

<p>Central Sierra Cropland EQIP Fund Pool Fiscal Year 2017 Application Screening Worksheet</p> <p><u>A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.</u></p>		
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>		
<p>Directions: If application does not meet the following scenarios determine application priority using screening criteria factors.</p>		
<p>If Yes, continue to the next question. If No, Low Priority Status in ProTracts.</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>If Yes, Low Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to the next question.</p>	<p>In the last two EQIP program fiscal years, the applicant:</p> <ul 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. 	
<p>If Yes, High Priority Status in ProTracts. If No, continue to screening criteria factors.</p>	<p>The EQIP schedule of operations includes a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP).</p>	

Screening Criteria Factors (Circle All That Apply)			
High Priority Status in ProTracts	40 or greater Screening Factor Points Scored		
Medium Priority Status in ProTracts	30-39 Screening Factor Points Scored		
Low Priority Status in ProTracts	0-30 Screening Factor Points Scored		
Conservation practices in the EQIP schedule of operation are scheduled to be implemented within three years of the obligation date.			5 points
Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations will benefit native pollinators, honey bees or other beneficial insects.			5 points
Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations address insufficient water without increasing groundwater withdrawal.			10 points
Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations address soil erosion, soil quality or water quality degradation resource concerns using vegetative or reduced tillage practices.			10 points
Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations will assist in improving existing conservation practices or systems that are in place at the time the application is accepted or that complete a conservation system.			5 points
Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations address at least THREE of the resource concerns listed below.			30 points
Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations address only TWO of the priority resource concerns listed below.			25 points
Scheduled practices in the EQIP schedule of operations address only ONE of the priority resource concerns listed below.			15 points
Central Sierra Cropland Priority Resource Concerns			
(Check the box for the resource concern(s) addressed by conservation practices in the EQIP schedule of operations.)			
SOIL EROSION			
		Sheet and Rill	
SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION			
		Organic Matter Depletion	
INSUFFICIENT WATER			
		Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	
WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION			
		Excess Nutrients in Surface Water	
		Pesticides Transported to Surface Water	
		Excessive Sediment in Surface Water	
INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE			
		Habitat Degradation	
INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE			
		Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations	
Total Screening Factor Points (if applicable)			
Application Screening Priority:			
Designated Conservationist Approval Signature:		Date Approved:	