Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 Bay-Delta Initiative - Middle SJ Watershed

National Priorities Addressed

| Issue Questions | Point(s) |
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| 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~~ |

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| ~~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.<br>Answering "Yes" to this question will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state ranking category. | |
| 1. a. Is the program application for development of a TSP prepared 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 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>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<br>Conservation treatment includes management practice(s) and the treatment area is located within:<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |
| 2. a. For locations within a Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area. | 125 |
| 2. b. For locations within a High Use Ground Water Basin Area, but not a Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area. | 75 |
| State Category Three - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water<br>The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml<br>Conservation treatment will minimize the transport of nutrients to a surface waterbody on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category, "Nutrients," where an existing pathway to the surface water exists; and, conservation treatment includes<br>(Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers) | |
| 3. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize the transport of nutrients to a surface waterbody on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category, "Nutrients," where an existing pathway to the surface water exists; and, conservation treatment includes management, vegetative and/or structural practices. | 125 |
| Local Issues Addressed | |
| Issue Questions | Point(s) |
| Local Category One – Conservation Activity Plan<br>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.<br>Answering "Yes" to this question will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local ranking category. | |
| 1. a. Is the program application for development of a TSP prepared 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 |

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| Local Category Two – SOIL EROSION: Sheet and Rill<br>Soil loss tolerance, T, is based on soil type.<br>(Select “Yes” to All Applicable Answers) | |
| 2. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce soil detachment related to irrigation runoff. | 10 |
| 2. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in storm water-induced erosion that is currently greater than T being reduced to less than or equal to T. | 10 |
| Local Category Three – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water<br>[California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools.]<br>Conservation treatment includes implementation of IWM and/or an irrigation system that results in a water savings of:<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |
| 3. a. Greater than 40 percent. | 30 |
| 3. b. Between 35.0 and 39.9 percent. | 25 |
| 3. c. Between 30.0 and 34.9 percent. | 20 |
| 3. d. Between 25.0 and 29.9 percent. | 15 |
| 3. e. Between 20.0 and 24.9 percent. | 10 |
| 3. f. Less than 20 percent. | 5 |
| Local Category Four – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water<br>California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools.<br>Level I = Basic Irrigation Water Management; Level 2 = Intermediate Irrigation Water Management; Level III = Advanced Irrigation Water Management<br>The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices (structural and/or management) that will result in attainment of 449 - Irrigation Water Management.<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer, if applicable) | |
| 4. 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. | 30 |
| 4. 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. | 25 |
| 4. c. Conservation treatment will achieve Level I irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3. | 20 |
| Local Category Five – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water<br>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes practices that minimize the amount of nutrients material leaving the treated area to a surface water body where an existing pathway to the waterbody exists.<br>The hydrologic soil group for the treatment unit is predominately:<br>(Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |
| 5. a. C, soils with slow infiltration rates, and/or D, soils with very slow infiltration rates. | 25 |
| 5. b. B, soils with moderate infiltration rates. | 20 |
| 5. c. A, soils with high infiltration rates. | 15 |
| Local Category Six – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water<br>(Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria)<br>Concentrated Flows on Headquarters in Flood Zones<br>(Select "Yes," if applicable) | |

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| 6. a. Conservation treatment will decrease risk of inundation of floodwater onto headquarter facilities and animal feeding operation is located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100 year flood zone. | 10 |
| Local Category Seven – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water<br>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations --<br>(Select "Yes" if applicable) | |
| 7. a. Reduce the potential for nutrients to enter a surface water body on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category [illegible] | 20 |
| Local Category Eight – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water<br>Nutrient Application Efficiency and Distribution Uniformity<br>(Cropland, Pastureland and/or Rangeland Only Ranking Criteria)<br>(Select “Yes” to All Applicable Answers) | |
| 8. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a nutrient management system that will meet the requirements of NRCS conservation practice standard, 590 – Nutrient Management, and will result in the proper rate, source, method of placement, and timing of nutrients while minimizing off-site degradation or the excessive build-up of nitrogen and phosphorus. | 12 |
| 8. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, for cropland and/or pastureland at Level II or III (Level II = Intermdeiate and Level III = Advanced) that will result in optimal timing and rate of irrigation application which will more closely match crop water needs and facilitate proper nutrient utilization. | 11 |
| 8. c. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes structural practices to improve manure application efficiency by allowing for the proper mixing, dilution and/or measurement of manure applied to cropland and/or pastureland. | 11 |
| 8. d. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes structural practices to improve manure application uniformity either within a field or among fields. | 11 |
| Local Category Nine – Solid/Liquid Waste and Silage/Haylage Storage<br>(Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria)<br>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |
| 9. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in 100 percent of silage/haylage and solid manure waste being stored on an impervious surface draining to the waste storage pond. Silage/haylage and solid manure waste is currently stored directly on the surface of soils predominately classified as hydrologic soil group A, high infiltration rates, and/or B, moderate infiltration rates. | 15 |
| 9. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in less than 100 percent of silage/haylage and solid manure waste being stored on an impervious surface draining to the waste storage pond. Silage/haylage and solid manure waste is currently stored directly on the surface of soils predominately classified as hydrologic soil group A, high infiltration rates, and/or B, moderate infiltration rates. | 10 |
| 9. c. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in 100 percent of silage/haylage and solid manure waste being stored on an impervious surface draining to the waste storage pond. Silage/haylage and solid manure waste is currently stored directly on the surface of soils predominately classified as hydrologic soil group C, slow infiltration rates, and/or D, very slow infiltration rates. | 5 |
| 9. d. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in less than 100 percent of silage/haylage and solid manure waste being stored on an impervious surface draining to the waste storage pond. Silage/haylage and solid manure waste is currently stored directly on the surface of soils predominately classified as hydrologic soil group C, slow infiltration rates, and/or D, very slow infiltration rates. | 5 |

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| Local Category Ten – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>(Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria)<br>Water Use Efficiency on Headquarters<br>(Select “Yes,” if applicable) | |
| 10. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes NRCS conservation practice, 587 – Structure for Water Control, for one of the three components: Flow Meter with Mechanical Index, Flow Meter with Electronic Index or Flow Meter with Electronic Index & Telemetry to monitor water usage and will facilitate reduction in the amount of fresh water used in milk parlor. | 30 |
| Local Category Eleven – Minimizing Leaching Risk to Groundwater on Headquarters, Cropland, Pastureland and/or Rangeland<br>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations on headquarters, cropland, pastureland and/or rangeland will minimize leaching to groundwater where the hydrologic soil group is predominately:<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |
| 11. a. Hydrologic soil group A, high infiltration rates. | 25 |
| 11. b. Hydrologic soil group B, moderate infiltration rates. | 20 |
| 11. c. Hydrologic soil group C, slow infiltration rates. | 15 |
| 11. d. Hydrologic soil group D, very slow infiltration rates. | 10 |
| Local Category Twelve – Minimizing Leaching Risk to Groundwater on Headquarters, Cropland, Pastureland and/or Rangeland<br>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize leaching to groundwater where the highest annual depth of groundwater for the most recent five years of data is:<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |
| 12. a. Less than 10 feet. | 30 |
| 12. b. Less than 20 feet. | 25 |
| 12. c. Less than 30 feet. | 20 |
| Local Category Thirteen – Eliminate Contamination Risk to Groundwater from Headquarters, Cropland and/or Pastureland<br>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>(Select “Yes,” if applicable) | |
| 13. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will eliminate a direct conduit to groundwater. | 15 |
| Local Category Fourteen – Whole Farm Nutrient Balance<br>(Cropland, Pastureland and/or Rangeland Only Ranking Criteria)<br>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |
| 14. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will increase distribution of nutrients to 100 percent of available land in accordance with the CNMP. | 25 |
| 14. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will increase distribution of nutrients to more land in accordance with the CNMP. | 20 |
| Local Category Fifteen – Manure Handling and Management to Maintain or Improve Storage Capacity<br>(Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria)<br>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>Capacity is determined by using the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), NRCS Dairy Planning Tool, a RB5 Waste Management Plan (WMP) or another approved tool.<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |

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| 15. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations increases storage capacity or reduces storage requirement to fully match wastewater storage need. | 25 |
| 15. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations increases storage capacity or reduces storage requirement but results in less than full wastewater storage need. | 15 |
| Local Category Sixteen – Solids Management<br>(Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria)<br>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater<br>Refer to Table 1 of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, 632 - Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility to determine average separation efficiency.<br>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in an average separation efficiency of:<br>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable) | |
| 16. a. Greater than or equal to 52 percent of solids/sand separated from wastewater prior to entering the manure storage lagoon. | 20 |
| 16. b. Greater than or equal to 10 percent, but less than 52 percent of solids/sand separated from wastewater prior to entering the manure storage lagoon. | 15 |
| 16. c. 10 percent or less of solids/sand separated from wastewater prior to entering the manure storage lagoon or, will improve existing separator efficiency, waste handling, containment, and/or processing within confines of headquarters. | 10 |
| Local Category Seventeen – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water<br>The Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (Win-PST) hazard rating is greater than 'Low' for the treatment unit and mitigation is needed. NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5 (February 2011) is found at:<br>www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1043138.pdf<br>Conservation treatment includes any combination of NRCS conservation practices or IPM techniques from NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5, Tables 1 and 2 (February 2011) that results in a reduction of the Win-PST pesticide hazard rating for surface water to 'Low' or 'Very Low' for at least one pesticide, and –<br>(Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers) | |
| 17. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in irrigation system upgrade that will reduce runoff and/or tailwater, where irrigation runoff is identified as a pathway for pesticide loss. Examples include adoption of subsurface drip irrigation in fields that were previously furrow irrigated; or installing a sprinkler system in an orchard that was previously flood irrigated. | 5 |
| 17. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will establish vegetative practice(s) to filter surface water runoff entering a waterway such as an intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain; in-field irrigation conveyances are not considered waterways. | 5 |
| 17. c. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will detain or treat irrigation water to allow sediment to drop out of the water column and give pesticides more time to degrade before entering a waterway. Practices may include sediment basin or anionic polyacrylamide treatment. | 5 |
| 17. d. Reduce the potential for pesticides to enter a surface water body on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category 'Pesticides'." | 10 |
| 17. e. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce the potential for pesticides to enter a surface water body or wetland complex not on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category 'Pesticides'." | 5 |