APPENDIX K

Farmland Letter to US Department of Agriculture,

Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA)

Worksheet, and Farmland Impact Conversion Rating (NRCS-CPA-106)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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October 27, 2014

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Hollister Service Center
2337 Technology Parkway STE C
Hollister, CA 95023

To Whom it My Concern:

This letter is to inform the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), assigned by FHWA, proposes to acquire farmland for a project in Santa Clara and Alameda counties. The project is located on Interstate 680, from south of State Route (SR) 237 in Santa Clara County to north of SR 84 (Vallecitos Road) in Alameda County (see attached maps).

The project proposes to add a new HOV/express lane in the northbound direction, install electronic tolling equipment and signage, widen existing paved surfaces including over- and undercrossings and bridges, construct retaining walls, construct new and replacement sound walls, modify existing ramp metering and traffic operations system facilities, and rehabilitate pavement. The new HOV/express lane would be part of a regional express lanes network, the goal of which is to effectively improve throughput and reduce delays on the major travel corridors within the San Francisco Bay Area.

To complete this project, Caltrans proposes to acquire 1.28 acres of farmland on the northbound and southbound shoulders of I-680. Attached is form AD-1006 and maps showing the land Caltrans proposes to acquire. Please respond by filling out the necessary sections of form AD-1006.

Sincerely,

Wahida I. Rashid
Associate Environmental Planner
California Department of Transportation, District 4
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94623

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"

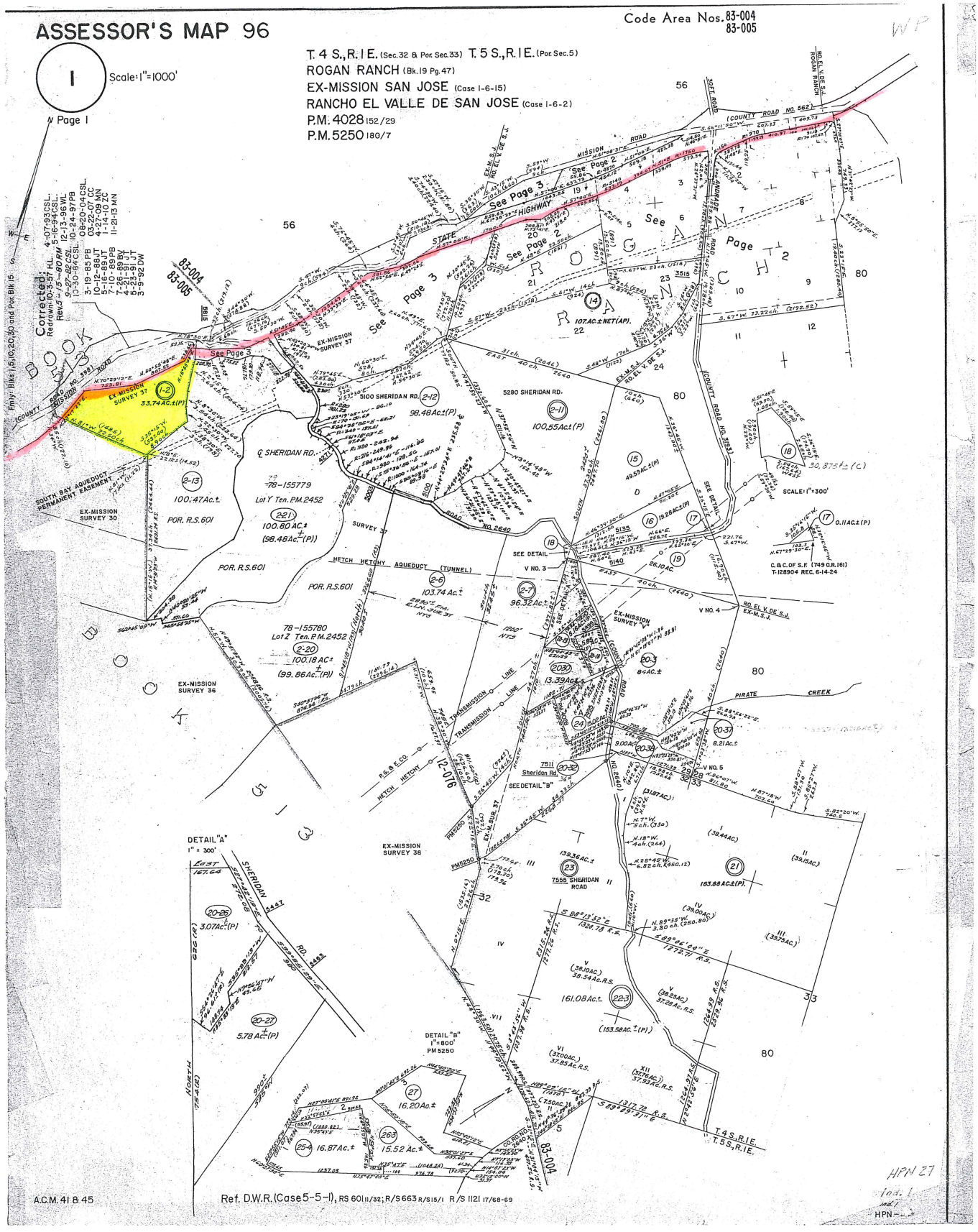
I-680 Northbound/Express Lane Project
Final LESA Score Sheet

		Factor Scores	Factor Weight	Factor Weight Scores
	LE Factors			
1	Land Capability	100	0.5	50
2	Storie Index			0
	LE Subtotal	*100*	*0.5*	*50*
	SA Factors			
3	Project Size	0	0.15	0
4	Water Resoruce Availability	100	0.15	15
5	Surrounding Agricultural Land	0	0.15	0
6	Protected Resource Land	28.74	0.05	1.44
	SA Subtotal		*0.5*	*16.44*
				66.44

California LESA Model Scoring Thresholds

Total LESA Score	**Scoring Decision**
0 to 39 Points	Not Considered Significant
40 to 59 Points	Considered Significant only if LE and SA subscores are each greater than or equal to 20 points
60 to 79 Points	Considered Significant unless either LE or SA subscore is less than 20 points
80 to 100 Points	Considered Significant

For Assessment Use Only



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	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project	I-680 NB HOV/Express Lane Project	5. Federal Agency Involved	Caltrans, District 4
2. Type of Project	Interstate Highway Improvement	6. County and State	Alameda 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 ☐ NO ☐		4. Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
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 Local Site Assessment System	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	1.28			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor	81.60			
PART IV *(To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information*				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And 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 Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)*				
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	12			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use — 10	4			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed — 20	0			
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. Availablility Of Farm Support Services — 5	3			
8. On-Farm Investments — 20	18			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services — 25	0			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use — 10	0			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS — 160	57	0	0	0
PART VII *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V) — 100	0	0	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment) — 160	57	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS *(Total of above 2 lines)* — 260	58	0	0	0

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 ☐ NO ☐

5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: | DATE

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

Clear Form

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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