

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	20-SPPE-01
Project Title:	Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility Small Power Plant Exemption
TN #:	233242
Document Title:	Report of Conversation- FMMP land classification
Description:	Conversation between CEC Staff J. Hinde and Dept. of Conservation Staff K. Kisko
Filer:	Lisa Worrall
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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*Siting, Transmission
 and Environmental
 Protection Division*

FILE: n/a

PROJECT TITLE: Great Oaks South Backup
 Generating Facility **Docket:** 20-SPPE-01

TECHNICAL AREA(s): Agriculture and Forestry Resources			
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location: N/A	
NAME(s):	Jeanine Hinde, Planner II, CEC	DATE: 04/02/2020	TIME:
WITH:	Kerri Kisko, Environmental Scientist, California Dept. of Conservation (CDOC), Division of Land Resource Protection		
SUBJECT:	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) classification of the project site		

COMMENTS:

This report of conversation documents an e-mail exchange between Kerri Kisko, Environmental Scientist at CDOC, and Jeanine Hinde (staff) regarding the current status of the FMMP classification for an area that includes the project site. The e-mail exchange is attached.

cc:	<p>Signed:</p> <p> s _____</p> <p>Name: Jeanine Hinde, Planner II</p>
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Hinde, Jeanine@Energy

From: Kisko, Kerri@DOC <Kerri.S.Kisko@conservation.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Hinde, Jeanine@Energy
Subject: RE: Question About FMMP Classification for Santa Clara County Parcels 706-02-057 and 706-02-060

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Jeanine,

I had a chance to look into the project site for APNs 706-02-057 and 706-02-060. This project site is located along Via Del Oro between San Ignacio Ave and Great Oaks Blvd in San Jose.

2016 Important Farmland Data is the latest available for Santa Clara County. This project site is mapped as **Farmland of Local Importance** due to production of **non-irrigated grain** verified by field visit during the 2016 update. A boundary adjustment was also made to correctly map the whole project as non-urban. In 2018, this project site will remain mapped as Farmland of Local Importance. I looked at the 2018 NAIP imagery and the area appears fallow. The area also appears fallow in the 2019 imagery used on the Santa Clara County-SCCMap (Santa Clara County website: <https://ges.sccgov.org/discovergis/sccmap>) and in Google Streetview image taken April 2019. Although the area appears to be fallow in 2018 and 2019, the FMMP designation will not change because the area needs to be fallowed for three update cycles before we make a change (so if it remains fallow it would be changed to Grazing Land in 2022).

CEQA implications. CEQA **Appendix G** determines an area to be potentially significant if: a) **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 nonagricultural use?** (see the Agriculture and Forestry Resources section at: <https://resources.ca.gov/CNRALegacyFiles/ceqa/docs/ab52/final-approved-appendix-G.pdf>)

Notice that **Farmland of Local Importance** is not listed. Under CEQA only the three categories that include **irrigated farmland** count as **"Farmland"**. So, this project **is not** considered Farmland under CEQA and therefore is **not considered a significant impact**.

I hope this helps,

Kerri Kisko
Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
Kerri.s.kisko@conservation.ca.gov

From: Hinde, Jeanine@Energy <Jeanine.Hinde@energy.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 1:21 PM
To: Kisko, Kerri@DOC <Kerri.S.Kisko@conservation.ca.gov>
Subject: Question About FMMP Classification for Santa Clara County Parcels 706-02-057 and 706-02-060

Hi Kerri,

Our staff is working on the environmental analysis for a newly proposed Small Power Plant Exemption, the Great Oaks South Data Center Project. The site for this one is in the southern part of the City of San Jose. I am hoping you might be able to shed some light on the current FMMP classification for the two properties where the data center would be located.

The 2016 FMMP map shows the project site (APNs 706-02-057 and -060) is in an area classified as Farmland of Local Importance. Previous published versions of the Santa Clara County FMMP map show that the area was primarily classified as Other Land, with a small portion at the northeast corner classified as Urban & Built-up Land. The 10/08/2019 Phase I ESA for this project indicates that the site was used for hay cultivation sometime around 2012, which may explain why the City might have reported a change in classification to Farmland of Local Importance. Based on my recent experience on the other SPPE project in San Jose that you assisted me with a few weeks ago, the County would rely on the City to report on locally important farmland within the City limits. However, I have not yet been able to connect with a City planner who might know something about relatively recent agricultural uses in the area that include the project site.

If updated information is available at CDOC, it would be very helpful to know what the FMMP classification will be for the 2018 FMMP map and whether it might be reclassified as Other Land, or perhaps Grazing Land? If the classification of Farmland of Local Importance is unchanged on the 2018 map, then the project has the potential to convert Important Farmland to non-agricultural use, which would create a CEQA problem for this project.

Thank you so much for your assistance. Of course we are working from home these days, as I suppose you are too.

Jeanine Hinde

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