APPENDIX K

PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLANDS

URS Record of Conversation *Northern Parkway Environmental Assessment* *Project Number 23445412.00350*			
Date:	January 15, 2009	**Time:**	10:15 a.m.
Recorded by:	Lou Maslyk	**Phone Number:**	602-280-8785
Talked with:	Steve Smarik, Environmental Coordinator, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection	**Affiliation:**	AZ Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Nature of Call (incoming, outgoing, e-mail, visit):		Outgoing Phone Call	

Reference:
1. **EA Section 4.10, Prime and Unique Farmlands**
2. **Status of AZ NRCS Review of the Proposed Northern Parkway Corridor**
3. **Status of NRCS-CPA-106 Form Completion (e.g. Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects)**

Details of Conversation:

1. Call placed to determine status of referenced items to enable URS to complete the referenced EA section.
2. LJM referenced the previous call to Mr. Smarik on the same topic on October 23, 2008.
3. Mr. Smarik remembered the project and working with Polly Ready to complete the NRSC review in August 2008 time frame.
4. LJM provided the Federal Project Number and the ADOT TRACS Number to help him identify the project.
5. Mr. Smarik looked through his files but could not locate any information about the project or any of the items URS provided him. This included mapping provided to AZ NRCS by URS with each of the three proposed alternatives shown.
6. The objective of the AZ NRCS was to determine the acreage amounts of prime and/or unique farmlands, or farmlands of statewide importance.
7. The AZ NRCS prepared Form NRCS-CPA-106, Farmland Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects in conjunction with URS. URS finalized the form and sent it to Mr. Smarik for his signature on August 25, 2008, but Mr. Smarik did not respond.
8. Mr. Smarik stated that the NRCS has 90 days to act on a Form NRCS-CPA-106. If no response is forthcoming, Mr. Smarik stated that the agency or proponent of the action may proceed without the signed rating form, as the NRCS failed to act within the mandated time frame.

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 8/25/08 — 4. Sheet 1 of 1
1. Name of Project **Northern Parkways**	5. Federal Agency Involved **Federal Highways Administration**
2. Type of Project **Transportation Corridor**	6. County and State **Maricopa County, Arizona**
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	617	617	720	
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0	0	0	
C. Total Acres In Corridor	617	617	720	0
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	8	8	8	
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use — 10	5	5	5	
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed — 20	3	3	3	
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government — 20	0	0	0	
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average — 10	9	9	9	
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland — 25	0	0	0	
7. Availablility Of Farm Support Services — 5	5	5	5	
8. On-Farm Investments — 20	8	8	8	
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services — 25	0	0	0	
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use — 10	5	5	5	
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS — 160	43	43	43	0
PART VII *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V) — 100				
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment) — 160	43	43	43	0
TOTAL POINTS *(Total of above 2 lines)* — 260	43	43	43	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: Poey Ready - URS Corporation — DATE 8/25/08

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