

Dennis Underwood Conservation Area

Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study with a Negative Declaration

Appendix A

**Dennis Underwood Conservation Area Project-Results of the Land
Evaluation and Site Assessment**



Dennis Underwood Conservation Area Project

Results of the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment

prepared for

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Environmental Planning Team

700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

and

United States Bureau of Reclamation

500 Fir Street
Boulder City, Nevada 89005

prepared by

Rincon Consultants, Inc.

180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003

February 2018

Table of Contents

1	Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Site Assessment.....	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Project Site	1
1.3	Land Evaluation and Site Assessment.....	1
1.3.1	Methodology	1
1.3.2	Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Results	3
1.4	Part VI, Site Assessment Scoring.....	4
1.5	Part IV, Site Assessment Analysis.....	4
2	References	18

Tables

Table 1	Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Results	3
Table 2	Examples of Nonurban and Urban Land	6
Table 3	Acreage of Site Farmed in the Last Five Years	9
Table 4	Distance to Urban Support Services	13
Table 5	Parcel Size in Relation to Average County Size	16

Figures

Figure 1	Project Site	2
Figure 2	Nonurban Use within 1-Mile Radius	5
Figure 3	Bordering Land in Nonurban Use.....	7
Figure 4	Farm Activity Over the Last Five Years.....	8
Figure 5	Zoning Designations.....	10
Figure 6	Distance from Project Site Perimeter to Urban Area	12
Figure 7	Distance to Urban Support Services	14
Figure 8	Assessor Parcel Number	15

Appendices

Appendix A	Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Form AD-1006, Noncorridor Projects
Appendix B	Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Instructions for Form AD-1006

This page intentionally left blank.

1 Land Evaluation and Site Assessment

1.1 Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the results of the land evaluation and site assessment (LESA) for the Dennis Underwood Conservation project (project). The LESA analysis was performed in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requirements. The purpose of the FPPA is to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses (Title 7 United States Code 4201, et seq. and its regulations, Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations [C.F.R.] Chapter VI Part 658). Pursuant to the FPPA, federal agencies are required to follow criteria developed by the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, as follows:

- To use criteria to identify and take into account the adverse effects of their programs on the preservation of farmland
- To consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could lessen adverse effects of their programs on the preservation of farmland
- To ensure that their programs, to the extent practicable, are compatible with State and units of local government and private programs and policies to protect farmland

1.2 Project Site

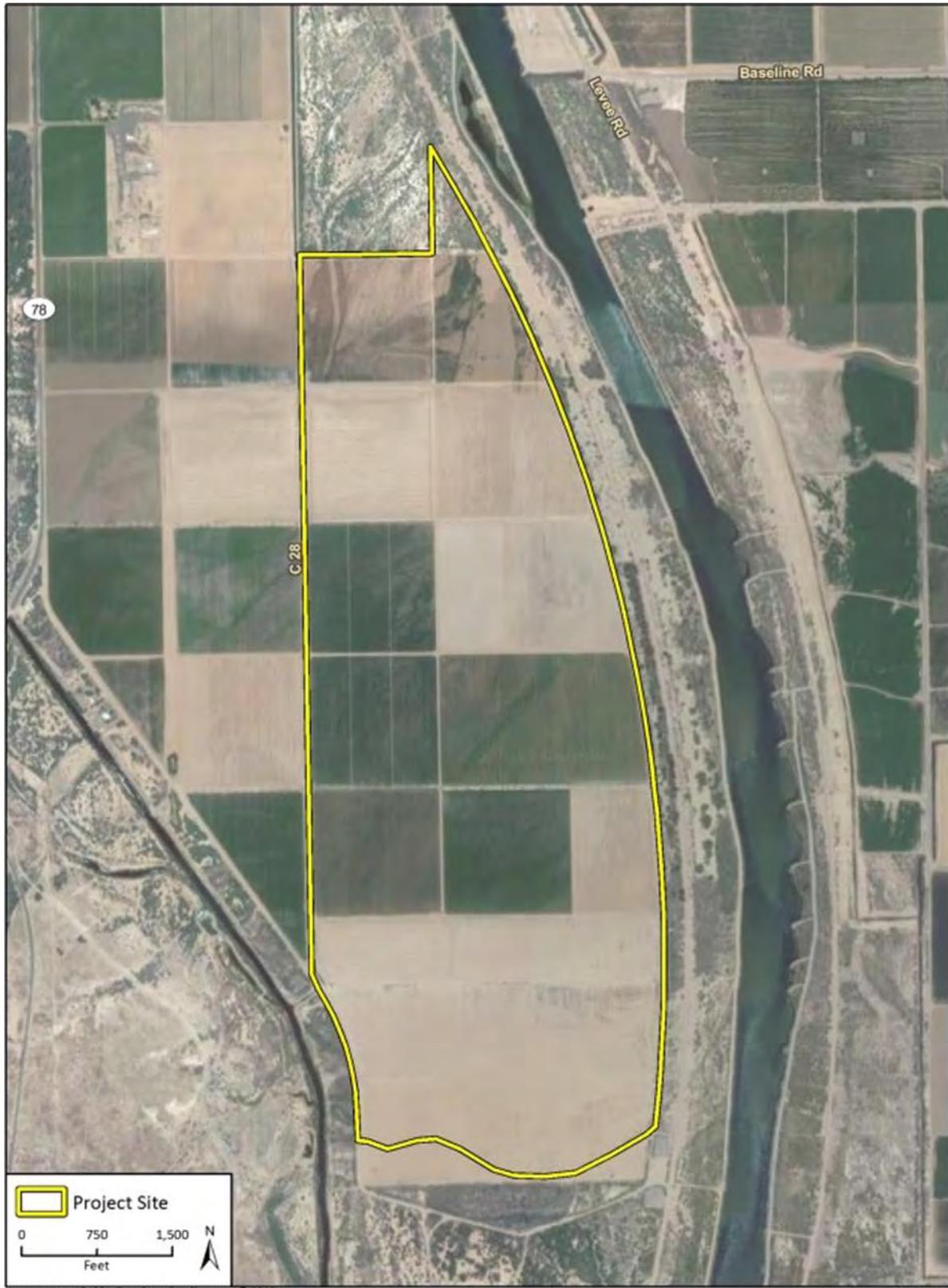
As shown on Figure 1, the project site is located in the Palo Verde Valley in Imperial County, south of Interstate 10 and the city of Blythe. The project would involve returning 635 acres of farmland directly adjacent to the Colorado River (River Miles 97-99) into native riverine habitat. The project is being jointly implemented by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the Bureau of Reclamation to satisfy a component of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) to conserve habitat and work toward the recovery of threatened and endangered species, as well as reduce the likelihood of additional species being listed.

1.3 Land Evaluation and Site Assessment

1.3.1 Methodology

As required by the FPPA implementing regulations (Title 7, C.F.R., Part 658), LESA calculations were performed using the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Form AD-1006 for noncorridor projects to determine an overall farmland conversion score. Rincon Consultants coordinated with Sam Cobb, District Conservationist at the USDA NRCS Blythe field office to complete Part I, Part IV (Land Evaluation), and Part V of Form AD-1006. Rincon Consultants independently prepared Part I, Part III, and Part VI (Site Assessment). The Site Assessment was prepared primarily using GIS Software and Google Earth. Both the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment were prepared using the FPPA Manual, *Farmland Conversion Impact*

Figure 1 Project Site



Rating for Noncorridor Projects: Instructions and Example (USDA NRCS 2013; Appendix B). The FPPA manual provides scoring criteria for each of the twelve factors used for site assessment of noncorridor projects. These criteria are listed in an outline form without detailed definitions or guidelines, and therefore, the criteria are subjective in nature. To provide rationale for scoring each of the twelve factors, Rincon has included a description of how each factor was analyzed as well as graphics where relevant.

The total LESA rating for the project was determined by adding the land evaluation score (up to 100 points) and site assessment scores (up to 160 points). Once the LESA score is computed, the USDA recommends the following:

1. Sites with the highest combined scores be regarded as most suitable for protection under these criteria and sites with the lowest scores, as least suitable.
2. Sites receiving a total score of less than 160 need not be given further consideration for protection and no additional sites need to be evaluated.
3. Sites receiving scores totaling 160 or more be given increasingly higher levels of consideration for protection.
4. When making decisions on proposed actions for sites receiving scores totaling 160 or more, agency personnel consider:
 - a. Use of land that is not farmland or use of existing structures;
 - b. Alternative sites, locations and designs that would serve the proposed purpose but convert either fewer acres of farmland or other farmland that has a lower relative value;
 - c. Special siting requirements of the proposed project and the extent to which an alternative site fails to satisfy the special siting requirements as well as the originally selected site;
 - d. Federal agencies may elect to assign the site assessment criteria relative weightings other than those shown in section 658.5 (b) and (c).
 - e. It is advisable that evaluations and analyses of prospective farmland conversion impacts be made early in the planning process before a site or design is selected, and that where possible, agencies make the FPPA evaluations part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

1.3.2 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Results

As summarized in Table 1, and shown on Form AD-1006 in Appendix A, the project site received a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating score of 146 points. As described in Section 1.3.1, Methodology, above, the USDA recommends that sites receiving a total score of less than 160 need not be given further consideration for protection and no alternative sites need to be evaluated (Title 7, C.F.R., Part 658).

Table 1 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Results

	Land Evaluation Score	Site Assessment Score	Total LESA Score
Dennis Underwood Conservation Area project	69	77	146
Refer to Appendix A, Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form AD-1006			

1.4 Part VI, Site Assessment Scoring

According to the FPPA, the site assessment criteria is designed to assess important factors other than agricultural value (relative value) of the land when determining which sites should receive the highest level of protection from conversion to nonagricultural uses [Title 7, C.F.R., Section 658.5 (b)]. As described in Section 1.3.1, Methodology, the Site Assessment was prepared using the FPPA Manual, *Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Noncorridor Projects: Instructions and Example* (USDA NRCS 2013; Appendix B). Twelve factors are used for site assessment of noncorridor projects. Each of the twelve factors are listed in an outline form with definitions or guidelines to follow in the rating process. As described in the FPPA Manual, a numbered rating system is used for each of the twelve factors to determine which sites should receive the most protection from conversion to nonfarm uses. The higher the number given to a proposed site, the more protection it should receive (USDA NRCS 2013).

The site assessment analysis is provided in Section 1.5, below. Scoring for each of the twelve factors is provided in Appendix B, FPPA Manual, *Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Noncorridor Projects: Instructions and Example*. In the FPPA Manual, refer to Section 523.61, Part VI, to view a description of how each factor should be scored.

1.5 Part IV, Site Assessment Analysis

Factor 1: How much land is in nonurban use within a radius of a 1.0 mile from where the project is intended?

According to the FPPA Manual, the purpose of this factor is to ensure that the most valuable and viable farmlands are protected from development projects sponsored by the Federal government. For this factor, the more agricultural lands surrounding the parcel boundary, the more protection from development the site should receive (i.e., the more points a project site should receive).

For Factor 1, a one-mile buffer was applied to the project boundary to assess urban versus nonurban lands within the buffer. Refer to Table 2 for example classifications of nonurban and urban land.

If 90 percent or more of the land within the one-mile buffer is nonurban land, a maximum of 15 points are assigned. As shown on Figure 2, there are no urban land uses within one mile of the project site. The project site was assigned 15 points out of 15 total points possible for Factor 1.

Figure 2 Nonurban Use within 1-Mile Radius

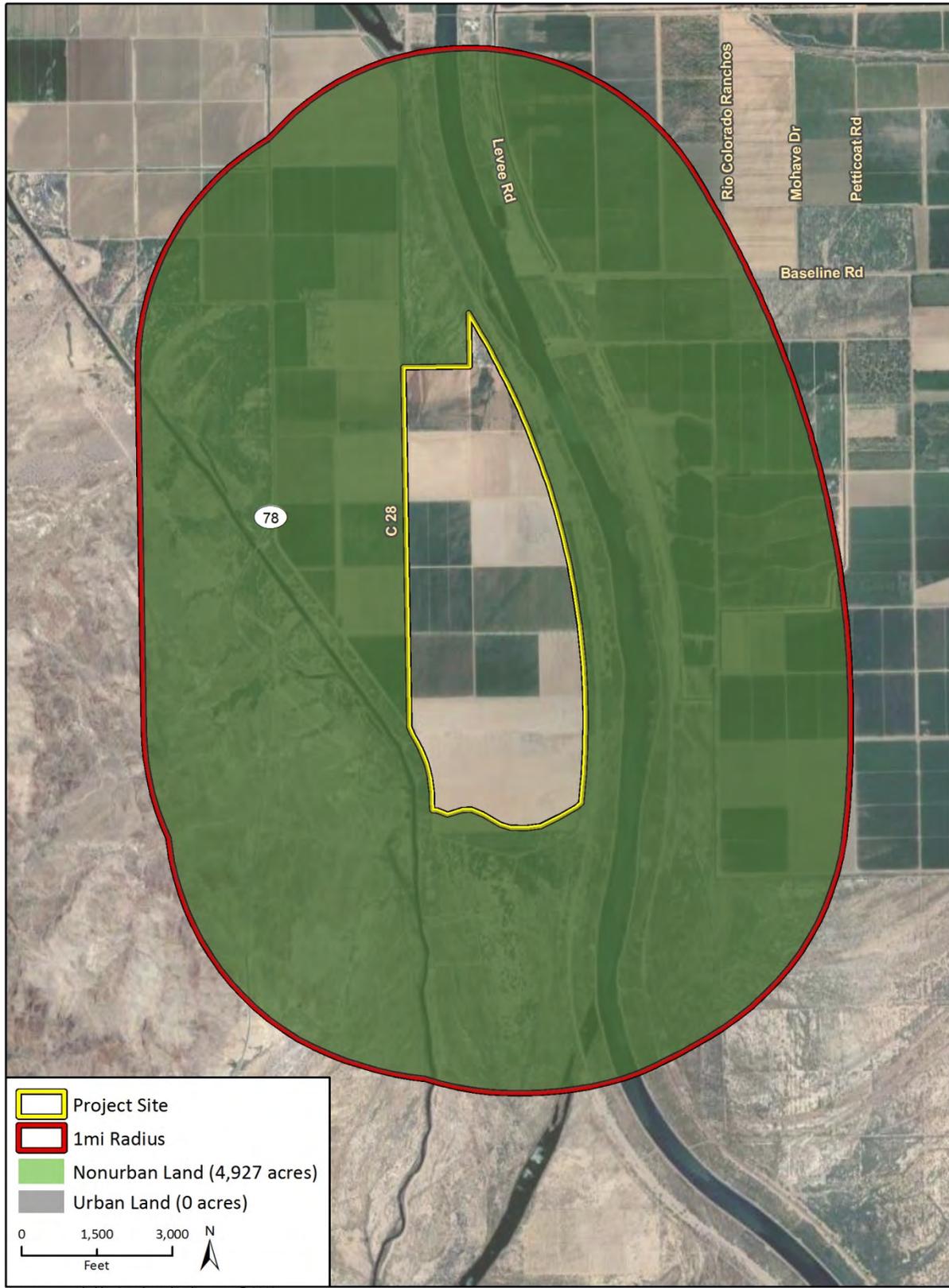


Table 2 Examples of Nonurban and Urban Land

Nonurban Land	Urban Land
Agricultural land (crops, fruit trees, nuts, oilseed)	Houses (other than farmhouses)
Rangeland	Apartment buildings
Forest land	Commercial buildings
Golf Courses	Industrial buildings
Nonpaved parks and recreational areas	Paved recreational areas (i.e., tennis courts)
Mining sites (Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-87) exempted from FPPA)	Streets in areas with 30 structures per 40 acres
Farm storage	Gas stations
Lakes, ponds, and other water bodies	Equipment and supply stores
Rural roads and through roads without houses or buildings	Off-farm storage
Open space	Processing plants
Wetlands	Shopping malls
Fish production	Utilities and services
Pasture or hayland	Medical buildings

Source: USDA NRCS 2013

Factor 2: How much of the perimeter of the site borders on land in nonurban use?

This factor evaluates the general location of the proposed site and the perimeter of the site using the definition of urban and nonurban uses provided in Table 2. If nonurban land uses border 90 percent or more of the project’s perimeter, a maximum of 10 points are assigned. As shown in Figure 3, 100 percent of the project perimeter is characterized as nonurban land use. The project site was assigned 10 points out of 10 total points possible for Factor 2.

Factor 3: How much of the site has been farmed (managed for a scheduled harvest or timber activity) more than five of the last 10 years?

According to the FPPA Manual, land is considered farmed when it is used or managed for food or fiber, including timber products, fruit, nuts, grapes, grain, forage, oilseed, fish and meat, and poultry and dairy products. Land that has been left to the growth of native vegetation within management or harvest is considered abandoned and therefore not farmed. The project site was evaluated and rated according to the percent of the site farmed. As shown on Figure 4, Google Earth was used to identify the approximate percentage of the site managed for a scheduled harvest or timber activity in at least five of the last 10 years.

If 90 percent or more of the project site has been farmed in at least five of the 10 years, a maximum of 20 points are assigned. If less than 20 percent of the project site has been farmed in the same time period, 0 points are assigned.

As shown in Figure 4, Google Earth was used to identify the acreage of the project site that was farmed over the last five years. As shown in Table 3, approximately 33 percent (209 acres) of the project site has been farmed over the last 5 years (i.e., 2017, 2014, 2013, 2012, and 2011). Based on the scoring for this factor, if 32 to 34 percent of the site has been farmed in the last five years, the project site is assigned 5 points out of 20 total points possible for Factor 3.

Figure 3 Bordering Land in Nonurban Use

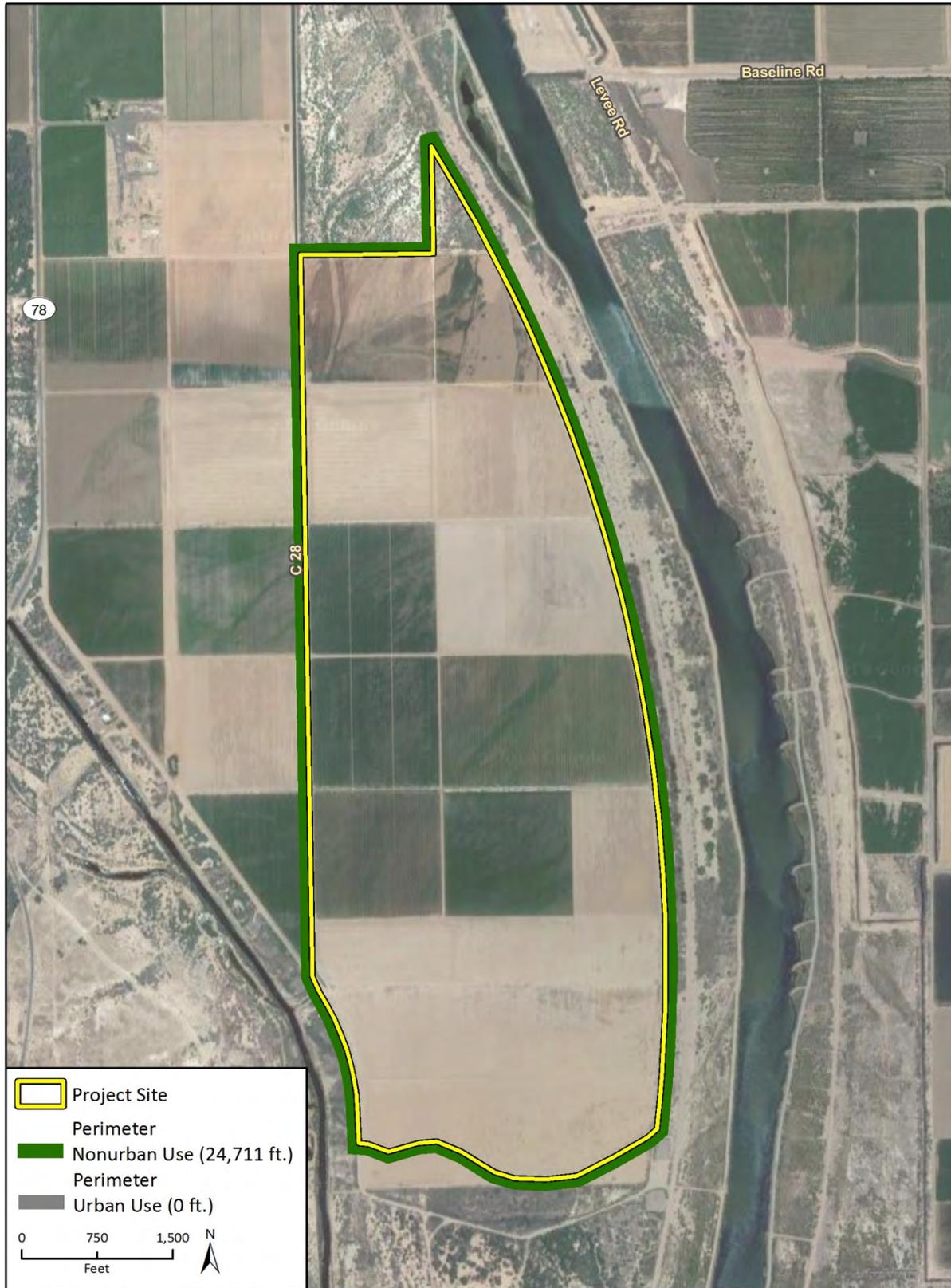


Figure 4 Farm Activity Over the Last Five Years

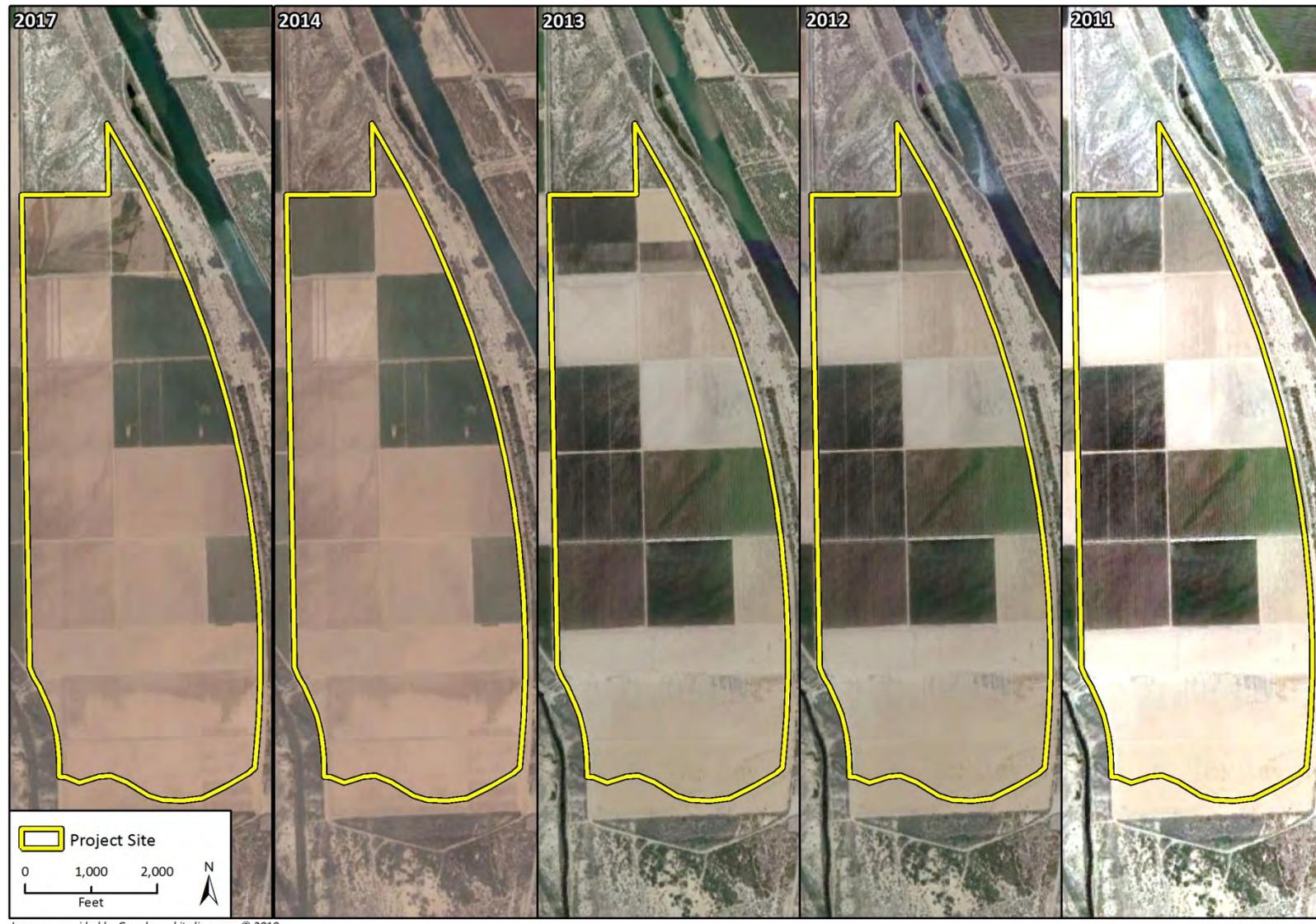


Table 3 Acreage of Site Farmed in the Last Five Years

Year	Acreage of Project Site Farmed
2018	No data*
2017	114
2016	No data*
2015	No data*
2014	152
2013	251
2012	263
2011	263
Average (percent) over 5 years	209 (33%)

*Aerial photos not available
Source: Google Earth

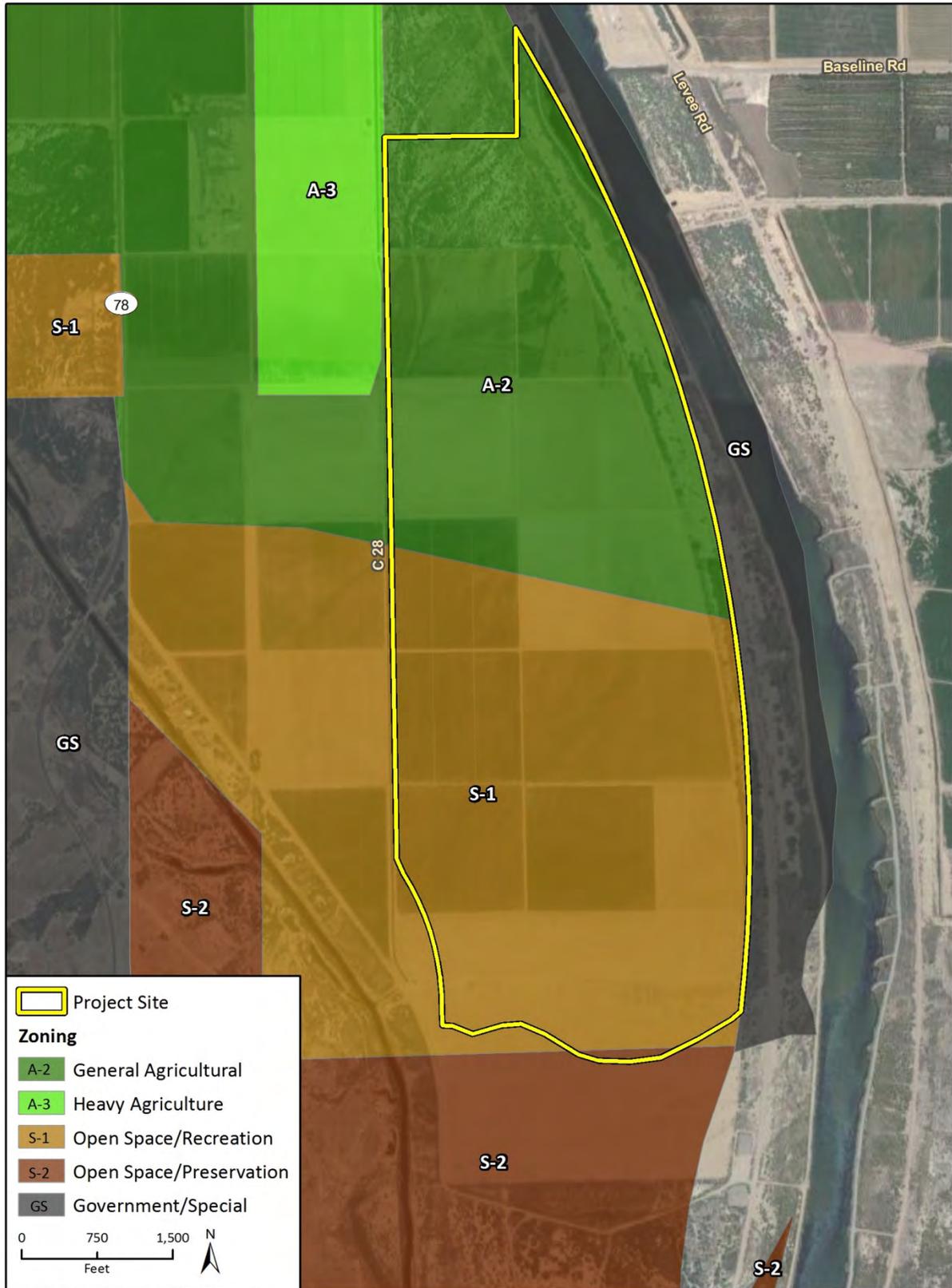
Factor 4: Is the site subject to State or unit of local government policies or programs to protect farmland or covered by private programs to protect farmland?

The list of State and local policies and programs to protect farmland that are considered in this factor include the following:

- 1) Tax Relief – Differential Assessment, Income Tax Credits, and Estate and Inheritance Tax Benefits
- 2) “Right to Farm” Laws
- 3) Agricultural Districting
- 4) Land Use Controls: Agricultural Zoning
- 5) Development Rights
- 6) Governor’s Executive Order
- 7) Voluntary State Programs
- 8) Mandatory State Programs

If the project site is subject to one or more of the above programs, 20 points are assigned. If the project site is not subject to the above programs, 0 points are assigned. The project site is subject to Land Use Controls: Agricultural Zoning. As shown on Figure 5, approximately 286.96 acres (45 percent), of the project site is zoned A-2, General Agricultural, according to Imperial County Zoning Maps (and designated Agriculture according to the Imperial County Land Use Plan). In addition, Imperial County has Right-to-Farm Provisions (County Code Chapter 5.56) intended to reduce the loss of agricultural resources in the county by clarifying the circumstances under which agricultural operations may be considered a nuisance and promoting a good neighbor policy by advising to purchasers and users of property adjacent to or near agricultural operations of the inherent potential problems associated with agricultural operations (including but not limited to, noises, odors, light, fumes, insects, dust, chemicals, smoke, the operation of machinery). The project would

Figure 5 Zoning Designations



Imagery provided by Google and its licensors © 2018.
Zoning data provided by County of Imperial, 2018.

involve the restoration of the site to native riverine habitat, which will not conflict with adjacent land uses and thus not conflict with the Right-to-Farm Provisions.

For the purpose of the Federal Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), “Important Farmland” includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. FPPA Important Farmland designations were evaluated for the project site by the USDA NRCS under the Land Evaluation portion of the LESA (See Appendix A); therefore, these designations do not apply to Factor 4 of the Site Assessment. The project site is not located within land designated as Williamson Act land and therefore is not subject to the California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) (California Department of Conservation 2018). Furthermore, the project site consists of one parcel, parcel 006-150-065, which does not receive tax relief (Sergio 2018).

Because no other protections, other than agriculture zoning and Imperial County Right-to-Farm provisions, apply to the project site, and only 45 percent of the project site is zoned agriculture, the project site was preliminarily assigned 9 points out of a 20 total points possible for Factor 4. However, because the site is not being permanently converted from agricultural use and the site could be returned to farming in the future, the total points for Factor 4 were reduced to 6 points.

Factor 5: How close is the site to an urban built-up area?

According to the FPPA Manual, an urban built-up area must have a population of at least 2,500. The measurement should be made from the point in the built-up area at which the density is 30 structures per 40 acres to a point on the site’s perimeter and there should be no open or nonurban land use between the major built-up area and this point. Suburbs adjacent to cities or urban built-up areas should be considered as part of that urban area.

If the project site is more than 10,560 feet from the perimeter of the project site to an urban area, as defined above, a maximum of 15 points are assigned. If the project site is less than 760 feet, 0 points are assigned. The closest urban built-up area, as defined above, is the unincorporated community of Blythe, located north of the project site. According to the 2016 population estimates, Blythe has a population of 19,675 (United States Census Bureau 2018). As shown in Figure 6 below, the closest distance to Blythe is 87,641 feet. The project site was assigned 15 points out of 15 total points possible for Factor 5, since it is more than 10,560 feet from the perimeter of the project site to an urban built-up area, as defined above.

Factor 6: How close is the site to water lines, sewer lines, or other local facilities and services whose capacities and design would promote nonagricultural use?

According to the FPPA manual, facilities or services that could promote nonagricultural use include the following:

- 1) Water lines
- 2) Sewer lines
- 3) Power lines
- 4) Gas lines
- 5) Circulation (roads)
- 6) Fire and police protection
- 7) Schools

Figure 6 Distance from Project Site Perimeter to Urban Area



The distance to public facilities was measured from the perimeter of the parcel to the nearest sites where the facilities are located. Where more than one distance existed (i.e., from site to water and from site to sewer), the average distance was used.

If none of the services exist within three miles of the site, 15 points are assigned. If some of the services exist within three miles but more than one mile from the site, 10 points are assigned. If all of the services exist within ½ mile of the site, 0 points are assigned. As shown on Figure 7 and in Table 4, two of these facilities or services exist more than one-mile, but less than three miles from the project site. The project site was assigned 10 points out of 15 total points possible for Factor 6.

Table 4 Distance to Urban Support Services

Facility/Service	Distance feet (miles)
CA State Highway 78	2,560 feet (0.5-mile)
Palo Verde Christian Fellowship	7,802 (1.5 miles)
Palo Verde County Park	10,219 (1.9 miles)
Palo Verde (CDP)	21,134 (4 miles)
Imperial County Sheriff	22,418 (4.3 miles)
Ripley Fire Station	57,737 (10 miles)
Peter McIntyre County Park	67,654 (12.8 miles)
Blythe Water Treatment Plant	86,101 (16.3 miles)
Felix J Appleby Elementary School	88,770 (16.8 miles)
Services within 3 miles, but greater than 1 mile from site	Two of the above facilities/services

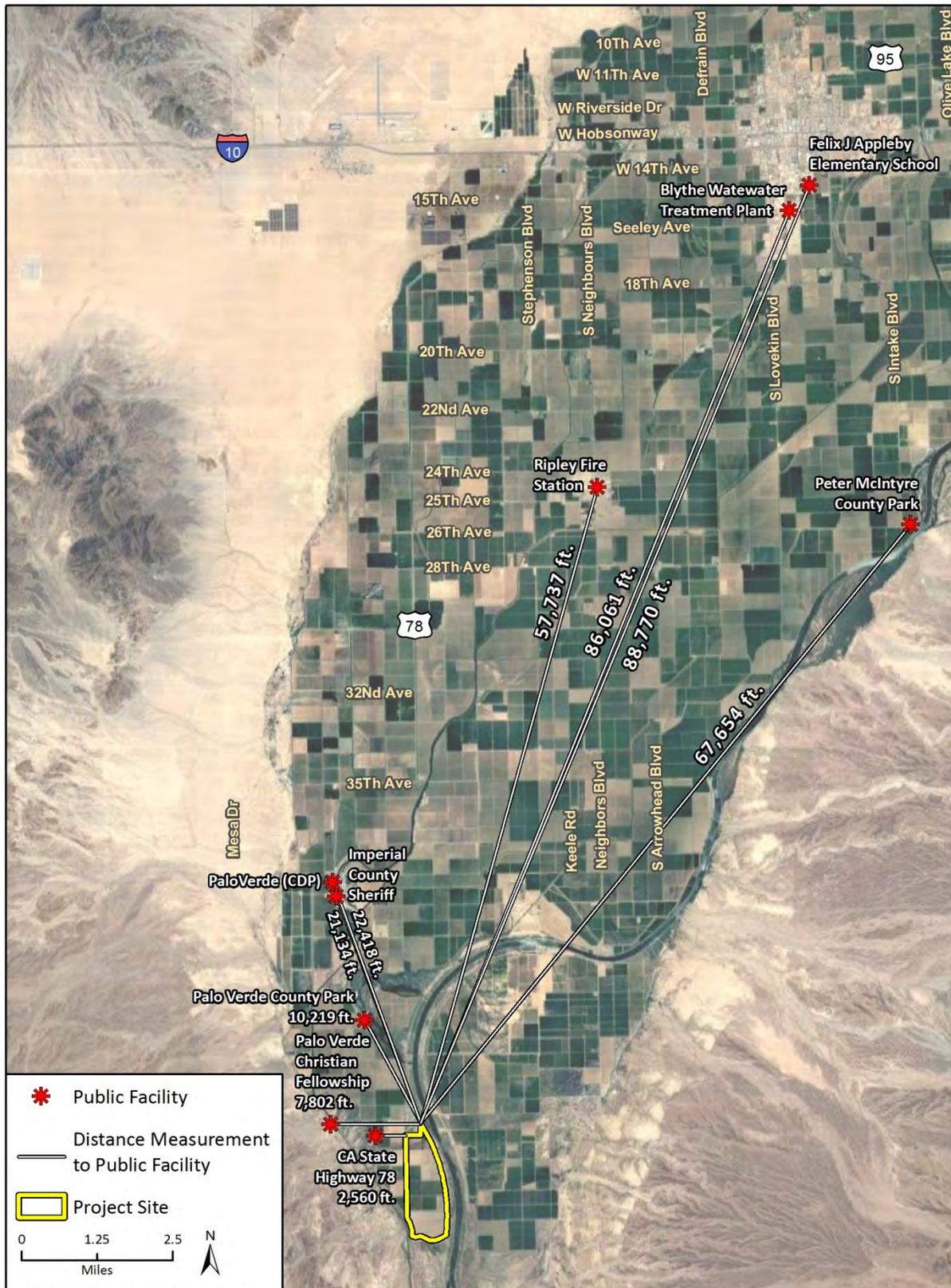
(CDP) = Census Designated Place

Factor 7: Are the farm units containing the site (before the project) as large as the average-size farming unit in the county?

This factor is designed to determine the agricultural use value the land possess, according to its size in relation to the average size of farming units within the county. The larger the parcel of land, the more agricultural use value the land possesses, and vice versa. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the average farm size in Imperial County is 1,225 acres (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS] 2012). The average farm size for Imperial County was confirmed by the USDA NRCS Blythe Field Office (Cobb 2018). If the parcel size of the project site is the same size or larger than the county average, 10 points are assigned. If the parcel size is between 80 and 84 percent of the county average, 6 points are assigned. If the parcel size of the project site is 50 percent of the county average or below, 0 points are assigned.

Figure 8 depicts the location and size of the accessor parcel number in relation to the project site. Table 5 lists the project site’s parcel number, parcel size, and parcel size in relation to average county size by percentage. The project site consists of one parcel, parcel 006-150-065, which has a parcel size of 1,030 acres, or 84 percent of the average size farming unit in Imperial County (i.e., 1,225 acres). Sites with 80 to 84 percent of the average farm size are assigned 6 points.

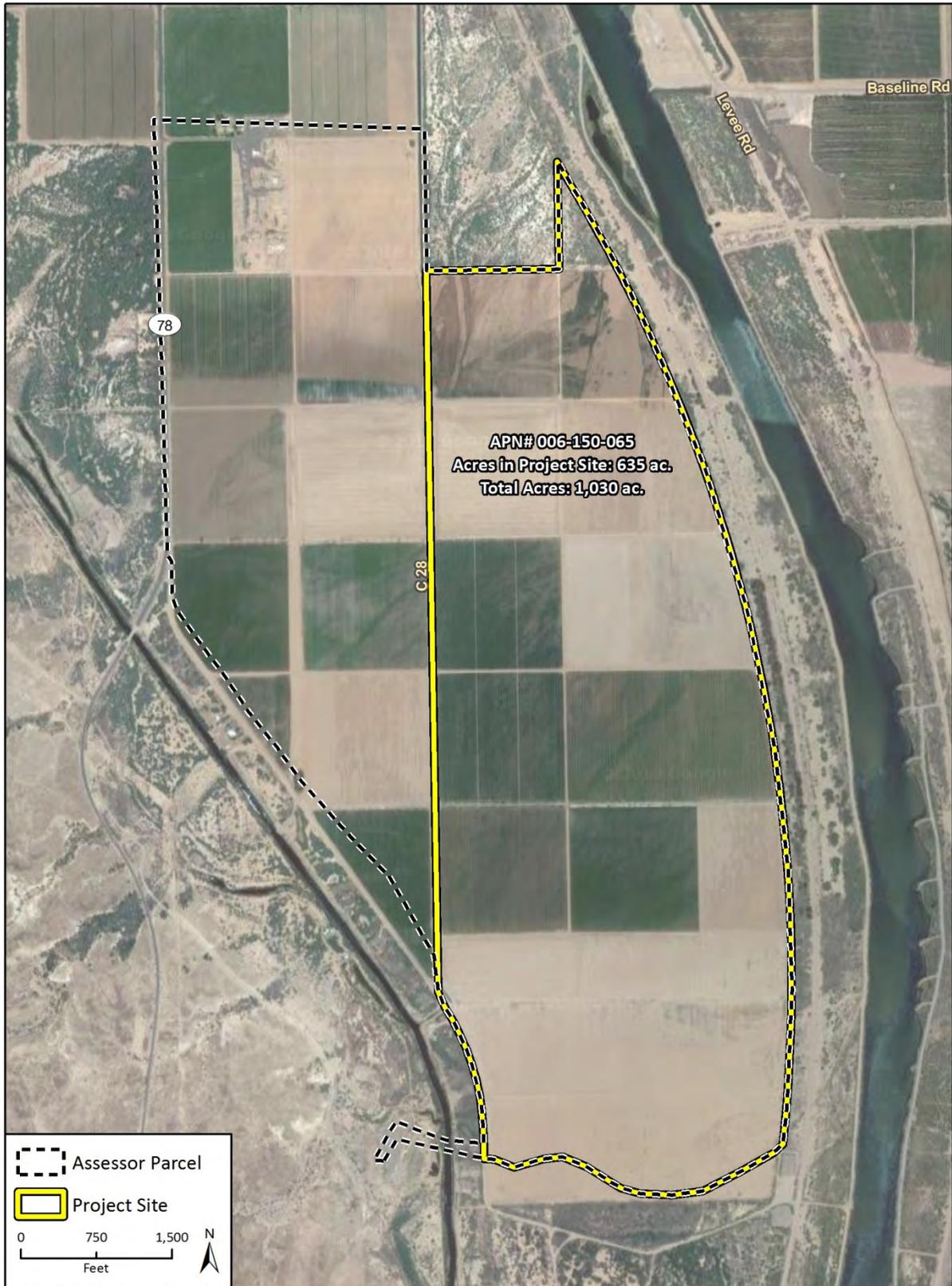
Figure 7 Distance to Urban Support Services



Imagery provided by Google and its licensors © 2018.
 Additional Data provided by U.S. Census, U.S. National Atlas Urbanized Areas, 2010.

Fig X Distance to Public Facilities

Figure 8 Assessor Parcel Number



Imagery provided by Google and its licensors © 2018.
Parcel data modified from data provided by County of Imperial, 2018.

LESA FigX Project Parcels 20180226

Table 5 Parcel Size in Relation to Average County Size

Accessor Parcel Number	Parcel Size (Acres)	Parcel Size in Relation to Average County Size (Percentage)
006-150-065	1,030	84.0

Source: Imperial County, GIS Shapefiles, 2018.

Note: Figure 8 and Table 5 are based on modified Imperial County parcel data.

Factor 8: If this site is chosen for the project, how much of the remaining land on the farm will become nonfarmable because of interference with land patterns?

Conversions that make the rest of the property nonfarmable include any development that blocks accessibility to the rest of the site. Examples of these developments are highways, railroads, dams, and development along the front of the site that restricts access to the rest of the property.

If 25 percent or more of the land, not including the site, will become nonfarmable due to interference with land patterns, 10 points are assigned. If 5 percent or less of the site will become nonfarmable due to interference with land patterns, 0 points are assigned. The project would involve the restoration of the site to native riverine habitat. Prior to habitat restoration, the site would be prepared for planting. Project construction activities include excavation, land preparation, irrigation installation and maintenance, hand or mass transplanting of cottonwood-willow and honey mesquite land cover types, existing road maintenance, installation of monitoring wells, and invasive species removal. The project site could be returned to farming in the future; therefore, the project site was assigned the lowest number of points for this factor. This factor was assigned 0 points out of 10 total points possible for Factor 8.

Factor 9: Does the site have available adequate supply of farm support services and markets (i.e., farm suppliers, equipment dealers, processing and storage facilities, and farmer’s markets)?

This factor is used to assess whether there are adequate support facilities, activities, and industry to support the farming business. If 100 percent of the site has available agricultural support services, 5 points are assigned. If no agricultural support services are available, 0 points are assigned. Farm suppliers, agricultural equipment dealers, and agricultural inspection stations are available in Blythe, 14 miles north of the project site. Therefore the project site was assigned 3 points out of 5 total points possible for Factor 9, as some agricultural services are available.

Factor 10: Does the site have substantial and well-maintained on-farm investments such as barns, other storage buildings, fruit trees and vines, field terraces, drainage, irrigation, waterways, or other soil and water conservation measures?

This factor assesses the quantity of agricultural facilities in place on the proposed site. If significant agricultural infrastructure exists, as much or more than necessary to maintain production (i.e., 100 percent), the parcel should receive the highest amount of points possible (20 points) toward protection from conversion or development. If there is little on-farm investment, as little as 0 to 4

percent of existing agricultural infrastructure, the site will receive comparatively less protection, or as little as 0 points.

As shown Figure 1, the project site is adjacent on the west to an irrigation canal. The project description indicates that irrigation is already installed on the project site. The site does not contain barns, storage buildings, fruit trees or vines. It was assumed the project site has approximately 25 to 29 percent of existing agriculture infrastructure to support on-farm investment; therefore, the project site was assigned 5 points out of 20 total points possible for Factor 10.

Factor 11: Would the project at this site, by converting farmland to nonagricultural use, reduce the support for farm support services so as to jeopardize the continued existence of these support services and thus the viability of the farms remaining in the area?

This factor determines the extent to which agriculturally related activities, businesses, or jobs are dependent upon this project site in order for the others to remain in production. The more people and farming activities relying upon this land, the more protection it should receive from conversion.

Scoring for this factor is based on the amount of reduction (i.e., percentage reduction of agricultural support services) in agricultural support services that would result by converting this project site to nonagricultural use. If a substantial reduction (i.e., 100 percent) in demand for support services were to occur as a result of conversions, the project site should receive 10 total points possible for Factor 11. If the project site were likely to result in some reduction in demand, the project site should receive 9 points to 1 point (depending on the level of reduction); and no significant reduction in demand would receive 0 points.

The reduction in agricultural support services for the site can be estimated based on the recent farming activity of the site. As shown in Figure 4 and summarized in Table 3 only 33 percent of the site has been farmed in the last 5 years. Therefore, it was assumed that the project site likely supported some agricultural services while in farmland production. The project site was assigned 2 points, as there will be a reduction in demand for farm support services, but the project will not jeopardize the continued existence of these support services in the area.

Factor 12: Are the kind of intensity of the proposed use of the site sufficiently incompatible with agriculture that it is likely to contribute to the eventual conversion of the surrounding farmland to nonagricultural use?

This factor determines whether conversion of the proposed agricultural site will eventually cause the conversion of neighboring farmland as a result of incompatibility of use of the first with the latter. The more incompatible the proposed conversion is with agriculture, the more protection the site receives from conversion. If the project is incompatible with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland, 10 points is assigned. If the project is tolerable of existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland, 9 points to 1 point is assigned. If the project is fully compatible with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland, 0 points is assigned.

The project proposes the conversion of farmland to native riverine habitat. The site management, operation, and maintenance that will be performed by the Bureau of Reclamation to maintain the habitat restoration efforts would not be incompatible with the surrounding agricultural uses. The project was assigned 0 out of 10 points possible, since the project is fully compatible with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland.

2 References

- California Department of Conservation. 2018. Imperial County Williamson Act 2016/2017 Map.
Online: <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/>
- Cobb, Sam. 2018. Email communication with Sam Cobb on January 26, 2018 to request completion of USDA NRCS Form AD-1006 for noncorridor projects.
- Imperial County, 2015. Arc GIS Online Feature Service.
- Metropolitan Water District. 2018. GIS Shapefiles.
- Sergio, Luna. 2018. Email communication with Sergio Luna, Appraisal Supervisor, Agricultural and Commercial Section, Imperial County Assessors Office, on February 13, 2018 to request information regarding tax relief.
- United States Census Bureau. 2014. United States Populated Place Areas, GIS Shapefile.
- United States Census Bureau 2018. American Fact Finder. Table B01003 Total Population, Universe: Total Population, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Online: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_B01003&prodType=table
- United States Department of Agriculture. Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS). Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). 2013. Part 523-Farmland Protection Policy Act Manual, provided by Tony Rolfes, State Soil Scientist, Davis, CA.
- _____, National Agricultural Statistic Services (USDA NASS). 2012. 2012 Census of Agriculture. County Profile, Imperial County, California.

Appendix A

Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Form AD-1006, Noncorridor Projects

Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Form AD-1006, for the Dennis Underwood Project

U.S. Department of Agriculture						
FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING						
PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)				Date Of Land Evaluation Request 1/26/18		
Name of Project Dennis Underwood Conservatinon Area				Federal Agency Involved Bureau of Reclamation		
Proposed Land Use restoration to native riverine habitat				County and State Imperial County, CA		
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)				Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)				YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated 625
						Average Farm Size 900 ac
Major Crop(s) Alfalfa, Wheat, Cotton, Vegetables		Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: 625.00 % 100		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 625 % 99		
Name of Land Evaluation System Used Storie Index Rating		Name of State or Local Site Assessment System Soil Capability Class		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 02/09/2018		
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)				Alternative Site Rating		
				Site A	Site B	Site C
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				634.81		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly				0		
C. Total Acres In Site				634.81		
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				355.50		
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland				228.50		
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				625.00		
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				625.00		
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)				69		
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)				Maximum Points	Site A	Site B
1. Area In Non-urban Use				(15)	15	
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use				(10)	10	
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed				(20)	5	
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government				(20)	6	
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area				(15)	15	
6. Distance To Urban Support Services				(15)	10	
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average				(10)	6	
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland				(10)	0	
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services				(5)	3	
10. On-Farm Investments				(20)	5	
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services				(10)	2	
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use				(10)	0	
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS				160	77	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)				100	69	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)				160	77	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)				260	146	0
Site Selected:		Date Of Selection		Was A Local Site Assessment Used?		
				YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Reason For Selection:						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: Sam Cobb, District Conservationist						Date: 2/9/2018

(See Instructions on reverse side)

Form AD-1006 (03-02)

This page intentionally left blank.