

SECTION 4.0 IMPACTS DETERMINED TO BE LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT

The environmental process requires that the Lead Agency for a proposed project, in this case the City of Lake Elsinore, prepare a Notice of Preparation (NOP) that describes the proposed Project and summarizes the potential environmental impacts that could result from the implementation of the proposed Project. As permitted pursuant to Section 15060(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, an Initial Study was not completed as part of this process because the City determined that an EIR would “... be clearly required for a project...” and CEQA provides that in cases where a Lead Agency determines an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be required, they need not prepare an Initial Study. Therefore, this rRevised Draft EIR (rRevised DEIR) has been prepared to assess potentially significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed Project. The NOP and the supporting documentation for the proposed Project are provided in Appendix A of this rRevised DEIR.

Implementation of the proposed Project was determined to have no impact or a less than significant impact on both agriculture/forestry resources and mineral resources. Notably, no comments were received during the NOP scoping period expressing concern for these environmental areas. The rationale in support of this determination is provided in Section 4.1 and Section 4.2. Therefore, no further environmental analysis related to these environmental areas is required beyond this Section of the DEIR.

4.1 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The Project site consists mainly of vacant land within the Back Basin of Lake Elsinore. The existing ELSP is partially developed with the Summerly residential development and The Links at Summerly Golf Course located in proposed Planning Area PA-1; residential development in proposed Planning Areas PA-4 and PA-8; and some manufacturing/industrial development along Corydon Road. The Project site also maintains existing entitlements for construction of the Waterbury residential development, which allows for residential units in proposed Planning Area PA-2 and open-space in proposed PA-3. As shown in Figure 3-3 Existing Land Use of the City’s General Plan EIR, land use within the Project site is comprised of Vacant Land, Parks/Open Space, Transportation, Manufacturing/Industrial, Residential and Commercial uses. One parcel located along Mission Trail Road is identified as existing Agriculture land per the General Plan EIR; however, no agricultural operations are currently present within any areas of the Project site, including this parcel. No forestry resources occur within or adjacent to the Project site and the Cleveland National Forest is located over 0.5 mile away to the southwest.

The Project site is currently zoned as Specific Plan with allowed Residential, Open Space, Airport Use Area, and General Commercial land uses, per the City’s *General Plan Land Use Map, Zoning Map and Consolidated East Lake Specific Plan Land Use Plan*. None of the existing Project site is zoned or designated for agricultural use and none of the Project site is within an Agricultural Preserve per the *Riverside County Information Technology, Map My County* system (2016). The Project site also contains no “Prime Farmland”, “Unique Farmland” or “Farmland of Statewide Importance” per the *California Department of Conservation, California Important Farmland Finder* map system (2016). No agricultural preserves

established through the Williamson Act are present or have been since the existing ELSP was originally approved for developed urban uses in 1993.

Approximately 1,628 acres of the Project site are identified as “Farmland of Local Importance” per the *California Department of Conservation, California Important Farmland Finder* map system (2016) as shown of Figure 4-1. Farmland of Local Importance is characterized as land important to the local economy because it is either currently producing, or has the capability of production, but does not meet the criteria of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland¹. As discussed above, no current agricultural operations are present within the Project site and current zoning and land use designations do not include agricultural uses. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not reduce the amount of available Farmland of Local Importance more than development already approved under the existing ELSP. Based on the analysis above, ***impacts to agricultural and forestry resources would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.***

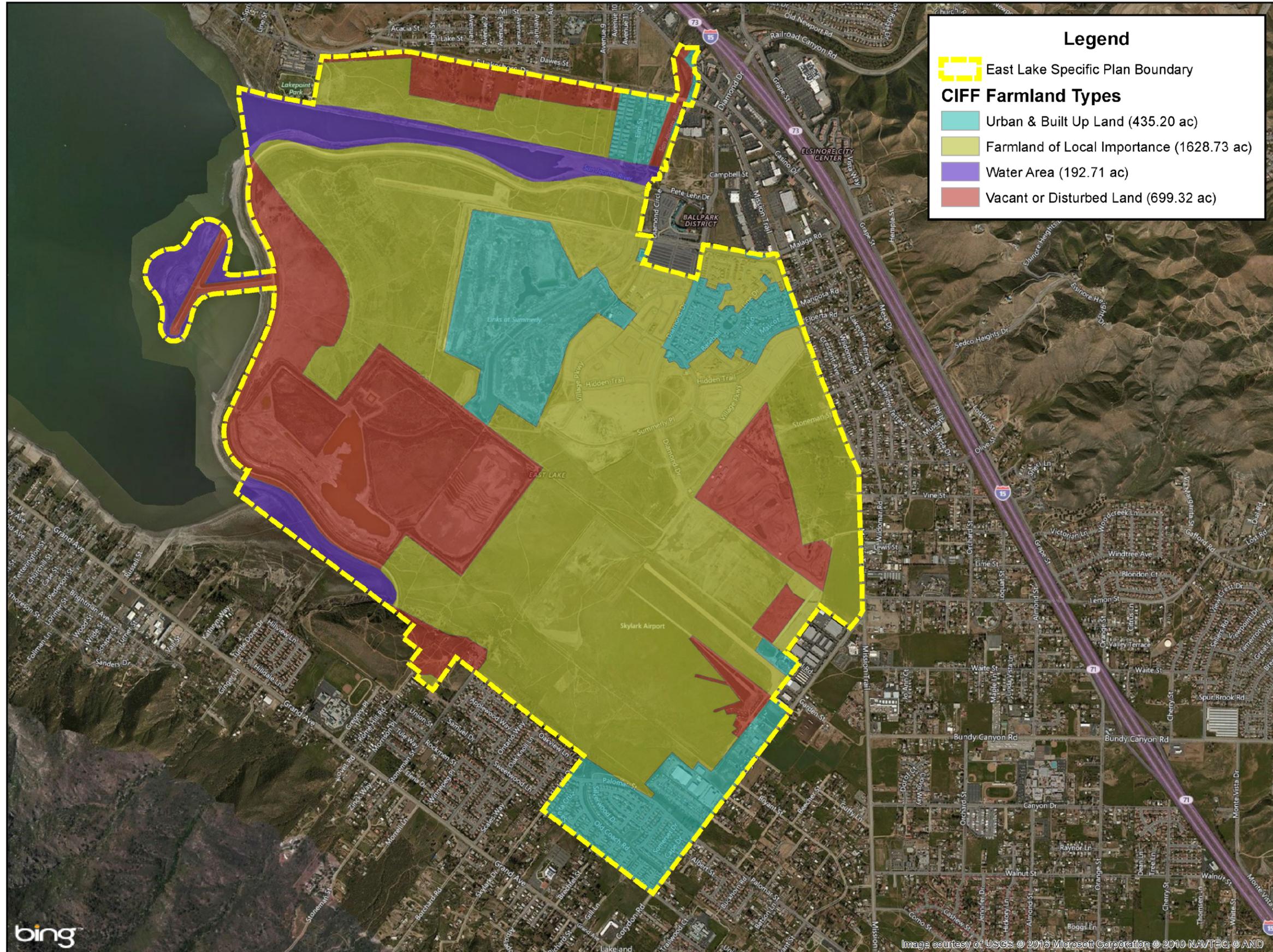
4.2 Mineral Resources

The City’s General Plan and the State of California Department of Conservation² do not identify the Project site or adjacent properties as a location containing mineral resources of State-wide, regional, or local significance. No existing mineral resource recovery operations are currently present in the Project site and the original ELSP noted that no sites containing significant mineral deposits are located within the specific plan area. In addition, current zoning and land use designations do not allow for mineral resource recovery operations at the Project site; thus, implementation of the proposed Project would not result in the loss of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) classifies the entire Project site and much of Western Riverside County as Mineral Resource Zone No. 3 (MRZ-3), as shown in Figure 4-2. MRZ-3 areas contain known mineral deposits that may qualify as mineral resources based on knowledge of economic characteristics of those resources, which is divided into two subcategories. MRZ-3a areas are considered to have a moderate potential for the discovery of economic mineral deposits. MRZ-3b is applied to land where geologic evidence leads to the conclusion that it is plausible that economic mineral deposits are present. As noted above, no existing mineral resource recovery operations are present and no known mineral resources occur at the Project site. In addition, the current land-use designations do not allow for mineral resource recovery activities. Based on the absence of known resources occurring at the Project site and the current zoning and land use designations, implementation of the proposed Project would result in a ***less than significant impact to mineral resources with no mitigation required.***

¹ California Department of Conservation
http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/mccu/Pages/map_categories.aspx

² California Department of Conservation:
ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/sr/sr_231/TemescalValley_MRZ_Plate1.pdf



Legend

East Lake Specific Plan Boundary

CIFF Farmland Types

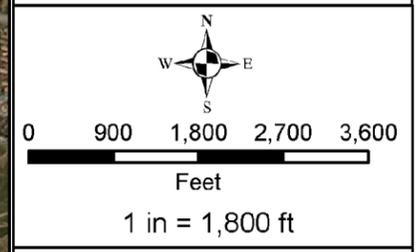
- Urban & Built Up Land (435.20 ac)
- Farmland of Local Importance (1628.73 ac)
- Water Area (192.71 ac)
- Vacant or Disturbed Land (699.32 ac)



CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

IMPORTANT FARMLAND



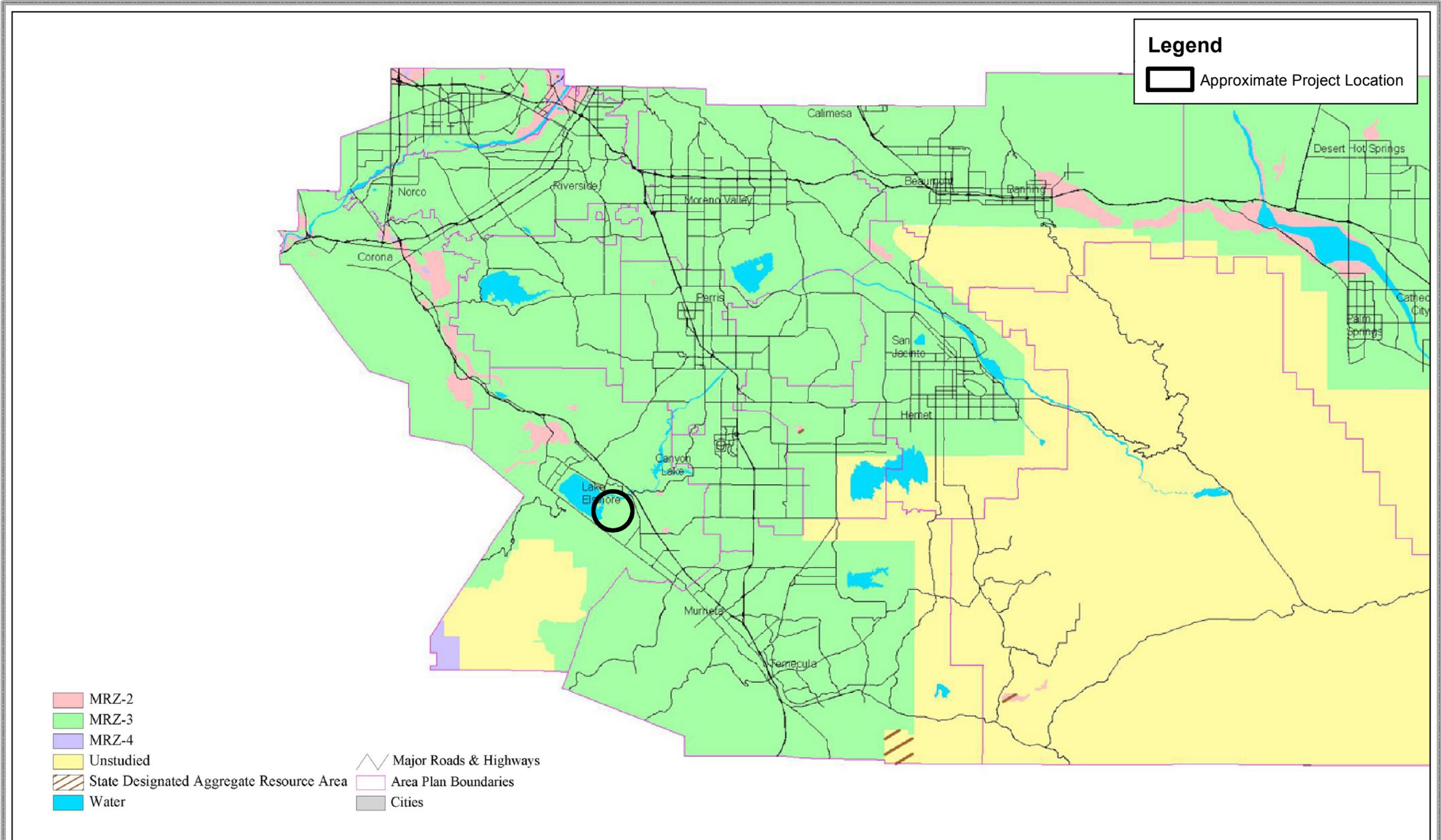
Map Date: November 2016
 Source: State of California Dept of Conservation



Source: VCS Environmental

Important Farmland, Figure 4-1

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- MRZ-2
- MRZ-3
- MRZ-4
- Unstudied
- State Designated Aggregate Resource Area
- Water
- Major Roads & Highways
- Area Plan Boundaries
- Cities

Legend
 Approximate Project Location

SOURCES: COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE
 MINERAL RESOURCE ZONES

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