

California High-Speed Rail Authority

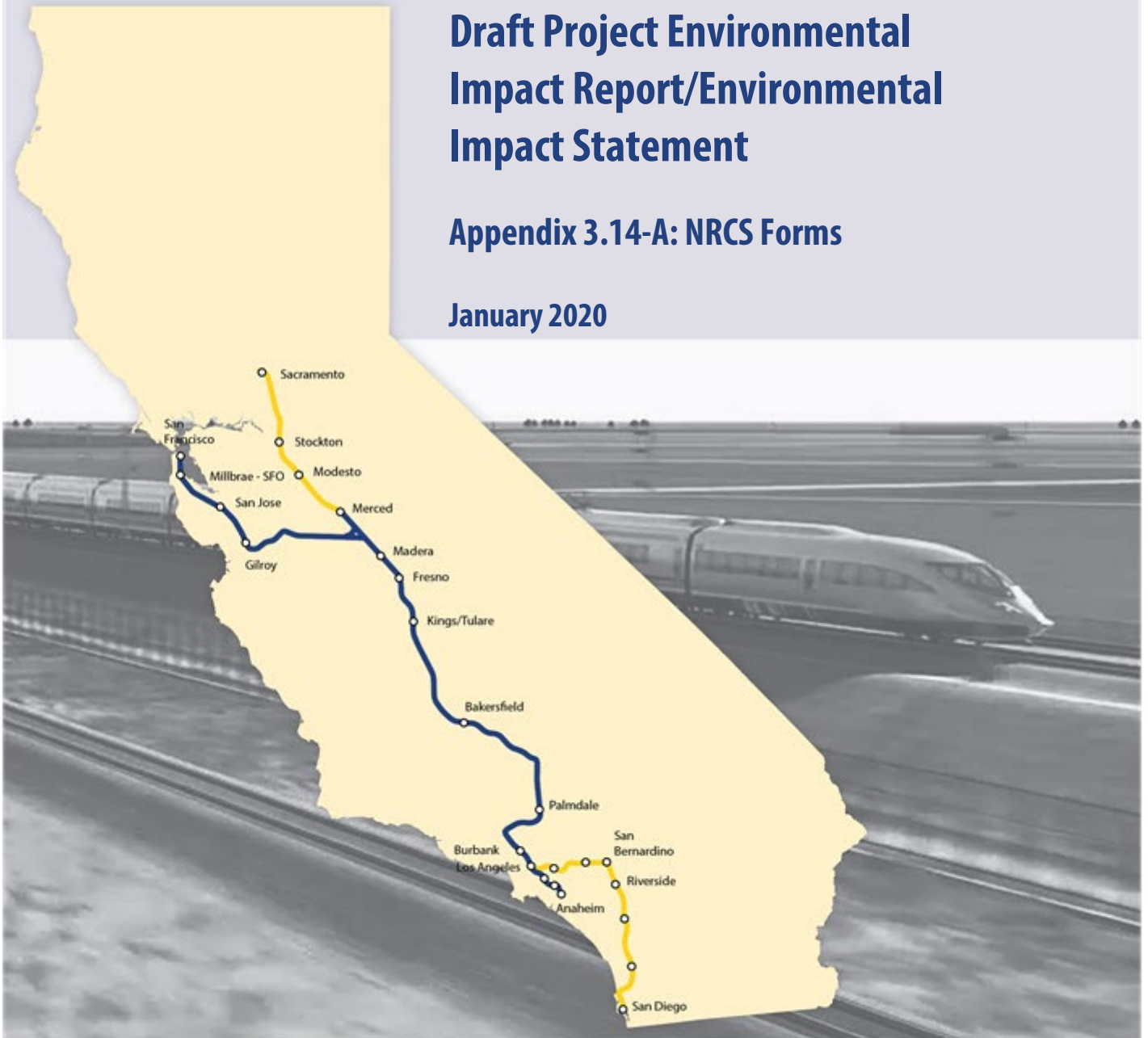
# *Bakersfield to Palmdale*

## *Project Section*

### Draft Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix 3.14-A: NRCS Forms

January 2020



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.

**This page intentionally left blank**

## 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). 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.

**This page intentionally left blank**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-CPA-106  
(Rev. 1-01)

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

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 10/27/17	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	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		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	8. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction: Acres: 899,395 % 17.2	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA: Acres: 2120267 % 40	
9. 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	15	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
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	74	74	77
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	65	63	65
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>142</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?  YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input 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)

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 10/27/17	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 Los Angeles County, California	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		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	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	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

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>	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	
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

<b>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)</b>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5
	84	84	84	85

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	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
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 5	
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	84	84	84	85
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	14	14	14	14
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>99</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? 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