



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

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July 2, 2018

Surface Transportation Board
Joshua.Wayland@stb.gov

Attention: Josh Wayland, *via email*

Subject: LNU-Farmland Protection
Texas Railway Exchange Project
NEPA/FPPA Evaluation
City of Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

We have reviewed the information provided in your correspondence dated June 15, 2018 concerning the proposed railway expansion project located in the City of Galveston, Galveston County, Texas. This review is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation for the Surface Transportation Board (STB). We have evaluated the proposed site as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA).

The proposed site does not involve areas of Prime Farmland. Additionally, we now consider the location to be "land committed to urban development" due to its location within the city limits of Galveston, Texas. Due to these reasons, this project is exempt from provisions of FPPA. We strongly encourage the use of acceptable erosion control methods during the construction of this project.

If you have further questions, please contact me at 254.742.9836 or by email at Carlos.Villarreal@tx.usda.gov (Preferred).

Sincerely,

CARLOS

VILLARREAL

Digitally signed by
CARLOS VILLARREAL

Date: 2018.07.02
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Carlos J. Villarreal
NRCS Soil Scientist

Attachment: NA