

Farmland Conversion Impact Rating
For the Union Valley Parkway Extension/Interchange Project
March 1, 2008

Each of the interchange design variations would convert 16 acres of agriculturally zoned lands since the design variations have a substantially similar area of disturbance. None of the alignment alternatives would convert agriculturally zoned lands. However, in accordance with Natural Resource Conservation Service requirements, the alignment alternatives are evaluated as corridor alternatives. As indicated in the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor-Type Projects form, the assessment of the corridors for the build alternatives results in scores of 133 to 137 out of a possible 260 points. Accordingly, provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act would not be triggered.

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date Of Land Evaluation Request: March 1, 2008		4. Sheet 1 of 1	
1. Name of Project: Union Valley Parkway Extension/Interchange		5. Federal Agency Involved: FHWA			
2. Proposed Land Use: Roadway Corridor		6. County and State: City of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, California			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received By NRCS		2. Person Completing Form:	
3. Does the corridor 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 type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated	
5. Major Crop(s)		6. Farmable Land In Government Jurisdiction Acres: %		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
8. Name of Land Evaluation System Used		9. Name of State or Local Site Assessment System		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS	
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Corridor For Segment: UVP – 101 to Blosser Road			
		Preferred	Curved	Foster	Reduced
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		16 AC	16 AC	16 AC	16 AC
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		0 AC	0 AC	0 AC	0 AC
C. Total Acres In Site		16 AC	16 AC	16 AC	16 AC
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		100	100	100	100
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b & c. For Non-Corridor project use form AD-1006)		Maximum Points	Preferred	Curved	Foster
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)	8	8	8
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)	5	5	7
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		(20)	2	2	2
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)	0	0	0
5. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)	10	10	10
6. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(25)	0	0	0
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)	5	5	5
8. On-Farm Investments		(20)	4	4	4
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(25)	0	0	0
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)	1	1	1
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	35	35	37
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	100	100	100
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	35	35	37
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	135	135	137
1. Corridor Selected:		2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:		3. Date Of Selection	
				4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Reason For Selection:					

Signature of Federal agency representative completing this form: _____ Date: March 1, 2008

NOTE: Complete one form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

(See Instructions on reverse side)

STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

(Use this form only for Corridor type projects. Other projects use form AD-1006)

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Non-Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form AD-1006 in place of form NRCS-CPA-106
- Step 2 - Originator will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days. In the event NRCS fails to complete a response within the required period, the agency may proceed as though the site were not farmland.)
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA and the agency's internal policies.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

(For Federal Agency)

Part I: When completing the "County And State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

Part III: When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities) that will cause a direct conversion.

Part VI: Do not complete Part VI if a State or Local site assessment is used.

Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b and c) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, powerline and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 do not apply or show on form CPA-106, however, original criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and original criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.

Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points are equal to or exceed 160, FPPA suggests the agency consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites).

In rating alternative corridors, Federal agencies shall consider each of the criteria and assign points within the limits established in the FPPA rule. Corridors most suitable for protection under these criteria will receive the highest total scores, and sites least suitable, the lowest scores.

Part VII: In computing the "Total Corridor Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, adjust the site assessment points to a base of 160.

Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Corridor A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Corridor A}$$

For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.

NRCS employees consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete form NRCS-CPA-106.