

# Appendix E Natural Resources Conservation Service Impact Rating Form

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September 25, 2006

Ms. Amanda Johnson  
URS Corporation  
2020 East First Street, Suite 400  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Subject: Farmland Conversion Impact Rating-Hwy 101/Route 46 West Interchange Project SLO county, CA

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Enclosed is the NRCS completed "Farmland Conversion Impact Rating For Corridor Type Projects" form you sent us to process in accordance with the requirements of the Farmland Protection Policy Act for land proposed to be converted as part of the U.S. Highway 101/ State Route 46 West Interchange Improvements Project-San Luis Obispo County, California.

A copy of the form (federal agency part completed) was faxed to Mr. Youji Yasui.

Included is a copy of the soil map of the proposed right-of-way area for corridors A and B combined. Prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance" are determined by the soil type delineated in the soil survey on land that has not been converted to urban buildup.

Soil map unit number(s) 157 (Lockwood shaly loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes) and 207 (Still Gravelly loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes) are listed as Prime farmland, and 158 (Lockwood shaly loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes) is listed as farmland of state wide importance under the Paso Robles Area Survey, San Luis Obispo County, California.

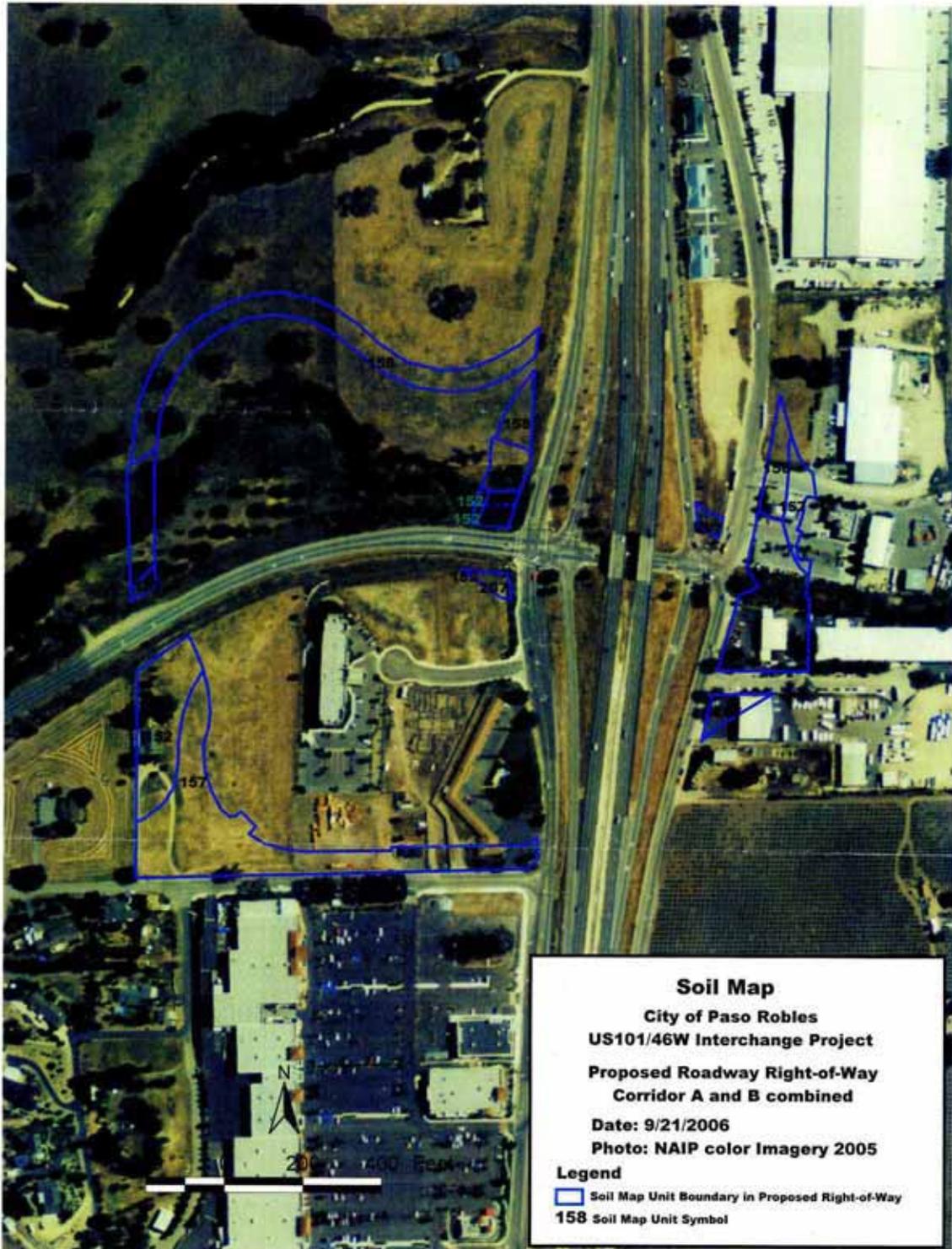
If you have any questions please contact me at the above phone number extension 108.

Sincerely,

Tina Vander Hoek  
Soil Conservationist

The Natural Resources Conservation Service works in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain natural resources on private lands.

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**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 9/11/06		Sheet 1 of 1	
1. Name of Project U.S. Route 101/Route 46 West Interchange Improvements Project		5. Federal Agency Involved Federal Highway Administration			
2. Type of Project Interchange Operational Improvements		6. County and State San Luis Obispo County, California			
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 9/14/06		2. Person Completing Form TINA VANDER HOEK	
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.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		4. Acres Irrigated 47,479		Average Farm Size 704	
5. Major Crop(s) WINE GRAPES, SMALL GRAIN, HAY		8. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 304,740 % 13.2		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 358,025 % 15.5	
6. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used CALIFORNIA STORE INDEX		9. Name of Local Site Assessment System NONE		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 9/25/2006	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	6,954	7,764		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0	0.0		
C. Total Acres In Corridor	6,954	7,764		

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information	Corridor A	Corridor B
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	3.80	3.50
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	.15	1.35
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	.0012961	.0015715
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information	Corridor A	Corridor B
Criterion Relative Value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)	64	62

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points	Corridor A	Corridor B
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	10	10
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	0	3
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	0	2
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20	20
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0	0
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	10
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5	5
8. On-Farm Investments	20	2	5
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0	3
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>58</b>

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Maximum Points	Corridor A	Corridor B
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	64	62
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	37	58
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>120</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?
5. Reason For Selection:			

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

NRCS-C PA-106 (Reverse)

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**CORRIDOR - TYPE SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The following criteria are to be used for projects that have a linear or corridor - type site configuration connecting two distant points, and crossing several different tracts of land. These include utility lines, highways, railroads, stream improvements, and flood control systems. Federal agencies are to assess the suitability of each corridor - type site or design alternative for protection as farmland along with the land evaluation information.

- (1) How much land is in nonurban use within a radius of 1.0 mile from where the project is intended?  
More than 90 percent - 15 points  
90 to 20 percent - 14 to 1 point(s)  
Less than 20 percent - 0 points
  
  - (2) How much of the perimeter of the site borders on land in nonurban use?  
More than 90 percent - 10 points  
90 to 20 percent - 9 to 1 point(s)  
Less than 20 percent - 0 points
  
  - (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?  
More than 90 percent - 20 points  
90 to 20 percent - 19 to 1 point(s)  
Less than 20 percent - 0 points
  
  - (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?  
Site is protected - 20 points  
Site is not protected - 0 points
  
  - (5) Is the farm unit(s) containing the site (before the project) as large as the average - size farming unit in the County ?  
(Average farm sizes in each county are available from the NRCS field offices in each state. Data are from the latest available Census of Agriculture, Acreage or Farm Units in Operation with \$1,000 or more in sales.)  
As large or larger - 10 points  
Below average - deduct 1 point for each 5 percent below the average, down to 0 points if 50 percent or more below average - 9 to 0 points
  
  - (6) If the site is chosen for the project, how much of the remaining land on the farm will become non-farmable because of interference with land patterns?  
Acreage equal to more than 25 percent of acres directly converted by the project - 25 points  
Acreage equal to between 25 and 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 1 to 24 point(s)  
Acreage equal to less than 5 percent of the acres directly converted by the project - 0 points
  
  - (7) 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?  
All required services are available - 5 points  
Some required services are available - 4 to 1 point(s)  
No required services are available - 0 points
  
  - (8) Does the site have substantial and well-maintained on-farm investments such as barns, other storage building, fruit trees and vines, field terraces, drainage, irrigation, waterways, or other soil and water conservation measures?  
High amount of on-farm investment - 20 points  
Moderate amount of on-farm investment - 19 to 1 point(s)  
No on-farm investment - 0 points
  
  - (9) Would the project at this site, by converting farmland to nonagricultural use, reduce the demand 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?  
Substantial reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 25 points  
Some reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 1 to 24 point(s)  
No significant reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted - 0 points
  
  - (10) Is the kind and intensity of the proposed use of the site sufficiently incompatible with agriculture that it is likely to contribute to the eventual conversion of surrounding farmland to nonagricultural use?  
Proposed project is incompatible to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 10 points  
Proposed project is tolerable to existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 9 to 1 point(s)  
Proposed project is fully compatible with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland - 0 points
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