

# GG129-14

## 202, 405.1.3

**Proponent:** Brenda Thompson, Clark County Development Services, Las Vegas, NV, Chair, ICC Sustainability, Energy and High Performance Code Action Committee (SEHPCAC)

**Delete without substitution:**

### SECTION 202 DEFINITIONS

#### ~~FARMLAND.~~

~~**Farmlands of statewide significance.** Land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage and oil seed crops. Criteria for delineating this land is determined by the appropriate state agency.~~

~~**Prime farmland.** Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, fiber, feed, forage, and oil seed crops and that is also available for these uses, including cropland, pastureland, forest land, range land and similar lands which are not water areas or urban or built-up land areas.~~

~~**Unique farmland.** Land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food or fiber crops. The land has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high-quality crops or high yields of a specific crop where the lands are treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.~~

**Revise as follows:**

**405.1.3 Imported soils.** Topsoils or soil blends imported to a building site to serve as topsoil shall not be mined from the following locations:

1. Sites that are identified as prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey.
2. *Greenfield* sites where development is prohibited by Section 402.8.

**Exception:** Soils shall be permitted to be imported from the locations in Items 1 and 2 where those soils are a byproduct of a building and building site development process provided that imported soils are reused for functions comparable to their original function.

**Reason:** This proposal is a clarification. Currently the code uses language borrowed from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey program to define farmlands of statewide significance, prime farmland, or unique farmland. These definitions were not designed to serve a regulatory function and contain subjective language.

Additionally, a user of the code does not really need to know how to define these farmlands, they merely need to know whether the land in question has already been defined under the NRCS soils survey program as any one of the three of the farmlands of interest in order to apply Section 405.1.3.

The proposed change eliminates needless and subjective verbiage while providing superior useability; owners, designers, and code officials merely have to access the applicable soil survey area to verify the status of the soil in question. <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

As the term is only used in Section 405.1.3, the SEHPCAC felt that it was best to incorporate the definition directly within that section.

This proposal was submitted by the ICC Sustainability Energy and High Performance Code Action Committee (SEHPCAC). The SEHPCAC was established by the ICC Board of Directors to pursue opportunities to improve and enhance International Codes with regard to sustainability, energy and high performance as it relates to the built environment included, but not limited to, how these criteria relate to the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This includes both the technical aspects of the codes as well as the code content in terms of scope and application of referenced standards. In 2012 and 2013, the

SEHPCAC has held six two-day open meetings and 50 workgroup calls, which included members of the SEHPCAC as well as any interested parties, to discuss and debate proposed changes and public comments. Related documentation and reports are posted on the SEHPCAC website at: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/SEHPCAC/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction.

**GG129-14: 405.1.3-THOMPSON358**

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