

Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Application Ranking Summary
 FY17 NWQI - Calleguas Creek

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

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 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.	400
Water Quality – EPA Watersheds:	
2. a. Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within ¼ mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100
Geographic Impacts: (All of the following must be true)	
3. a. Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres? i. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres are within the focused watershed; and, ii. Greater than 75 percent of the offered acres have a core conservation practice planned for application.	125
Collaborative Efforts:	
4. a. Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75
Effort to address watershed impairments:	
5. a. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the primary watershed impairments?	50
High Risk Soils:	
6. a. Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50

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 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.	250
Local Category Two – Nutrients in Surface Water: Nitrates, Low Dissolved Oxygen, Ammonia and Algal Growth (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water) Conservation treatment includes nutrient management strategies such as, appropriate fertilization techniques based on water, soil, tissue, pre-sidedress nitrogen quick test analysis and record keeping, where an existing pathway for nutrients to enter surface waterbodies exists. NRCS conservation practice, 590 – Nutrient Management and 449 – Irrigation Water Management, is scheduled in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations; and, (Select ‘Yes’ to All Applicable Answers):	
2. a. The treatment area is within the Mugu Lagoon subwatershed.	2
2. b. The treatment area is within the Revolon Slough-Calleguas Creek subwatershed.	4
2. c. The treatment area is within the Beardsley Wash subwatershed.	6
2. d. The treatment area is within the Las Posas Arroyo subwatershed.	8
Local Category Three – Nitrogen Compounds Groundwater (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater) The treatment area is located within a groundwater basin at risk for infiltration and deep percolation of nitrogen compounds; and, (Select ‘Yes’ to All Applicable Answers):	
3. a. Conservation treatment results in a chemical and fertilizer mixing station to minimize or eliminate the potential for nutrients and organics to degrade groundwater quality.	5
3. b. Conservation treatment will minimize risk of nutrient contamination of groundwater by installing backflow prevention or well head protection.	5
3. c. Conservation treatment includes nutrient management strategies such as, appropriate fertilization techniques based on water, soil, tissue, pre-sidedress nitrogen quick test analysis and record keeping, to reduce impacts to groundwater quality; NRCS conservation practice, 590 – Nutrient Management and 449 – Irrigation Water Management, is scheduled in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations.	10
Local Category Four – Historic Organochlorine (OC) Pesticides Transported in Soil (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water) Conservation treatment on and/or directly adjacent to farmed fields will reduce transport of soil sediment containing OC pesticides and associated break-down products such as, DDT, DDD, and DDE, during winter storm or irrigation events where an existing pathway to surface waterbodies exists; and, (Select ‘Yes’ to All Applicable Answers):	
4. a. The treatment area is within the Mugu Lagoon subwatershed.	8
4. b. The treatment area is within the Revolon Slough-Calleguas Creek subwatershed.	6
4. c. The treatment area is within the Beardsley Wash subwatershed.	4
4. d. The treatment area is within the Las Posas Arroyo subwatershed.	2

<p>Local Category Five – Historic Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCBs) Pesticides Transported in Soil (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water) Conservation treatment on and/or directly adjacent to farmed fields will reduce transport of soil sediment containing PCBs pesticides during winter storm events and/or irrigation events where an existing pathway to enter surface waterbodies exists; and, (Select 'Yes' to All Applicable Answers):</p>	
5. a. The treatment area is within the Mugu Lagoon subwatershed.	8
5. b. The treatment area is within the Revolon Slough-Calleguas Creek subwatershed.	6
5. c. The treatment area is within the Beardsley Wash subwatershed.	4
5. d. The treatment area is within the Las Posas Arroyo subwatershed.	2
<p>Local Category Six – Eliminate the Use of Organophosphorus (OP) Pesticides (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water) Conservation treatment will eliminate the use of OP pesticides, such as Chlorpyrifos and/or Diazinon, and substitute reduced-risk pesticides such as, Dursban, Omni and/or Nufos, where an existing pathway to enter surface waterbodies exists; and, (Select 'Yes' to All Applicable Answers):</p>	
6. a. The treatment area is within the Mugu Lagoon subwatershed.	8
6. b. The treatment area is within the Revolon Slough-Calleguas Creek subwatershed.	6
6. c. The treatment area is within the Beardsley Wash subwatershed.	4
6. d. The treatment area is within the Las Posas Arroyo subwatershed.	2
<p>Local Category Seven – Mitigate the Use of Organophosphorus (OP) Pesticides (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water) Conservation treatment will mitigate the use of OP pesticides, such as Chlorpyrifos and/or Diazinon, where an existing pathway to enter surface waterbodies exists; and, (Select 'Yes' to All Applicable Answers):</p>	
7. a. The treatment area is within the Mugu Lagoon subwatershed.	8
7. b. The treatment area is within the Revolon Slough-Calleguas Creek subwatershed.	6
7. c. The treatment area is within the Beardsley Wash subwatershed.	4
7. d. The treatment area is within the Las Posas Arroyo subwatershed.	2
<p>Local Category Eight – Compost, Manure, Bio-Solids Applications and Pathogens in Surface Water (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications Transported to Surface Water) Conservation treatment on and/or directly adjacent to farmed fields will manage the use of compost, manure and bio-solids to reduce transport of pathogens during winter storm and/or irrigation events where an existing pathway to surface waterbodies exists; and, (Select 'Yes' to All Applicable Answers):</p>	
8. a. The treatment area is within the Mugu Lagoon subwatershed.	2
8. b. The treatment area is within the Revolon Slough-Calleguas Creek subwatershed.	4
8. c. The treatment area is within the Beardsley Wash subwatershed.	6
8. d. The treatment area is within the Las Posas Arroyo subwatershed.	8

Local Category Nine – Salts in Surface Water (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Salts in Surface Water) Conservation treatment on and/or directly adjacent to farmed fields will reduce transport of saline water where an existing pathway to enter surface waterbodies exists; and, (Select 'Yes' to All Applicable Answers):	
9. a. The treatment area is within the Mugu Lagoon subwatershed.	2
9. b. The treatment area is within the Revolon Slough-Calleguas Creek subwatershed.	4
9. c. The treatment area is within the Beardsley Wash subwatershed.	6
9. d. The treatment area is within the Las Posas Arroyo subwatershed.	8
Local Category Ten – Irrigation Water Management and Salts in Surface Water (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Salts in Surface Water) If a pathway for salts to enter surface waterbodies through irrigation tailwater exists; and, conservation treatment results in irrigation water management (IWM) (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
10. a. Attainment of Level III.	10
10. b. Attainment of Level II, but not Level III.	5
10. c. Attainment of Level I, but not Level II or III.	3
Local Category Eleven – Aquifer Overdraft and Saltwater Intrusion (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Salts in Groundwater) The treatment area is within a groundwater basin at risk for saltwater intrusion and groundwater is pumped for irrigation water use; and, conservation treatment results in irrigation water management (IWM) (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
11. a. Attainment of Level III.	10
11. b. Attainment of Level II, but not Level III.	5
11. c. Attainment of Level I, but not Level II or III.	3
Local Category Twelve – Aquifer Overdraft and Saltwater Intrusion (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Salts in Groundwater) The treatment area is within a groundwater basin at risk for saltwater intrusion and groundwater is pumped for irrigation water use; and, conservation treatment results in an annual estimated water savings of (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
12. a. Greater than 40 percent.	10
12. b. At least 35 percent.	9
12. c. At least 30 percent.	8
12. d. At least 25 percent.	7
12. e. At least 20 percent.	6
12. f. At least 15 percent.	5
12. g. At least 10 percent.	4
12. h. At least 5 percent.	3
12. i. Less than 5 percent.	2

Local Category Thirteen – Soil Erosion and Sediment Transport (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water) Conservation treatment on and/or directly adjacent to farmed fields will reduce transport of sediment during winter storm and/or irrigation events where an existing pathway to surface waterbodies exists: and, (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
13. a. The treatment area is within the Mugu Lagoon subwatershed.	8
13. b. The treatment area is within the Revolon Slough-Calleguas Creek subwatershed.	6
13. c. The treatment area is within the Beardsley Wash subwatershed.	4
13. d. The treatment area is within the Las Posas Arroyo subwatershed.	2
Local Category Fourteen – Irrigation-Induced Erosion and Sediment Transport (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water) If a pathway for sediment to enter surface waterbodies through irrigation tailwater exists; and, conservation treatment results in an annual estimated water savings of (Select 'Yes' to Only One Answer):	
14. a. Greater than 40 percent.	10
14. b. At least 35 percent.	9
14. c. At least 30 percent.	8
14. d. At least 25 percent.	7
14. e. At least 20 percent.	6
14. f. At least 15 percent.	5
14. g. At least 10 percent.	4
14. h. At least 5 percent.	3
14. i. Less than 5 percent.	2
Local Category Fifteen – Irrigation-Induced Erosion and Sediment Transport (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water) If a pathway for sediment to enter surface waterbodies through irrigation tailwater exists; and, conservation treatment results in irrigation water management (IWM) (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
15. a. Attainment of Level III.	10
15. b. Attainment of Level II, but not Level III.	5
15. c. Attainment of Level I, but not Level II or III.	3
Local Category Sixteen – Habitat Alteration and Invasive Species Management in Riparian Corridors (WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Elevated Water Temperature) (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
16. a. Conservation treatment will control and manage Arudo in riparian zones to restore and improve in-stream flow capacity to streams and water courses.	10
16. b. Conservation treatment will control and manage invasive species in riparian zones to restore and improve in-stream flow capacity to streams and water courses.	5

<p>Local Category Seventeen – INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat Degradation Food, Water, Cover/Shelter, Habitat Continuity/Space is evaluated using one of the following assessment protocols: Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) or Pollinator Habitat Assessment (PHA); the 'planned' assessment score must be: greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5) for the WHEG; equal to or greater than 90 points (≥ 90 points) for the PHA. (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
<p>17. a. Fish or wildlife habitat improvements in the EQIP schedule of operations directly benefit habitat for Species of Special Concern (as identified in Section II under Special Environmental Concerns) animals and the WHEG or PHA the 'planned' assessment score is met.</p>	6
<p>17. b. Fish or wildlife habitat improvements that directly benefit habitat for Species of Special Concern (as identified by California Department of Fish and Wildlife) animals and the WHEG or PHA the 'planned' assessment score is met.</p>	5
<p>Local Category Eighteen – INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat Degradation Food, Water, Cover/Shelter, Habitat Continuity/Space is evaluated using the following assessment protocols: The Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) or Pollinator Habitat Assessment (PHA). (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)</p>	
<p>18. a. Riparian Zone: As documented in the Conservation Plan, the conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will improve the riparian zone that directly benefits fish or wildlife, where the riparian WHEG 'planned' worksheet is greater or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5).</p>	2
<p>18. b. Multiple Habitat Types: As documented in the Conservation Plan, the conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will improve multiple habitat types that directly benefits fish or wildlife, improving habitat elements for both upland/riparian, based on the appropriate WHEG that benefit both terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. The score on the WHEG worksheet for the Land Use/Cover Type is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5)</p>	2