

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 AFO - Southern California**

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.	250
State Category Two – Water Quality Degradation: Evaluation of Risk to Groundwater Determined by the California State Water Resources Control map, Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Areas and High Use Groundwater Basins, http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/hydro_areas.pdf The animal feeding operation stores silage feed, dry waste, and/or liquid waste in a facility; and, (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
2. a. Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce potential leaching to groundwater for locations within a Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area.	100
2. b. Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce potential leaching to groundwater for locations within a High Use Ground Water Basin Area, but not a Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area.	75
State Category Three – Water Quality Degradation: Evaluation of Risk to Surface Water The animal feeding operation stores silage feed, dry waste, and/or liquid waste in a facility; and, (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
3. a. Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan will prevent runoff directly to a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.	100

3. b. Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations will prevent runoff to surface water body that drains to a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.	75
State Category Four – Energy Conservation: Reduction of Energy Use (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
4. a. Conservation treatment in EQIP schedule of operations results in implementation of conservation practices defined in a Headquarters or Landscape Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP). If answered, “Yes,” then question 4b must be answered, “No.”	50
4. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in implementation of practices that reduce energy use. Only practices include those that state “reduce energy use” in the purpose section of the conservation practice standard.	25
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 Local Criteria. Answering “Yes” to this Local Criteria 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 Answers. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining Answers in this section.	400
Local Category Two - SOIL EROSION: Sheet and Rill Soil loss tolerance, T, is based on soil type. Total annual soil loss is estimated using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE2), does not exceed T after treatment, and conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations reduces soil loss: (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
2. a. Conservation treatment decreases soil loss from greater than T to less than T.	20
2. b. Conservation treatment results in soil loss reduced by 50 percent from the benchmark condition.	15
2. c. Conservation treatment includes practices that address sheet and rill erosion.	10
Local Category Three - SOIL EROSION: Wind Soil loss tolerance, T, is based on soil type. Total annual soil loss is estimated using the Wind Erosion Prediction System (WEPS), does not exceed T after treatment, and conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations reduces soil loss: (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
3. a. Conservation treatment decreases soil loss from greater than T to less than T.	20
3. b. Conservation treatment results in soil loss reduced by 50 percent from the benchmark condition.	15
3. c. Conservation treatment includes practices that address sheet and rill erosion.	10
Local Category Four - SOIL EROSION: Ephemeral Gullies (Select “Yes,” if applicable)	
4. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes vegetative, structural or management practices for actively eroding ephemeral gullies that will result in control of surface water runoff to stabilize small channels and prevent reoccurrence of new channels.	20

Local Category Five - SOIL EROSION: Classic Gullies (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
5. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes vegetative, structural or management practices for actively eroding classic gullies that will result in control of surface water runoff to stop progression of head cutting and widening of existing gully.	20
Local Category Six - SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Concentration of Salts and Other Chemicals Soils have exchangeable sodium percent (Na %) of greater than 10 and the electrical conductivity (EC) of greater than 4 dS/m, is detrimental to growth of most crops. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in reduction of the exchangeable Na % and EC for the treatment area: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
6. a. Exchangeable Na % of greater than 15 or EC greater than 6 dS/m to tolerable levels for the crop.	20
6. b. Exchangeable Na % of greater than 10 or EC greater than 4 dS/m to tolerable levels for the crop.	16
6. c. Exchangeable Na % of greater than 10 or EC greater than 2 dS/m to tolerable levels for the crop.	12
Local Category Seven - Flood Protection EXCESS WATER: Ponding and Flooding (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
7. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will protect the entire facility from flood inundation as required by State and Local regulations.	20
7. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will protect part of the facility from flood inundation as required by State and Local regulations.	10
Local Category Eight - Cropland and/or Pastureland Irrigation Efficiency INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes implementation of IWM and/or an irrigation system that results in a water savings of: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
8. a. at least 20 percent annual water savings.	25
8. b. at least 15 percent annual water savings.	15
8. c. at least 10 percent annual water savings.	10
8. d. at least 5 percent annual water savings	5
Local Category Nine - Manure Handling and Management to Maintain or Improve Storage Capacity (Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria) WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water 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. (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
9. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations increases storage capacity or reduces storage requirement to fully match wastewater storage need.	35
9. 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.	25

<p>Local Category Ten - Risk to Surface Water Quality from Headquarters, Cropland, Pastureland, or Rangeland Runoff</p> <p>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water</p> <p>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 Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will address runoff from headquarters, cropland, pastureland and/or rangeland to a surface water body, where an existing pathway to surface water exists; and: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
10. a. Receiving waterbody is listed on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category, 'Nutrients'.	20
10. b. Receiving waterbody is a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.	10
10. c. Receiving waterbody is neither a. or b. (above)	5
<p>Local Category Eleven - Manure Handling and Management to Maintain or Improve Storage Capacity (Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria)</p> <p>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater 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.</p> <p>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
11. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations increases storage capacity or reduces storage requirement to fully match wastewater storage need.	20
11. 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.	10
<p>Local Category Twelve - Minimizing Leaching Risk to Groundwater on Headquarters, Cropland, Pastureland, or Rangeland</p> <p>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater</p> <p>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:</p> <p>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
12. a. Hydrologic soil group A, high infiltration rates.	10
12. b. Hydrologic soil group B, moderate infiltration rates.	8
12. c. Hydrologic soil group C, slow infiltration rates.	6
12. d. Hydrologic soil group D, very slow infiltration rates.	4
<p>Local Category Thirteen - Minimizing Leaching Risk to Groundwater on Headquarters, Cropland, Pastureland, or Rangeland</p> <p>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater</p> <p>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations on headquarters will minimize leaching to groundwater where the highest annual depth of groundwater for the most recent five years of data is: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
13. a. Less than 10 feet.	10
13. b. Less than 20 feet.	8
13. c. Less than 30 feet.	6
13. d. Less than 40 feet.	4
13. e. Less than 50 feet.	2
13. f. Greater than or equal to 50 feet.	1

Local Category Fourteen - Whole Farm Nutrient Balance (Cropland, Pastureland and/or Rangeland Only Ranking Criteria) WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater (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.	15
14. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will increase distribution of nutrients to more land in accordance with the CNMP.	10
Local Category Fifteen - Reduce Risk to Ground Water on Cropland and/or Pastureland Nutrient Application Efficiency (Cropland and/or Pastureland Only Ranking Criteria) WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
15. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes a nutrient management system that will meet the requirements of NRCS conservation practice, 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.	10
15. 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 + Intermediate 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.	5
15. 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.	5
15. d. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes structural practices to improve manure application uniformity either within a field or among fields.	5
Local Category Sixteen - Risk to Surface Water Quality from Headquarters, Cropland, Pastureland and/or Rangeland Runoff WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will minimize opportunity for introduction of sediments to a surface waterbody, where an existing pathway to the surface water exists; and: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
16. a. Hydrologic soil group D, very slow infiltration rates.	20
16. b. Hydrologic soil group C, slow infiltration rates.	16
16. c. Hydrologic soil group B, moderate infiltration rates.	12
16. d. Hydrologic soil group A, high infiltration rates.	8
Local Category Seventeen - Odor Management AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Objectionable Odors (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
17. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce objectionable odors.	20
Local Category Eighteen - Prescribed Grazing Management DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	

18. a. Conservation treatment includes NRCS conservation practice, 528 – Prescribed Grazing, in the EQIP application schedule of operations.	10
18. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in implementation of structural improvements to facilitate rotational grazing and distribution of livestock for improved productivity, health and vigor of key forage species.	10
18. c. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in implementation of chemical, vegetative, and/or mechanical treatments to facilitate improved productivity, health and vigor of key forage species.	10
18. d. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in livestock exclusion from riparian areas and/or wetlands.	10
Local Category Nineteen - Headquarter Energy Management INEFICIENT ENERGY USE: Equipment and Facilities Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices that will result in: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
19. a. Reduce energy use by at least 30 percent.	20
19. b. Reduce energy use by at least 20 percent.	10
19. c. Reduce energy use by at least 10 percent.	6
Local Category Twenty - Field Operations Energy Management INEFICIENT ENERGY USE: Farming / Ranching Practices and Field Operations Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices that will result in: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
20. a. Reduce energy use by at least 30 percent.	20
20. b. Reduce energy use by at least 20 percent.	10
20. c. Reduce energy use by at least 10 percent.	6