

Bay-Delta Initiative for Southern Tulare Basin Fiscal Year 2017 Application Screening Worksheet <u>A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.</u>		
Applicant Name:		
Evaluator Name:		
Date:	Batching Number:	Application No:
<p>EQIP is a competitive financial assistance program and applications are screened and ranked based on the expected conservation benefits of planned practices in the EQIP schedule of operations. This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible applicant applying for financial assistance. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, application batching periods are established for purposes of ranking and funding decisions. A screening worksheet can be processed for each application batching period. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute an agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (High, Medium, and Low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.</p>		
Directions: Screening criteria will be answered sequentially beginning with the first question below.		
Screening Criteria Questions		
If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts	The applicant has reviewed and approved the EQIP schedule of operations that will be uploaded to the NRCS business tool, ProTracts, before or by the ranking deadline.	
If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	In the last two EQIP program fiscal years, the applicant: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Had a NRCS contract terminated – and/or, b. Failed to implement contract items in an existing EQIP contract according to the schedule in Form, NRCS-CPA-1155, "Conservation Plan and Schedule of Operations," and the contract was modified to reschedule contract items - installation delays were not due to NRCS error or design delay – and/or, c. Failed to implement rescheduled contract items agreed to according to Form, NRCS-CPA-153, "Agreement Covering Non-Compliance with Provisions of Contract," and Form, NRCS-CPA-1156, "Revision of Plan/Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract," – and/or d. Installed conservation practices with financial assistance from NRCS that have not been maintained according to the practice operations and maintenance for the practice lifespan. 	
<u>If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.</u> <u>If No, continue to the next question.</u>	<u>The EQIP schedule of operations includes practice(s) that require a permit and the applicant has not provided NRCS with information to support they have applied for the permit; AND/OR, the applicant has not provided NRCS information that scheduled practice(s) will meet regulatory or permitting requirements.</u>	
<u>If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.</u> <u>If No, continue to the next question.</u>	<u>The EQIP schedule of operations includes practice(s) that require an engineered design and the applicant has not provided information to complete the needs and feasibility analysis, AND/OR, the applicant has not provided NRCS with information to support they are working with an engineer to complete a design that will ensure implementation according to NRCS standards and specifications.</u>	

Screening Criteria Questions	
Is the agricultural operation a dairy?	If No, answer screening criteria in Section A. If Yes, answer screening criteria in Section B.
Section A Screening Criteria (Do Not Answer for an AFO Operation)	
If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	The EQIP schedule of operations is for Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), 104 – Nutrient Management Plan.
If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practice 449 – Irrigation Water Management (Level II or III) and/or 590 – Nutrient Management – ONLY.
Irrigated Cropland Screening Factors	
5 Points	The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices designed to improve efficiency of irrigation water use through implementation of a tailwater recovery system and/or retrofitting of an existing micro-irrigation system.
3 Points	The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices designed to conserve irrigation water through implementation of 441 – Irrigation System, Microirrigation or 442 – Sprinkler System (this does not include retrofitting of an existing system).
3 Points	The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices designed to water quality or quantity through implementation of 449 – Irrigation Water Management and/or 590 -Nutrient Management in conjunction with structural practices.
	Total Screening Points
If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	At least 7 Screening Factor Points are scored.
If Yes, Medium Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, Low Priority	Less than 7 Screening Factor Points are scored.
Section A Screening Criteria (Answer for an AFO Operations)	
If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	The needs and feasibilities analysis determines that a needed permit or approved design is required for installation of a conservation practice and the permit or design cannot be received in time to begin construction by the planned conservation practice scheduled start date.
If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	The EQIP applicant does not have a completed Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) or the completed CNMP does not support the practice(s) in the application.
If Yes, Medium Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.	The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices designed to improve timing, placement, or distribution of waste/manure water associated with an animal feeding operation located outside the Northwestern Kern Focus Area.
If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, Low Priority in ProTracts.	The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices designed to improve timing, placement, or distribution of waste/manure water associated with an animal feeding operation located within the Northwestern Kern Focus Area.

	Application Screening Priority		
Designated Conservationist Approval Signature:		Date Approved:	