by using the LCC Rating and Storie Index for each present soil map unit. The Project study area consists of fifteen (15) soil map units including: Cieneba sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded (ChD2), Cieneba rocky sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent slopes, eroded (CkF2), Fallbrook sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded (FaD2), Greenfield sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent, eroded (GyC2), Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes (HcC), Hanford coarse sandy loam 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded (HcD2), Monserate sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded (MmD2), Ramona sandy loam, 5 to 8 percent slopes, eroded (RaC2), Riverwash (RsC), Rockland (RtF), Vista coarse sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, eroded (VsD2), Vista rocky coarse sandy loam, 2 to 35 percent slopes, eroded (VtF2), Willows silty clay (Wf), Willows silty clay, saline-alkali (Wg), and Willows silty clay, deep, strongly saline-alkali (Wn).

#### 4.1.1 Land Capability Classification

Refer to Table 4-1, *Land Capability Classification Score*, below, for the LCC Scores of the Project site. The Project site's overall LCC Score is 56.7.

Soil Map Unit	Acres	Proportion of Project Site (percent)	LCC	LCC Rating	LCC Score
ChD2	2.1	0.4	VIe	20	0.08
CkF2	19.3	3.3	VIIe	10	0.33
FaD2	14.5	2.5	IVe	50	1.3
GyC2	251.1	43.1	IIIe	70	30.2
НсС	145.7	25.0	IIIe	70	17.5
HcD2	47.6	8.2	IVe	20	1.6
MmD2	9.6	1.6	IVe	50	0.8
RaC2	23.9	4.1	IIIe	70	3.3
RsC	4.5	0.8	VIII	0	0.0
RtF	0.1	0.0	VIII	0	0.0
VsD2	3.4	0.6	IVe	50	0.3
VtF2	4.7	0.8	VIe	20	0.18
Wf	2.2	0.4	IVw	40	0.16
Wg	10.3	1.8	IVw	40	0.96
Wn	43.5	7.5	VIIw	10	0.76
Totals	582.6	100 <sup>1</sup>			56.7

**Table 4-1** Land Capability Classification Score

Source: (USDA, 2023)

#### 4.1.1 Storie Index

Refer to Table 4-2, *Storie Index Score*, below, for the total Storie Index scores for the Project site. The Project site's overall Storie Index score is 71.5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Rounded to the nearest 10<sup>th</sup>.

The non-irrigated LCC was utilized because under existing conditions, the Project site does not have an irrigation system.

Soil Map Unit	Acres	Proportion of Project Site (percent)	Storie Index	Storie Index Score
ChD2	2.1	0.4	24	0.96
CkF2	19.3	3.3	18	0.59
FaD2	14.5	2.5	42	1.0
GyC2	251.1	43.1	87	37.5
HcC	145.7	25.0	82	20.5
HcD2	47.6	8.2	75	6.2
MmD2	9.6	1.6	28	0.45
RaC2	23.9	4.1	86	3.5
RsC	4.5	0.8	0	0.0
RtF	0.1	0.0	0	0.0
VsD2	3.4	0.6	40	0.24
VtF2	4.7	0.8	37	0.30
Wf	2.2	0.4	11	0.04
Wg	10.3	1.8	11	0.20
Wn	43.5	7.5	11	0.83
Totals	582.6	1001		71.5

**Table 4-2** Storie Index Score

Source: (USDA, 2023)

#### 4.2 Site Assessment (SA)

As previously noted, the SA subscore is based on a combination of a property's size, the availability of water resources, the presence/absence of surrounding agricultural lands, and the presence/absence of surrounding protected resource lands.

#### 4.2.1 Project Size

Refer to Table 4-3, *Project Size Score*, below, for the total Project Size scores for the Project site. The Project's overall Project Size score is 100.

**Table 4-3** Project Size Score

	Soil Class			
	LCC Class I-II	LCC Class III	LCC Class IV-VIII	
Acres of Project site	0.0	420.7	161.9	
Project Size Scores	0	100	60	
Source: (USDA, 2023)				

Refer to Table 3-2 for Project Size Scoring, which is based on LCC Class and acreage.

## 4.2.2 Water Resource Availability

The Project site does not have existing irrigation systems; therefore, the California LESA model considers irrigated production to be infeasible on the Project site (CDC, 1997, p. 18). Notwithstanding, the LESA Model analyzes the potential for dryland production. The County is characterized as having an arid climate and receives little rainfall throughout the year. The average annual precipitation in the general Project site vicinity is approximately 11 inches (Best Places, 2023). Dryland farming can be productive with as little as 10-12 inches of rain per year (CAWSI, 2022). Accordingly, at the Project site, dryland farming is considered feasible during normal years

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Rounded to the nearest 10<sup>th</sup>.

but not feasible during drought years, which corresponds to Water Resources Availability scores of 20 (refer to Table 3-3).

#### 4.2.3 Surrounding Agricultural Land

The Surrounding Agricultural Land score is dependent on the presence or absence of active agricultural production land within a project's ZOI. Figure 4 illustrates the active agricultural production lands in the ZOIs for the Project site. Table 4-4, *Surrounding Agricultural Land Score*, summarizes the Surrounding Agricultural Land score for the Project site; the Project site's Surrounding Agricultural Land score is 0.

Zone of Influence			
Total Acres	Acres of Surrounding Agricultural Land	Percent Surrounding Agricultural Land	Surrounding Agricultural Land Score
3,449.5	187.5	5.4	0

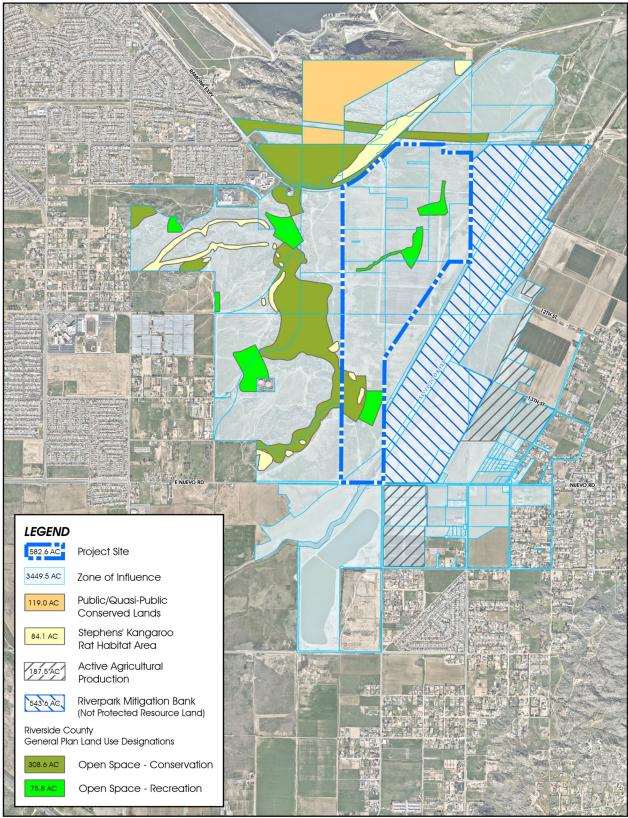
**Table 4-4** Surrounding Agricultural Land Score

#### 4.2.4 Surrounding Protected Resource Land

The Surrounding Protected Resource Land score is dependent on the presence or absence of lands within a project's ZOI that have long-term use restrictions that are compatible with or supportive of agricultural uses. Figure 4 illustrates the protected resource lands in the Project site's ZOI. As illustrated on Figure 4, 543.6 acres of the Project's ZOI is identified as Riverpark Mitigation Bank; this land is managed and preserved to protect and restore habitat for 146 listed species in Riverside County. Due to the nature of the mitigation bank, this land is not compatible or supportive of agricultural uses and, therefore, is not included in the calculation for "Acres of Protected Resource Land." Table 4-5, *Surrounding Protected Resource Land Score*, summarizes the Surrounding Protected Resource Land score for the Project site; the Project site's Surrounding Protected Resource Land score is 0.

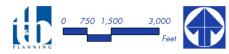
Zone of Influence			
Total Acres	Acres of Protected Resource Land	Percent Protected Resource Land	Surrounding Protected Resource Land Score
3,449.5	587.5	17	0

**Table 4-5** Surrounding Protected Resource Land Score



Source(s): ESRI, NearMap (2023), RCTLMA (2023), CA Department of Conservation (2018)

Figure 4



Surrounding Agricultural & Protected Resources Land

#### 4.3 Total LESA Score

The total LESA Score is calculated by summing the Project site's LE and SA subscores. The Project site's LESA subscores are summarized in Table 4-6. The Project site's final LESA score is 50.1.

**Table 4-6** Total LESA Score Sheet - Project Site

	Factor Scores	Factor Weight	Weighted Factor Scores
LE Factors			
LCC	56.7	0.25	14.2
Storie Index	71.5	0.25	17.9
		LE Subtotal	32.1
SA Factors			
Project Size	100.0	0.15	15.0
Water Resource Availability	20.0	0.15	3.0
Surrounding Agricultural Land	0.0	0.15	0.0
Protected Resource Land	0.0	0.05	1.5
SA Subtotal			18.0
Final LESA Score			50.1

#### 5.0 CONCLUSION

The Project site received a LESA score of 50.1. As shown in Table 5-1, impacts to land that receives a LESA score between 40 and 59 are considered significant under CEQA if the LE and SA subscores are each greater than or equal to 20 points. As shown in Table 4-6, the Project's LE score is 32.1 and the SA score is 18.0. Thus, because the SA score is not greater than or equal to 20, the Project site is determined to have a relatively low value for agricultural production and Project impacts on agricultural resources would be less-than-significant.

Table 5-1 California LESA Model Scoring Thresholds

Total LESA Score	Scoring Decision
0 to 39	Not Considered Significant
40 to 59	Considered Significant $\underline{only}$ if LE $\underline{and}$ SA subscores are $\underline{each}$ greater than or equal to 20 points
60 to 79	Considered Significant <u>unless</u> either LE <u>or</u> SA subscore is <u>less</u> than 20 points
80 to 100	Considered Significant

Source: (CDC, 1997, Table 9)

# 6.0 REFERENCES

Cited As	Reference
Best Places,	Best Places. 2023. Climate in Murrieta, California. Available on-line at:
2023	https://www.bestplaces.net/climate/county/california/riverside
CAWSI, 2022.	California Ag Water Stewardship Initiative, no date. <i>Dry Farming</i> . Available on-line at:
	http://agwaterstewards.org/practices/dry_farming/
CDC, 1997	California Department of Conservation, 1997. California Agricultural Land Evaluation
	and Site Assessment Model Instruction Manual. 1997.
CDC, 2018.	California Department of Conservation, 2018. California Important Farmland Finder.
	Available on-line at: <a href="https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/">https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/</a> .
CDC, 2019a	California Department of Conservation, 2016. Land Conservation Williamson Act Program
	Overview. Available on-line at:
	https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wa#:~:text=The%20Williamson%20Act%2C%2
	<u>0also%20known,or%20related%20open%20space%20use</u> .
CDC, 2019b	California Department of Conservation, 2019. <i>California Farmland Mapping and</i>
	Monitoring Program. Available on-line at:
	https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Important-Farmland-
	<u>Categories.aspx</u>
Riverside	Riverside County, 2023. Map My County. Available on-line:
County, 2023	https://gis1.countyofriverside.us/Html5Viewer/?viewer=MMC_Public
University of	University of California, Division of Agricultural Sciences, 1978. Storie Index Soil Rating,
California,	Special Publication 3203. Available on-line at:
1978	http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/3203.pdf
USDA, 2023	United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey. Available on-line at:
	http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm