**Farmlands Protection (CEST and EA)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **General requirements** | **Legislation** | **Regulation** |
| The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) discourages federal activities that would convert farmland to nonagricultural purposes. | Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.) | [7 CFR Part 658](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_11/7cfr658_11.html) |
| **Reference** | | |
| https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/farmlands-protection | | |

1. **Does your project include any activities, including new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land or conversion, that could convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use?**

Yes 🡪 *Continue to Question 2.*

No

**Explain how you determined that agricultural land would not be converted:**

🡪 *Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documentation supporting your determination.*

1. **Does “important farmland,” including prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide or local importance** **regulated under the Farmland Protection Policy Act, occur on the project site?**

You may use the links below to determine important farmland occurs on the project site:

* Utilize USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>
* Check with your city or county’s planning department and ask them to document if the project is on land regulated by the FPPA (zoning important farmland as non-agricultural does not exempt it from FPPA requirements)
* Contact NRCS at the local USDA service center <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs> or your NRCS state soil scientist [http://soils.usda.gov/contact/state\_offices/](http://soils.usda.gov/contact/state_offices/%20) for assistance

No 🡪 *Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide any documents used to make your determination.*

Yes 🡪 *Continue to Question 3.*

1. **Consider alternatives to completing the project on important farmland and means of avoiding impacts to important farmland.**

* Complete form **AD-1006**, “Farmland Conversion Impact Rating” <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045394.pdf> and contact the state soil scientist before sending it to the local NRCS District Conservationist.

(NOTE: for corridor type projects, use instead form **NRCS-CPA-106**, "Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045395.pdf>.)

* Work with NRCS to minimize the impact of the project on the protected farmland. When you have finished with your analysis, return a copy of form AD-1006 (or form NRCS-CPA-106 if applicable)to the USDA-NRCS State Soil Scientist or his/her designee informing them of your determination.

**Document your conclusion:**

Project will proceed with mitigation.

**Explain in detail the proposed measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or effect, including the timeline for implementation.**

🡪 *Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide form AD-1006 and all other documents used to make your determination.*

Project will proceed without mitigation.

**Explain why mitigation will not be made here:**

🡪 *Based on the response, the review is in compliance with this section. Continue to the Worksheet Summary below. Provide form AD-1006 and all other documents used to make your determination.*

**Worksheet Summary**

**Compliance Determination**

Provide a clear description of your determination and a synopsis of the information that it was based on, such as:

* Map panel numbers and dates
* Names of all consulted parties and relevant consultation dates
* Names of plans or reports and relevant page numbers
* Any additional requirements specific to your region

**Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?**

Yes

No