

R. AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES

SETTING

The project site is located within a wholly urbanized area of San Francisco. The California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program identify the site and all of San Francisco as "Urban and Built-up Land."¹ No farmlands or forest land are identified within the City of San Francisco.

IMPACTS

SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS

The thresholds for determining the significance of impacts in this analysis are consistent with the environmental checklist in Appendix G of the State *CEQA Guidelines*, which has been adopted and modified by the San Francisco Planning Department. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. For the purpose of this analysis, the following applicable thresholds were used to determine whether implementing the project would result in a significant impact to agricultural resources. The project would have significant adverse agricultural and forest resources impact if it would:

- R.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;
- R.b Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract;
- R.c Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526);
- R.d Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or

¹ California Department of Conservation (CDC), 2004, *Bay Area Region Important Farmland 2004 and Urbanization 1984-2004*. Available at: ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/urban_change/bayarea_urban_change1984_2004.pdf, Accessed: February 2, 2009.

IV. Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation

R. Agricultural and Forest Resources

- R.e Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The project sponsor proposes to demolish the existing Fairmont Hotel tower and podium structure and construct a 26-story residential tower and a five-story mid-rise residential component, both above a five-story podium structure. As described above in the Setting, the project site has no agricultural resources.

IMPACT EVALUATION

Impact AG-1 **The proposed project would not: (i) convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance; (ii) conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract; (iii) conflict with existing zoning for or cause rezoning of forest land or timberland; (iv) result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or (v) involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use. (No Impact) [Criteria R.a, R.b, R.c, R.d, and R.e]**

Because the project site does not include agricultural uses and is not zoned for such uses, the proposed project would not convert any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use. Similarly, because the project site does not include forest uses and is not zoned for such uses, the proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses or a Williamson Act contract. The proposed project also would not conflict with existing zoning for forest land or timberland or result in the rezoning of forest land or timberland. The proposed project also would not involve other changes in the existing environment, which could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use. No impacts to farmlands of forest lands would occur.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The proposed project would have no impact on agricultural and forest resources, nor would other proposed cumulative projects in the vicinity. Therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on agricultural resources.

MITIGATION AND IMPROVEMENT MEASURES

The proposed project would not have any impacts on agriculture and forest resources. No mitigation or improvement measures would be required.