



Route 180 Westside Expressway Route Adoption

Westside Farmlands

Farmland is the predominant land use within the project study area and its vicinity. The majority of the land where the corridor route alternatives are proposed is enrolled in Williamson Act contracts and designated by the California Department of Conservation as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance with a small portion classified as Farmland of Local Importance. These designations are described below:

- **Williamson Act Program:** The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (commonly referred to as the Williamson Act) enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments that are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value.
- **Prime Farmland:** Prime farmland is land that has 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, and without intolerable soil erosion.
- **Farmland of Statewide Importance:** Farmland of Statewide Importance is land other than Prime Farmland that has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops.
- **Farmland of Local Importance:** Farmland of Local Importance is either currently producing crops, has the capability of production, or is used for the production of confined livestock. This land may be important to the local economy due to its productivity or value.