

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
 FY17 Bay-Delta Initiative - Cache Slough Complex

STRIKETHROUGH TEXT FOR NATIONAL CRITERIA ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO THE FUND POOL. DO NOT ANSWER YES TO 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 tillth 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	Points
State Category One – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water [California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools.] The EQIP schedule of operations includes conservation practices for irrigation water management (IWM) and/or an irrigation system improvement (does not include water conveyances to the field) that results in a water savings of: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
1. a. more than 30 percent annual water savings.	70
1. b. 15 to 30 percent annual water savings.	60
1. c. 10 to 14 percent annual water savings.	50
State Category Two -- WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water Treatment area is upland areas adjacent to the surface water body under consideration. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes structural, vegetative and/or management practices to minimize nutrients in surface water runoff to: (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
2. a. A perennial or intermittent creek.	5
2. b. An ephemeral creek.	5
2. c. Ponds, springs, sloughs or other water bodies.	5
State Category Three – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater 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 Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes management practice(s) and the treatment area is located within: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
3. a. A Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area.	15
3. b. A High Use Ground Water Basin Area, but not a Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area.	12
State Category Four – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5 (February 2011) is found at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1043138.pdf The Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST) hazard rating is greater than 'Low' for surface water on the treatment unit and mitigation strategies are needed. (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
4. a. Conservation treatment includes any combination of NRCS conservation practices from NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5, Tables 1 and 2 (February 2011) that results in a reduction of the WIN-PST surface water hazard rating for at least one pesticide to 'Low' or 'Very Low' and adoption of a Year-Round University of California Integrated Pest Management (UC IPM), when available for the crop, or other comparable protocol.	15
4. b. Conservation treatment includes any combination of NRCS conservation practices from NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5, Tables 1 and 2 (February 2011) that results in a reduction of the WIN-PST surface water hazard rating to 'Low' or 'Very Low' for at least one pesticide.	14
State Category Five – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program website: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/ 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 (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
5. a. Conservation treatment will minimize and mitigate water quality impacts associated with sediments in runoff water from the treatment unit to a surface water body on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category 'Sediments' or to a surface water body under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.	14
5. b. Conservation treatment includes vegetative practices to minimize the potential of sediment delivery into a surface water body.	23

5. c. Conservation treatment includes structural practices to minimize the potential of sediment delivery into a surface water body.	23
State Category Six –INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat Degradation Food, Water, Cover/Shelter, Habitat Continuity/Space Habitat is evaluated using the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) or Pollinator Habitat Assessment (PHA). (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
6. 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).	20
6. 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)	20
6. c. Pollinator Habitat: Conservation treatment using Hedgerow Planting, Cover Crop or Conservation Cover, in the EQIP schedule of operations will restore or enhance habitat for pollinators using the PHA with a minimum 'planned' score of 110 points or greater.	15
6. d. Invasive Species: Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce invasive species identified by the local work group, Cal-IPC, or Weed Management Area where the planned score in the respective plant community WHEG is $\leq 15\%$ estimated percent cover, but appear controlled (exceptions are Arundo, Tamarisk or Eucalyptus, where percent cover needs to be $< 5\%$).	20
Local Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Points
Local Category One – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools. The EQIP schedule of operations includes Irrigation Water Management and/or an irrigation system improvement (does not include water conveyances to the field) that results in a water savings of: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	
1. a. 30 acre/inch per acre per year.	28
1. b. 27 acre/inch per acre per year.	26
1. c. 24 acre/inch per acre per year.	24
1. d. 21 acre/inch per acre per year.	22
1. e. 19 acre/inch per acre per year.	21
1. f. 17 acre/inch per acre per year.	19
1. g. 16 acre/inch per acre per year.	16
1. h. 15 acre/inch per acre per year.	15
1. i. 14 acre/inch per acre per year.	13
1. j. 13 acre/inch per acre per year.	11
1. k. 12 acre/inch per acre per year.	10
1. l. 10 acre/inch per acre per year.	8
1. m. 8 acre/inch per acre per year.	5
1. n. 6 acre/inch per acre per year.	3
1. o. 4 acre/inch per acre per year.	2
Local Category Two – INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water [California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools. Level I = Basic Irrigation Water Management; Level 2 = Intermediate Irrigation Water Management; Level III = Advanced Irrigation Water Management] Conservation treatment (structural and/or management) results in attainment of 449 – Irrigation Water Management: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)	

2. 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.	27
2. 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.	19
2. c. Conservation treatment will achieve Level I irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3.	10
Local Category Three – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
3. a. Conservation treatment will result in development and implementation of a nutrient management plan according to NRCS conservation practice standard, 590 – Nutrient Management, and surface water from treatment area drains to waterways (intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain), in the Cache Slough Complex region. In-field irrigation conveyances are not considered waterways.	15
3. b. Conservation treatment will establish vegetative practice(s) to filter surface water runoff entering a Cache Slough Complex waterway such as an intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain; in-field irrigation conveyances are not considered waterways of the Cache Slough Complex.	11
3. c. Conservation treatment results in restricted access of livestock to waterways (intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain) and riparian areas in the Cache Slough Complex region.	10
3. d. Conservation treatment results in reliable off-stream water, available year-round, for livestock and wildlife, including adequate storage, where waterways are currently used as a livestock drinking water source. Conservation treatment makes water available to livestock through a tank and trough system.	10
Local Category Four – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
4. a. Conservation treatment will result in development and implementation of a nutrient management plan according to NRCS conservation practice standard, 590 – Nutrient Management.	15
4. b. Conservation treatment results in decommission of abandoned wells to prevent nitrate contamination of groundwater.	19
4. c. Conservation treatment will minimize risk of nitrate contamination of groundwater by installing backflow prevention or well head protection.	19
4. d. Conservation treatment is planned for fields located in areas identified as high-risk for groundwater contamination.	10
Local Category Five – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides Transported to Surface Water NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5 (February 2011) is found at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1043138.pdf The Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (Win-PST) hazard rating is greater than 'Low' for the treatment unit and mitigation is needed. 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. (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
5. a. Conservation treatment includes mitigation measure(s) outlined in NRCS Agronomy Technical Note No. 5 to be implemented under conservation practice 595-Integrated Pest Management. Mitigation measures may include techniques such as changing the timing of application, product substitution, or using precision application equipment.	37
5. b. Conservation treatment results in development and implementation of an irrigation water management plan according to NRCS conservation practice standard, 449 –Irrigation Water Management, where irrigation runoff is identified as a pathway for pesticide loss.	11
5. c. Conservation treatment 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.	11
5. d. Conservation treatment will establish vegetative practice(s) to filter surface water runoff entering a Cache Slough Complex waterway such as an intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain; in-field irrigation conveyances are not considered waterways of the Cache Slough Complex.	11

5. e. Conservation treatment 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.	11
5. f. Conservation treatment will address pyrethroid, chlorpyrifos, or Diuron pesticides.	8
Local Category Six – WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
6. a. Conservation treatment results in implementation of NRCS conservation practice, 329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No Till, to eliminate the practice of field-wide tillage. The benchmark soil tillage intensity rating (STIR) is greater than 30; STIR shall not exceed 30 after treatment. (If yes to 6a, then 6b must be no.)	19
6. b. Conservation treatment results in implementation of NRCS conservation practice, 345 - Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till, residues on the soil surface throughout the critical wind erosion period and/or rainfall erosion areas. The benchmark soil tillage intensity rating (STIR) is greater than 100; STIR shall not exceed 100 after treatment. (If yes to 6b, then 6a must be no.)	19
6. c. Conservation treatment on and/or directly adjacent to farmed fields will minimize the potential for soil transport during winter storm events to a waterway (intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain) in the Cache Slough Complex region. Practices may include winter vegetative cover or sediment basins.	11
6. d. Conservation treatment on and/or directly adjacent to farmed fields will minimize the potential for soil transport during irrigation events to a waterway (intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain) in the Cache Slough Complex region. Practices may include irrigation system upgrades or irrigation water management (IWM).	11
6. e. Conservation treatment will establish vegetation to filter surface water runoff entering a Cache Slough Complex waterway (intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain) in the Cache Slough Complex region. Practices may include filter strip, riparian herbaceous cover, or field border.	11
6. f. Conservation treatment results in restricted access of livestock to a waterway (intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain) in the Cache Slough Complex region.	10
6. g. Conservation treatment results in reliable off-stream water, available year-round, for livestock and wildlife, including adequate storage, where waterways are currently used as a livestock drinking water source. Conservation treatment makes water available to livestock through a tank and trough system.	10
Local Category Seven – INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat Degradation Food, Water, Cover/Shelter, Habitat Continuity/Space Habitat is evaluated using the following assessment protocols: The Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) or Pollinator Habitat Assessment (PHA). For all questions below, the planned score on the WHEG worksheet for the Land Use/Cover Type is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5) (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
7. a. Conservation treatment enhances or establishes riparian vegetation, using mainly introduced species, adjacent to a Cache Slough Complex water body (intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain, NOT in-field irrigation conveyances). (If yes to 7a, then 7b must be no.)	15
7. b. Conservation treatment enhances or establishes riparian vegetation, using mainly California native plant species, adjacent to a Cache Slough Complex water body (intermittent or perennial stream, irrigation canal or drain, NOT in-field irrigation conveyances). (If yes to 7b, then 7a must be no.)	19
7. c. Conservation treatment results in removal of invasive plant species in or adjacent to Cache Slough Complex water bodies.	13
7. d. Conservation treatment establishes or enhances native plant communities on uplands in the Cache Slough Complex watershed.	15
7. e. Conservation treatment results in removal of invasive plant species from uplands in the Cache Slough Complex watershed.	8
7. f. Conservation treatment results in multi-story habitat, including elements of at least two of the following: Canopy or over-story (large trees), mid-level canopy (small trees and shrubs), and understory (grass or forbs).	5
7. g. Conservation treatment results in proposed habitat area equal to 0.1 to 0.25 percent of the Conservation Management Unit.	8
7. h. Conservation treatment results in proposed habitat area equal to 0.25 to 0.5 percent of the Conservation Management Unit.	11

