



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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December 31, 2009

**Programs Manual**  
**Title 440-Programs**  
**AMENDMENT CA1 (Part 523 – Farmland Protection Policy Act)**

**SUBJECT:** PART 523 – FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT

**Purpose.** To transmit the above referenced National Programs Manual Amendment, dated December 2009.

**Effective Date.** Upon Receipt.

This amendment, Title 440, Part 523, Amendment CA1, issued December, 2009, sets forth additional guidance on filling out AD-1006 and setting up a filing system for FPPA requests and information.

A copy of the National Programs Manual (M440, Part 523, Amendment 12, September, 2006) can be found at <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=20132>

A copy of the latest CA Farmland Protection Policy Act M440, Part 523, Amendment CA1, dated December, 2009 can be found at <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa.html>.

Filing Instructions (for those offices maintaining copies of the Programs Manual): Add Amendment CA1 to M440, Part 523, Amendment 12, dated September, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln E. Burton".

LINCOLN E. BURTON  
State Conservationist

Enclosures

DIST: AO, FO, LPO, SC, SO

PART 523 – Farmland Protection Policy Act

PART 523 – FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUBPART F – EXHIBITS

- CA523.50 Exhibit A-1: Guidance on Setting Up a Filing System for FPPA Requests and Information
- CA523.50 Exhibit A-2: Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) Log of AD-1006's
- CA523.50 Exhibit A-3: Guidance on Filling Out Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006)

PART 523 – Farmland Protection Policy Act

PART 523 – FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT

SUBPART F – EXHIBITS

CA523.50

CA523.50 Exhibits A

- (a) This amendment provides specific California guidance on setting up a filing system for FPPA requests and information and how to fill out form AD-1006 – Farmland Conversion Impact Rating.
- (b) Exhibit A-1: Guidance on Setting Up a Filing System for FPPA Requests and Information  
(Attached)
- (c) Exhibit A-2: Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) Log of AD-1006's  
(Attached)
- (d) Exhibit A-3: Guidance on Filling Out Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006)  
(Attached)

CA523.50-1

**Exhibit A-1: Guidance on Setting Up a Filing System for FPPA Requests and Information**

1. Create a file folder labeled “440-23-6 FPPA Log”  
with the label in the tertiary position (top right corner) and filed behind  
a folder labeled “440-23-0 Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)”  
with the label in the secondary position (top middle)

Start a new FPPA Log of AD-1006’s sheet at the beginning of each Fiscal Year (FY).

File a copy of each AD-1006 processed during the FY in this folder.

2. Create a file folder labeled “440-23-7 FPPA Annual Report”  
with the label in the tertiary position (top right corner) and file it behind  
the folder labeled “440-23-6 FPPA Log”

File a copy of Form NRCS-CPA-2 submitted at the end of each FY and  
attach the contents of the FPPA Log file folder for that Fiscal Year.

3. On your computer – bookmark the e-Directives websites for:  
Part 523 – Farmland Policy Protection Act in Title 440–Programs Manual  
<http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/RollupViewer.aspx?hid=17119>

and Form AD-1006 (in order to assist other agencies to download the Form)  
<http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=17999.wba>

4. Study Subpart B of Part 523 to learn:  
What lands are subject to provisions of the FPPA and what lands are not  
What activities are subject to provisions of the FPPA and what activities are not  
<http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=20134>

5. Learn where to find the list(s) of Important Farmland soil mapping units for each of the soil  
survey areas in your service area and how to print out a soils map for a given area.  
<http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/CA/4a-SectionIIcropinterp.pdf>

In the Soil Data Mart, Prime and Important Farmland information is contained in the report  
titled “Prime and Other Important Farmlands”. In the Web Soil Survey, Prime and Important  
Farmlands reports and maps can be generated for your defined Area of Interest by going to the  
“Soil Data Explorer” tab, under the tab “Limitations and Suitabilities for Use” there is a section  
called “Land Classifications” where you will find a section called “Farmland Classification”.



**Exhibit A-3: Guidance on Filling Out Farmland Conversion Impact Rating  
(Form AD-1006)**

1. When you receive an AD-1006, enter the date you received the AD-1006 in PART II of the AD-1006.
2. Make appropriate entries on the “FPPA Log of AD-1006’s” sheet (see Exhibit A-2) in your FPPA Log file folder.
3. Determine (within 10 days; otherwise within 30 days if a site visit is required) if the proposed project is subject to the provisions of the FPPA.
  - a. **If no detailed soil survey data are available** for the proposed site, enter the following statement in the bottom section of the form:  
“The NRCS does not have adequate technical data available to determine if the proposed site contains “Farmland” as defined by the FPPA.”  
Enter the date and your initials in the “Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS” block.  
Note this action in the FPPA Log.  
Return copies A and B or two copies of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project and file copy C or one copy in your FPPA Log file folder.
  - b. **If the Land or Activity is not subject to FPPA**, check ( ✓ ) the “No” box in PART II and enter the date and your initials in the “Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS” block in PART II.  
Note this action in the FPPA Log.  
Return copies A and B or two copies of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project and file copy C or one copy in your FPPA Log file folder.
  - c. **If it is subject to FPPA**, check ( ✓ ) the “Yes” box in PART II and proceed.
4. **Printout the soils map** for the proposed project site and measure the acreage of each mapping unit that is listed as prime, unique, of statewide or local important farmland.
  - a. If none of the mapping units qualify as important farmland, check ( ✓ ) the “No” box in PART II and enter the date and your initials in the “Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS” block in PART II.  
Note this action in the FPPA Log.  
Return copies A and B or two copies of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project and file copy C or one copy in your FPPA Log file folder.
  - b. If one or more of the mapping units qualify as Important Farmland, check ( ✓ ) the “Yes” box in PART II and proceed.

PART 523 – Farmland Protection Policy Act

5. **PART II: Fill in the “Acres Irrigated” box** using data in column II-C for your county from the current FPPA Form AD-1006 Part II-County Data Table (located in Section I of FOTG).
6. **PART II: Fill in the “Average Farm Size” box** using data in column II-D for your county from the current FPPA Form AD-1006 Part II-County Data Table.
7. **PART II: List the three leading crops** (with the most acreage in your county) in the “Major Crop(s)” box.
8. **PART II: Fill in the “Farmable Land in Gov’t Jurisdiction” box** using acreage data in column II-F and percent data in column II-G for your county from the current FPPA Form AD-1006 Part II-County Data Table.
9. **PART II: Fill in the “Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA” box** using acreage data in column II-H and percent data in column II-I for your county from the current FPPA Form AD-1006 Part II-County Data Table.
10. **PART II: Fill in the “Name of Land Evaluation System Used” box** with “CA Revised Storie Index”
11. **PART II: Fill in the “Name Of Local Site Assessment System” box** with the actual name of the LESA system used in your county; otherwise, enter “None”.
12. **PART IV A:** Enter the total acres of Prime and Unique Farmland that will be converted.
13. **PART IV B:** Enter the total acres of Statewide and Local Important Farmland that will be converted.
14. **PART IV C:** Divide the sum of PART IV Blocks A and B by the acres in the “Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA” box in PART II and enter the answer.
15. **PART IV D:** Enter “DATA NOT AVAILABLE” unless you receive the data from the State Office.
16. **PART V:** Perform a Land Evaluation to determine the Relative Value of Farmland to be Converted based on the California Revised Storie Index ratings for each Important Farmland soil mapping unit in the project site. Revised Storie Index ratings can be obtained through both the Soil Data Mart and the Web Soil Survey.

In the Soil Data Mart, The Storie Index Ratings can be obtained for a soil survey area using the “Selected Soil Interpretations” report and details on the Storie Index can be obtained by using the “Selected Survey Area Interpretation Descriptions” report.

CA523.50-5

PART 523 – Farmland Protection Policy Act

In the Web Soil Survey, soil maps and reports showing Storie Index Ratings can be obtained for your defined Area of Interest. The maps and reports can be found under the Soil Data Explorer tab, under the “Soils Report” tab, under the section “Land Classifications”.

Compute the “Weighted Average” Relative Value for all of the Important Farmland to be converted and enter the Points in PART V. See the following example:

Soil Mapping Unit	Storie Index Rating		Acres	=	Weighted Relative Value	
Aa	90	x	40	=	3,600	6,380/107 = 59.6 Points  Use 60 Points for the Weighted Average Relative Value
Jp	40	x	65	=	2,600	
Rx	15	x	12	=	180	
Totals			107		6,380	

**NOTE:** If the combined score from PART V and PART VI is less than 160 Points, the land is not subject to the FPPA. Check ( ✓ ) the “No” box in PART II and uncheck the “Yes” box.

Enter the date and your initials in the “Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS” block in PART II.

Note this action in the FPPA Log.

Return copies A and B or two copies of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project and file copy C or one copy in your FPPA Log file folder.

17. **PART V:** If the proposed project area does not have a soil survey that contains a Storie Index rating, then determine the Relative Value of Farmland to be Converted based on the Land Capability Classification for each Important Farmland soil mapping unit in the project site. Capability Class information is included in the Map Unit Description reports available in both the Soil Data Mart and the Web Soil Survey.

Use Table 1. Capability Unit/Relative Values to determine the value for each Important Farmland soil mapping unit.

Compute the “Weighted Average” Relative Value for all of the Important Farmland to be converted and enter the score in PART V. See the following example:

Soil Mapping Unit	Land Capability Class	Relative Value Rating		Acres	=	Weighted Relative Value	
Aa	IIE-3	60	x	40	=	2,400	6,190/107 = 57.85 Points  Use 58 Points for the Weighted Average Relative Value
Jp	IIIe-3	50	x	65	=	3,250	
Rx	IIIs-5	45	x	12	=	540	
Totals				107		6,190	

CA523.50-6

PART 523 – Farmland Protection Policy Act

**NOTE:** If the combined score from PART V and PART VI is less than 160 Points, the land is not subject to the FPPA. Check ( ✓ ) the “No” box in PART II and uncheck the “Yes” box.

Enter the date and your initials in the “Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS” block.

Note this action in the FPPA Log.

Return copies A and B or two copies of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project and file copy C or one copy in your FPPA Log file folder.

18. At the beginning of the next Fiscal Year, use Form NRCS-CPA-2 to make your Annual Farmland Protection Policy Act annual Progress Report using all the data in your FPPA Log file folder. File a copy of Form NRCS-CPA-2 submitted for each FY in your file folder labeled “440-23-7 FPPA Annual Report” and attach the contents of the FPPA Log file folder for that Fiscal Year.

**Table 1. CAPABILITY UNIT/RELATIVE VALUES**

Capability Unit	Relative Values 1/
I	80-100
IIe-1	60-80
IIe-3	60-70
IIe-4	60-70
IIe-5	50-60
IIs-0	70-80
IIs-3	60-80
IIs-4	65-75
IIs-5	40-55
IIs-8	60-80
IIw-2	60-80
IIw-5	40-50
IIIe-3	45-60
IIIe-5	35-55
IIIs-3	50-70
IIIs-5	45-60
IIIs-8	45-60
IIIs-9	30-45

CA523.50-7

PART 523 – Farmland Protection Policy Act

IIIw-2	40-60
IIIw-3	50-70
IIIw-5	30-50
IIIw-6	10-30
IIIw-10	30-40
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IVw-3	25-35
IVw-4	25-40
IVw-6	10-30
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1/ Range given in order to allow for local knowledge of area and circumstances. Values derived from comparison of Capability Units and Storie Indexes for Yolo and Contra Costa Counties. For Farmlands that are designated Unique or of Local Importance, select a value from within the following ranges:

Unique - 60-80

Local Importance - 20-40