

## **Appendix E** Farmlands Documentation

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## U.S. Department of Agriculture

## FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Date Of Land Evaluation Request <u>12/8/08</u>			
Name Of Project <u>4-501-80, I-80, I-680 SR 12 Interchange Project</u>		Federal Agency Involved <u>Federal Highway Administration</u>			
Proposed Land Use <u>New Highway Right of Way</u>		County And State <u>Salinas County, California</u>			
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		Date Request Received By NRCS <u>12/8/08</u>			
Does the site 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"/>	Acres Irrigated <u>17,000</u>	Average Farm Size <u>341</u>
Major Crop(s) <u>PERCUL, CECUARD, ROW CROP</u>	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres <u>233,000</u> % <u>40</u>	Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres <u>NOT AVAILABLE</u> %		Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS <u>1/2/09</u>	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used <u>CA STATE</u>	Name Of Local Site Assessment System <u>NONE</u>				
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		<u>136.9</u>	<u>118.8</u>		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		
C. Total Acres In Site		<u>0.0 136.9</u>	<u>0.0 118.8</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.0</u>
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		<u>101.4</u>	<u>96.9</u>		
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland		<u>30.8</u>	<u>15.7</u>		
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		<u>0.00057</u>	<u>0.00061</u>		
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With State Or Higher Relative Value		<u>9</u>			
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		<u>0 63.3</u>	<u>0 66.7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))		Maximum Points			
1. Area In Nonurban Use		<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>		
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use		<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>		
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>		
5. Distance From Urban Buildup Area		<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>		
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>		
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>		
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>		
10. On-Farm Investments		<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>		
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>		
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		<u>160</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		<u>100</u>	<u>0 63.3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		<u>160</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		<u>260</u>	<u>0 134.3</u>	<u>137.7</u>	<u>0</u>
Site Selected:		Date Of Selection		Was A Local Site Assessment Used?	
				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Reason For Selection:					

(See instructions on reverse side)

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Form AD-1006 (10-83)



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

P. O. BOX 23660  
 OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660  
 PHONE (510) 286-5231  
 FAX (510) 286-5600  
 TTY 711



*Flex your power!  
 Be energy efficient!*

May 20, 2009

Mr. Dennis J. O'Bryant, Program Manager  
 California Department of Conservation  
 c/o Division of Land Resource Management  
 801 K Street, MS 18-01  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Notification of the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange Project

Dear Mr. O'Bryant:

In accordance with Government Code Section 51291(b), this letter serves as notification of the possible acquisition of a portion of a conservation easement for the proposed I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange Project in Solano County. The purpose and need of this project is to reduce existing and future traffic congestion by increasing capacity of the facility from two lanes to four lanes and by either constructing ramps on SR 12E to serve Beck Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue, or by re-aligning I-680 to the west to connect with the I-80/SR 12W interchange. The western boundary of the proposed project is on Jameson Canyon Road, just west of Red Top Road in the city of Fairfield. The eastern boundary exists to the east of Pennsylvania Avenue in Suisun City. This boundary reaches the railroad track used for Amtrak in Suisun City. The enclosed exhibits, Attachment A and Attachment B, show the project location and project area respectively. For a detailed project description please refer to Attachment C of this letter.

There are two alternatives being considered, Alternative B and Alternative C (see Attachment D and Attachment E). Both alternatives would require the acquisition of land from 4 parcels currently under the Williamson Act contracts (Table 1, Attachment F). These four parcels amount to 406 acres. Caltrans proposes to acquire 96.8 acres from these parcels to be converted into permanent transportation use.

**Table 1: Williamson Act Contracts in the Project Area**

Contract Number	APN	Total Acres in Contract	Acres Removed from Contract
739	0027-251-330	78.9	61.9
	0027-271-060		18.0
97	0148-260-010	268.8	9
	0148-270-010		0.2
1100	0148-270-340	42.2	
2	0150-270-050	16.1	7.7
Total		406	96.8

Source: Solano Land Trust, 2007.

*"Caltrans improves mobility across California"*

Mr. Dennis J. O'Bryant  
20 May 2009  
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Although design refinements may further reduce the project footprint, impacts to Williamson Act contract lands cannot be completely avoided because of the scale of needed improvements on the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange Project. Based on this consideration, Caltrans has determined that use of other non-contract land is not reasonably foreseeable for the proposed public improvement.

Due to the small size of the proposed acquisitions in each alternative, production on the Williamson Act parcels would not be significantly affected. Furthermore, affected areas are generally on the periphery of the agricultural properties; therefore, no significant acreage of farmland would become non-productive because of interference with land patterns. The project design is taking steps to accommodate the need of landowners for ingress and egress to their properties, both during construction and long-term.

Caltrans requests you review of this notification and your comments. If you have questions or comments on this notification, please contact Howell Chan of my staff at (510) 286-5623, [howell\\_chan@dot.ca.gov](mailto:howell_chan@dot.ca.gov), or me at (510) 286-5231, [Melanie\\_brent@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Melanie_brent@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



MELANIE BRENT  
District Office Chief  
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:

- Attachment A: Project Location Map
- Attachment B: Project Area Map
- Attachment C: Project Description
- Attachment D: Alternative B Map
- Attachment E: Alternative C Map
- Attachment F: Williamson Act Contract Map




# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

801 K STREET • MS 18-01 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 324-0850 • FAX 916 / 327-3430 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEBSITE [conservation.ca.gov](http://conservation.ca.gov)

TO: Melanie Brent, District Office Chief  
Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Analysis

FROM: Dan Otis, Program Manager   
Williamson Act Program  
Division of Land Resource Protection  
Department of Conservation

DATE: July 8, 2009

SUBJECT: Notification of the I-80/I-680/State Route (SR) Interchange Project

Thank you for your letter notifying the Department of Conservation (Department) of the Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) possible acquisition of portions of six parcels of land restricted by a Williamson Act contract for the construction of a state highway interchange project to reduce existing and future traffic congestion in Solano County. This project will involve the following contracted parcels:

### Williamson Act Contracts in the Project Area

Contract Number	Parcel Number	Total Acres	Acres to be Removed from Contract
739	0027-251-330	78.9	61.9
739	0027-271-060		18.0
97	0148-260-010	268.8	9
97	0148-270-010		0.2
1100	0148-270-340	42.2	
2	0150-270-050	16.1	7.7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>406</b>	<b>96.8</b>

### Project Location

The project area is divided into three segments: western, central, and eastern. The western segment begins just west of the I-80/Red Top Road interchange and ends at the I-80/ Suisun Valley Road interchange. The central segment begins at the I-80 Suisun Valley Road interchange and ends at the SR12E/Chadbourne Road interchange. The eastern segment begins at the SR12E Chadbourne Road interchange and ends at the Fairfield Overhead where SR12E crosses over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks just west of Suisun City. The western boundary of the proposed project is on Jameson Canyon Road, just west of Red Top Road in the City of Fairfield. The eastern boundary exists to the east of Pennsylvania Avenue in Suisun City. This boundary reaches the railroad track used for Amtrak in Suisun City.

Project Description

Caltrans proposes to acquire 96.8 acres from several parcels to be converted into permanent transportation use. The project would construct an interchange to reduce existing and future traffic congestion by constructing ramps on SR 12E to serve Beck Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue, or by re-aligning I-680 to the west to connect with I-80/SR 12W interchange. Caltrans is considering two full-build alternatives (Alternatives B and C) for the construction of the project. Both projects require the acquisition of land from four parcels.

The Williamson Act requires that public agencies shall not locate public improvements in agricultural preserves unless the following specific findings can be made (Government Code § 51292):

- *"The location is not based primarily on a consideration of the lower cost of acquiring land in an agricultural preserve (§51292(a))."*
- *"If the land is agricultural land covered under a contract pursuant to this chapter for any public improvement, that there is no other land within or outside the preserve on which it is reasonably feasible to locate the public improvement (§51292(b))."*

One of the limited exceptions to required findings is for "...All state highways on routes as described in Sections 301 to 622, inclusive, of the Streets and Highways Code..." (Gov. Code §51293, subd. (3)(g)). The information in your notice appears to indicate that this project qualifies for this exception. Therefore, the Department has determined that the findings required by Government Code §51292 do not apply in this case.

Please be advised that, pursuant to Government Code §51291(d), the Department must be notified of any proposed, significant changes to the project. The Department must also be notified when the property is actually acquired (Gov. Code §51291(c)). If Caltrans determines not to locate the proposed public improvement on the purchased subject property, before returning the land to private ownership, it must notify the Department. The land shall be reenrolled in a new contract or encumbered by an enforceable restriction at least as restrictive as that provided by the Williamson Act (Gov. Code §51295). The local jurisdiction administering the preserve should also be notified, when notice is provided to the State. If you have any questions, please contact Jacquelyn Ramsey, Environmental Planner, at (916) 323-2379.

cc: The Honorable Skip Thomson  
Solano County Assessor  
600 Texas Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533-6386

Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Old County Courthouse  
580 Texas Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533