

## **5.14 FARMLANDS**

The *Farmland Protection Policy Act* (FPPA) of 1981 (7 U.S.C § 4201-4209) was enacted to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. Prime farmland is defined as land that possesses the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, without intolerable soil erosion. Unique farmland is considered land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops.

There are three type of soils found within the Detailed Study Area (DSA) at Gness Field Airport.<sup>1</sup> The area occupied by the airfield and those areas adjacent to the airfield are composed of urban land and fill Xerothents. The remaining portions of the DSA are composed of Reyes Clay. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), none of the soils identified within the DSA meet the criteria for prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance as outlined in the USDA's Land Inventory and Monitoring project for Marin County Soil Survey.<sup>2</sup>

Since none of the soils located within the DSA meet the criteria for prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance, development of the Sponsor's Proposed Project or its alternatives would not impact farmland.

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<sup>1</sup> Web Soil Survey, accessed October 2011, U.S. Soil Conservation Service and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

<sup>2</sup> Soil Candidate Listing for Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance: Marin County, Accessed October 2011, California Department of Conservation, [http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/pubs/soils/Documents/MARIN\\_ssurgo.pdf](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/pubs/soils/Documents/MARIN_ssurgo.pdf)

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