

Memorandum of Understanding Farmland and Forest Preservation

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the Washington State Conservation Commission and Washington State Department of Transportation

This Memorandum of Understanding between the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is executed because of a mutual concern to enhance cooperation in preserving agricultural and forest lands; to prevent and treat erosion problems adjacent to or associated with farmlands and state highways; and to maintain drainage ways and to reclaim abandoned roadways for agricultural purposes.

Provisions

The WSCC acting independently or through their Conservation Districts, agrees to:

- (1) Consult with WSDOT Regional Maintenance Engineers regarding highway rights-of-way which exhibit serious erosion problems.
- (2) Work with WSDOT Headquarters in developing techniques for management of farmlands and roadsides for erosion control in coordination with WSDOT maintenance practices.
- (3) Work with WSDOT Regional Location Engineers to assure that roadway projects minimize agricultural land conversion.
- (4) Work with WSDOT Regional Location Engineer to reclaim abandoned roadways for agricultural uses wherever feasible and practical.
- (5) Consult and work with WSDOT Regional Maintenance Engineers to maintain adequate highway drainage so it does not adversely affect agricultural lands.
- (6) Consult and work with WSDOT Regional Maintenance Engineers to maintain adequate agricultural land drainage, of precipitated or irrigation water, so that it does not adversely affect highway drainage facilities.
- (7) Work with County Weed Control Boards or other County officials to maintain or develop a noxious weed control program.
- (8) Furnish the WSDOT Project Development Engineer annually seven (7) copies of the WSCC Directory that contains maps showing boundaries of Conservation Districts and current list of each district's board of supervisors with addresses.

The WSDOT agrees to:

- (1) Furnish the WSCC a WSDOT directory and updates as required, containing the names and phone numbers of Headquarters and Regional Staff and a map showing each district's boundaries.
-

- (2) Review existing policies and specifications that address agricultural land preservation and reclamation and rights-of-way management, and propose changes as may be necessary. The WSDOT Project Development Office will work with the WSCC to rectify any concerns and develop guidance for the WSDOT Regions. A copy of such guidance will be provided to the WSCC.
- (3) Through the WSDOT Regions, contact local Conservation Districts during the design stage of projects to coordinate concerns and recommendations.
- (4) Work with Conservation Districts through County Weed Control Boards or appropriate county officials to control noxious weeds.
- (5) WSDOT Headquarters will request Department of Ecology to send draft environmental impact statements and assessments to Conservation Districts near the project area for review and comment.
- (6) WSDOT will review Conservation District's comments to environmental documents and make appropriate revisions considering acceptable economic tradeoffs in roadway alignment. Resolution of WSCC comments will normally be determined by the Project Development Engineer. If a satisfactory solution cannot be mutually agreed upon, the Conservation District may appeal to the Assistant Secretary for Highways and, if necessary, to the Secretary of Transportation.

Duration

It is mutually agreed that this Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective at the time of the last signature and will continue in effect until:

- (1) Both parties agree to its termination; or
- (2) 45 days after either party notifies the other in writing of its intent to terminate the M.O.U.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified at any time and in any manner that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

(original signed by person named below)
 Washington State Conservation
 Commission

(original signed by person named below)
 Washington State Department of
 Transportation
 Assistant Secretary for Highways

September 16, 1982
 Date

September 30, 1982
 Date