

Appendix F Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form

**Highway 101 HOV Lane Widening and Improvements Project:
Steele Lane, Santa Rosa to Windsor River Road, Windsor**

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM (NRCS-CPA-106)

In compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 CFR 658.1-7), Parts I and III of the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (NRCS-CPA-106) and maps of the proposed project were submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for determination of whether any part of the project site is farmland subject to the Act. Their review and completion of Parts II, IV, and V on August 17, 2005 indicates that the proposed highway project would use approximately 1.11 to 1.30 hectares (2.74 to 3.21 acres) of prime and unique farmland. This represents approximately 0.0005 percent of the total farmland subject to the Act in Sonoma County.

The total site assessment criteria score for the project is 177. Based on federal regulation 7 CFR 658.4, sites receiving a total score of less than 160 points shall be given a minimal level of consideration for protection and no additional sites need to be evaluated. Sites receiving a total score of 160 or greater, however, shall be given stronger consideration for protection including the evaluation of alternative sites, locations, and/or designs.

The project has been designed to minimize impacts to farmlands within the project corridor. As described in Section 2.3.3, Variations on the Build Alternative, several interchange alternatives were considered to address operational deficiencies at the Fulton Road / Airport Boulevard Interchange Complex. These preliminary design concepts determined that widening primarily on the west side of the highway at the proposed Fulton Road / Airport Boulevard Interchange Complex would result in fewer overall environmental effects and would require considerably less right-of-way. There would be no effect on farmlands under the No-Build Alternative, however, the No-Build Alternative would not provide HOV lanes, reduce traffic congestion or address facility and operational deficiencies on the existing roadway. Based on the considerations reported above, it is determined that there is no practicable alternative to the proposed new construction in farmlands at the Fulton Road / Airport Boulevard Interchange Complex. To meet reporting requirements and for data collection purposes, Form CPA-1006 was resubmitted to the NRCS on February 20, 2006.

The Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form along with the Site Assessment Criteria and Point Rating are attached.

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FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM (NRCS-CPA-106)

The site assessment criteria, as described in 7 CFR 658.5, were developed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in cooperation with other Federal agencies. Each criterion is given a score on a scale of 0 to the maximum points established. Conditions suggesting top, intermediate and bottom scores are indicated for each criterion. The maximum points for each criterion are shown on the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (NRCS-CPA-106). The site assessment criteria and scores for each are described below.

1. **Area in Nonurban Use.** How much land is in nonurban use within a radius of 1.0 mile from where the project is intended?

Approximately 70 percent. (11 points)

2. **Perimeter in Nonurban Use.** How much of the perimeter of the site borders on land in nonurban use?

Approximately 40 percent. (3 points)

3. **Percent of Corridor Being Farmed.** How much of the site has been farmed (managed for a scheduled harvest or timber activity) more than five of the last ten years?

Approximately 100 percent. (20 points)

4. **Protection Provided by State and Local Government.** 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?

Two sites are protected by the Williamson Act. (20 points)

5. **Size of Present Farm Unit Compared to Average.** Is the farm unit(s) containing the site (before the project) as large as the average-size farming unit in the county?

Farming units containing the sites are less than 25 percent smaller than the Sonoma County average of 182 acres. (0 points)

6. **Creation of Non-farmable Farmland.** 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?

Estimated less than five percent.

(0 points)

7. **Availability of Farm Support Services.** 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?

Most services required are available.

(4 points)

8. **On-Farm Investments.** Does the site have substantial and well-maintained on-farm investments such as barns, other storage buildings, fruit trees and vines, field terraces, drainage, irrigation, waterways, or other soil and water conservation measures?

There are some existing on-farm investments on the farmland sites under consideration.

(15 points)

9. **Effects of Conversion of Farm Support Services.** 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?

No substantial reduction in demand for support services if the site is converted.

(0 points)

10. **Compatibility with Existing Agricultural Use.** 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 tolerable with existing agricultural use of surrounding farmland.

(5 points)

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

| | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------|
| PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency) | | 3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 8/17/05 | 4. Sheet 1 of 1 |
| 1. Name of Project Highway 101 HOV Lane Widening and Improvements Project Steels Lane, Santa Rosa to Windsor River Road, Windsor | | 5. Federal Agency Involved Federal Highway Administration | |
| 2. Type of Project Transportation (Highway) | | 6. County and State Sonoma, California | |

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|---|--|--|--|
| PART II (To be completed by NRCS) | | 1. Date Request Received by NRCS 8/21/05 | 2. Person Completing Form Jessica Strutzels |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> | | 4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size 15,901 182 | |
| 5. Major Crop(s) wheat, corn, alfalfa, winter wheat, lucerne | 8. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 627,227 % 62 | | 7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: [unclear] % |
| 6. Name of Land Evaluation System Used NRCS E INDEX | 9. Name of Local Site Assessment System N/A NOT AVAILABLE | 10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS | |

| 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 | 3.21 | | | |
| B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services | 0.00 | | | |
| C. Total Acres In Corridor | 3.21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|--|--|
| PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information | | | | |
| A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland | 3.21 | | | |
| B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland | 0 | | | |
| C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted | 0.0005% | | | |
| 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 Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points) | 99 | | | |
|---|----|--|--|--|

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|---|-----|----------------|---|---|---|
| PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c)) | | Maximum Points | | | |
| 1. Area in Nonurban Use | 15 | 11 | | | |
| 2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use | 10 | 3 | | | |
| 3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed | 20 | 20 | | | |
| 4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government | 20 | 20 | | | |
| 5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average | 10 | 0 | | | |
| 6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland | 25 | 0 | | | |
| 7. Availability Of Farm Support Services | 5 | 4 | | | |
| 8. On-Farm Investments | 20 | 15 | | | |
| 9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services | 25 | 0 | | | |
| 10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use | 10 | 5 | | | |
| TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS | 160 | 78 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|---|---|
| PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency) | | | | | |
| Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V) | 100 | 99 | | | |
| Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment) | 160 | 78 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines) | 260 | 177 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| 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 Person Completing this Part: Valerie [unclear] DATE: Sept 11, 2007

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