

STRIKETHROUGH TEXT FOR NATIONAL CRITERIA ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS FUND POOL. DO NOT ANSWER YES TO THESE CRITERIA

Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Application Ranking Summary
 FY17 Bay-Delta Initiative - Southern Tulare Basin

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Point(s)
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10
Air Quality – Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on farm carbon sequestration?	10
Soil Health: – Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set aside program?	10
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10
6. d. Implementing land based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	

7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10
Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10
State Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
State Category One – Conservation Activity Plan If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250
State Category Two – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water [California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools.] Conservation treatment includes implementation of IWM and/or an irrigation system that results in an increase of: (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only)	
2. a. More than 30 percent annual water savings.	50
2. b. 5 to 30 percent annual water savings.	40
2. c. 10 to 14 percent annual water savings.	30
State Category Three – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools. Level I = Basic Irrigation Water Management; Level 2 = Intermediate Irrigation Water Management; Level III = Advanced Irrigation Water Management Conservation treatment (structural and/or management) results in attainment of 449 – Irrigation Water Management: (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
3. a. Conservation treatment will achieve Level II or III irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3, and the farm operation ranks as “High” in need for 449 – Irrigation Water Management as determined from the Irrigation Scheduling planning tool.	50
3. b. Conservation treatment will achieve Level II or III irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3, and the farm operation ranks as “Medium” or “Low” in need for 449 – Irrigation Water Management as determined from the Irrigation Scheduling planning tool.	40
3. c. Conservation treatment will achieve Level I irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3.	30

State Category Four – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water The EQIP schedule of operations includes vegetative and/or management practices, in addition to conservation practices for an irrigation system conversion to a more efficient system, an irrigation system retrofit, or an irrigation conveyance improvement that will minimize the potential for nutrients to be transported to a surface waterbody where an existing pathway to the surface water exists; and, the hydrologic soil group for the treatment unit is predominately – (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only)	
4. a. C, soils with slow infiltration rates, and/or D, soils with very slow infiltration rates.	50
4. b. B, soils with moderate infiltration rates.	40
4. c. A, soils with high infiltration rates.	30
State Category Five – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices that will minimize the potential for nutrients to be transported to a ground waterbody where an existing pathway to the ground water exists; and, the hydrologic soil group for the treatment unit is predominately: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
5. a. A, soils with high infiltration rates.	50
5. b. B, soils with moderate infiltration rates.	40
5. c. C, soils with slow infiltration rates, and/or D, soils with very slow infiltration rates.	30
State Category Six – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater [The California State Water Resources Control Board map, "Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Areas and High Use Groundwater Basins," map is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/hydro_areas.pdf] Conservation treatment includes management practice(s) and the treatment area is located within: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
6. a. A Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area.	50
6. b. A High Use Ground Water Basin Area, but not a Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area.	40
Local Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
Local Category One – Conservation Activity Plan If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400
Local Category Two – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water [California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools.] Conservation treatment includes implementation of IWM and/or an irrigation system that results in an increase of: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
2. a. 35 ac-in/ac annually or greater.	65
2. b. 20 to 34.9 ac-in/ac annually	55
2. c. 5 to 19.9 ac-in/ac annually	45
Local Category Three – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water The EQIP schedule of operations includes the following combination of irrigation practices: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	

3. a. Retrofitting an existing microirrigation (441) or sprinkler system (442) with IWM level II or III.	90
3. b. Land Leveling and/or replacement of an open ditch with buried pipeline (430) with IWM level II or III.	80
3. c. Installation of components that result in a functioning tail water recovery system (430, 533, and/or 378) with IWM level II or III.	70
Local Category Four – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water The EQIP schedule of operations includes vegetative and/or management practices in addition to conservation practices for an irrigation system conversion to a more efficient system, an irrigation system retrofit, or an irrigation conveyance improvement that will minimize the potential for nutrients to be transported to a surface waterbody where an existing pathway to the surface water exists; and, the hydrologic soil group for the treatment unit is predominately (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
4. a. C, soils with slow infiltration rates, and/or D, soils with very slow infiltration rates.	75
4. b. B, soils with moderate infiltration rates.	65
4. c. A, soils with high infiltration rates.	55
Local Category Five – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices that will minimize the potential for nutrients to be transported to a ground waterbody where an existing pathway to the groundwater exists; and, the hydrologic soil group for the treatment unit is predominately: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
5. a. A, soils with high infiltration rates.	70
5. b. B, soils with moderate infiltration rates.	65
5. c. C, soils with slow infiltration rates, and/or D, soils with very slow infiltration rates.	60
Local Category Six – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in implementation of a nutrient management plan according to NRCS conservation practice, 590 – Nutrient Management; a record of the rate, source, method of placement, and timing of nutrient application will be maintained. Conservation treatment results in implementation of: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
6. a. A basic nutrient management plan.	75
6. b. An adaptive nutrient management plan for small and intensive farming systems where intense and diversified nutrient management is required.	100