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## 4.15 Wild and Scenic Rivers

The U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, maintains a national inventory of river segments that qualify for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. According to the National Rivers Inventory, the two closest wild and scenic river segments to LAX, a 33-mile segment of the Sisquoc River and a 31.5-mile segment of the Sespe Creek, are located over 50 miles to the northwest in Santa Barbara County in the Los Padres National Forest.<sup>637, 638</sup> In addition, no wild or scenic river segments listed pursuant to the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act<sup>639</sup> are within the City of Los Angeles. Due to the substantial distance from the airport and the intervening mountains between LAX and these river segments, the No Action/No Project Alternative and Alternatives A, B, C, and D would not adversely affect any wild and scenic rivers. Therefore, the No Action/No Project Alternative and the four build alternatives would be in compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542, as amended). Furthermore, none of the alternatives would contribute to a cumulative impact on any wild and scenic rivers.

## 4.16 Farmland

The Farmland Protection Policy Act authorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop criteria for identifying the effects of federal programs on the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. There are no farmlands in the vicinity of LAX, including prime or unique farmlands,<sup>640</sup> or farmland of statewide or local importance. The No Action/No Project Alternative and Alternatives A, B, C, and D would not remove any farmland from active production or otherwise adversely affect farmland, including prime or unique farmlands, or soil types designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Moreover, the No Action/No Project Alternative and Alternatives A, B, C, or D would not contribute to cumulative impacts on farmlands.

The California Land Conservation Act, 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 agriculture 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 as opposed to full market value. The objective is to limit the uses of specific private lands to farming and ranching uses over medium-term periods of time - typically ten years. The County of Los Angeles does not participate in the Williamson Act. As a result, no impacts to Williamson Act contract lands would occur. Moreover, the alternatives would not contribute to cumulative impacts on Williamson Act contract lands.

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<sup>637</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, December 1990.

<sup>638</sup> National Park Service, Wild & Scenic Rivers State-By-State List, Available: <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wildriverslist.html> [April 19, 2000].

<sup>639</sup> Public Resources Code §5093.50 et seq.

<sup>640</sup> Farmland can be designated as prime, unique, or of statewide or local importance. Prime Farmland is land that "has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, and fiber . . . without intolerable soil erosion" as determined by the California Secretary of Agriculture. Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high value food and fiber crops, as determined by the California Secretary of Agriculture.

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