

California High-Speed Rail Authority

Bakersfield to Palmdale

Project Section

**Final Project Environmental Impact
Report/Environmental Impact
Statement**

Appendix 3.14-A: NRCS Forms

May 2021



The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 23, 2019, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of California.

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APPENDIX 3.14-A: NRCS FORMS

The data on Important Farmland provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Part IV of the NRCS forms below is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO).¹ NRCS farmland classifications identify farmland as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Farmland of Local Importance, or Unique Farmland by grouping soils primarily on the basis of their ability to produce common cultivated crops and pasture plants. This dataset classifies Important Farmland based on soil type/quality.

The data on Important Farmland, including the affected environment, impacts, and mitigation, presented in this appendix is from the State of California Department of Conservation (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), which produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. While FMMP data is derived from SSURGO, land categorized as Important Farmland in FMMP data is further refined to address irrigation and use of farmland using the following methodology:

- **Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance**—Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.
- **Unique Farmland**—Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.
- **Farmland of Local Importance**—The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Kern County. In Los Angeles County, producing farmland that would meet the standard criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance but that is not irrigated qualifies as Farmland of Local Importance.

¹ The farmland conversion impact rating forms included in this appendix are based on the total acres of impacts to Important Farmland evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS. Since the publication of the Draft EIR/EIS, the project footprint considered in this Final EIR/EIS has been refined and impacts fewer acres of Important Farmland than was evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS. The NRCS was consulted to determine if the reduction in impacts to Important Farmland should be addressed by revising the farmland conversion impact rating forms and resubmitting them to the NRCS for consultation. It is the NRCS's position that because the revised project footprint would affect fewer acres of Important Farmland compared to the acreage evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS, the current NRCS forms provide a conservative assessment of the revised project footprint of the B-P Build Alternatives and do not need to be redone.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-CPA-106
(Rev. 1-91)

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

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency) | | 3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 10/27/17 | 4. Sheet 1 of 1 |
| 1. Name of Project HSR Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section | | 5. Federal Agency Involved Federal Railroad Administration | |
| 2. Type of Project High Speed Rail | | 6. County and State Kern County, California | |
| PART II (To be completed by NRCS) | | 1. Date Request Received by NRCS 11/7/2017 | 2. Person Completing Form SW Davis |
| 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 729956 | Average Farm Size 1202 |
| 5. Major Crop(s) Grapes, almonds, citrus | 6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 899,395 % 17.2 | 7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 2120267 % 40 | |
| 8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used Revised Storie Index for CA | 9. Name of Local Site Assessment System None | 10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 11/9/2017 | |

| PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency) | Alternative Corridor For Segment | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | Alternative 3 | Alternative 5 |
| A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly | 708 | 738 | 705 | 708 |
| B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services | 54 | 43 | 54 | 54 |
| C. Total Acres In Corridor | 762 | 781 | 759 | 762 |

| PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland | 1746 | 1700 | 1795 | 1746 |
| B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland | 594 | 597 | 684 | 594 |
| C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.28 | .26 |
| D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value | 32 | 32 | 30 | 32 |

| 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) | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|
| | 74 | 74 | 77 | 74 |

| 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 | 45 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| 2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use | 10 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| 3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government | 20 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland | 25 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 7. Availability Of Farm Support Services | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 8. On-Farm Investments | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| 9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use | 10 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS | 160 | 65 | 63 | 65 | 65 |

| PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency) | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V) | 100 | 74 | 74 | 77 | 74 |
| Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment) | 160 | 65 | 63 | 65 | 65 |
| TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines) | 260 | 139 | 137 | 142 | 139 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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-CPA-106 (Reverse)

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Natural Resources Conservation Service **FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS** NRCS-CPA-106 (Rev. 1-91)

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
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| 2. Type of Project High Speed Rail | | 6. County and State Los Angeles County, California | |
| PART II (To be completed by NRCS) | | 1. Date Request Received by NRCS 11/7/2017 | 2. Person Completing Form SW Davis |
| 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 39,653 | Average Farm Size 71 |
| 5. Major Crop(s) Root vegetables, woody ornamentals, bedd | 6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 59,556 % 2.3 | 7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 61,735 % 2.4 | |
| 8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used Revised Storie Index for CA | 9. Name of Local Site Assessment System None | 10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 11/9/2017 | |

| PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency) | Alternative Corridor For Segment | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | Alternative 3 | Alternative 5 |
| A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| C. Total Acres In Corridor | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | Alternative 3 | Alternative 5 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland | 1611 | 1611 | 1611 | 1587 |
| B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 |
| D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value | 14 | 14 | 14 | 13 |

| 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) | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | Alternative 3 | Alternative 5 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 84 | 84 | 84 | 85 |

| PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c)) | Maximum Points | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | Alternative 3 | Alternative 5 |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Area in Nonurban Use | 15 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. Availability Of Farm Support Services | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. On-Farm Investments | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS | 160 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |

| PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency) | Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 | Alternative 3 | Alternative 5 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V) | 100 | 84 | 84 | 84 |
| Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment) | 160 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines) | 260 | 98 | 98 | 99 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|

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-CPA-106 (Reverse)

CORRIDOR - TYPE SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

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 - 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?
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 - 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