

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 Air Quality for Particulate Matter Reduction

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 (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)?	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 till 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 - Attainment Area Designation Select the most appropriate response below regarding attainment designation for the 1987 24-hour PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard at the planned land unit location. See EPA PM10 Area Designation Map at https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/images/r9-pm10.gif (Select “Yes” to One Answer Only)	
1. a. "Nonattainment" or "Attainment (Maintenance Area)"	150
1. b. "Unclassifiable/Attainment"	75
State Category Two – Attainment Area Designation Select the most appropriate response below regarding the attainment designation for the 1997 and/or 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS at the planned land unit location. See EPA PM2.5 Area Designation Map at: https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/images/24-hr-pm25-naaqs-designations-1280w.png (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
2. a. "Nonattainment/Serious"	125
2. b. "Nonattainment/Moderate" or "Attainment (Maintenance Area)"	100
2. c. "Unclassifiable/Attainment"	75
State Category Three – Attainment Area Designation Select the most appropriate response below regarding the attainment designation for the 1997 and/or 2012 Annual PM2.5 NAAQS at the planned land unit location. See EPA PM2.5 Area Designation Map at: https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/images/mapr9-pm25-annual.png (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
3. a. "Nonattainment"	125
3. b. "Unclassifiable/Attainment"	75
Local Issues Addressed	
Issue Questions	Point(s)
Local Category One – Proximity to Public Use Areas Conservation treatment will reduce air pollution emissions within the proximity to public use areas, such as but not limited to: homes, urban areas, schools, parks, and public roads and highways (based on nearest point of intersect with the public use area): (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
1. a. Within a quarter mile of the planned land unit.	40
1. b. Between a quarter and half mile of the planned land unit.	35
1. c. Within one mile of the planned land unit.	30
1. d. Greater than one mile of the planned land unit.	25

Local Category Two – Residue and Tillage Management or Field Operations Emission Reductions AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) Conservation treatment for the planned land unit will result in: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
2. a. A "no-till" residue and tillage management system where the STIR value is 20 or less.	10
2. b. A "reduced-till" residue and tillage management system where the STIR value rating 80 or less.	8
2. c. A combined tillage management system by utilizing implements that combine multiple tillage operations in a single pass and reduces PM10 by at least 30 percent.	6
2. d. A reduced-pass tillage management system by reducing the number of field passes for land preparation by at least 30 percent.	4
Local Category Three – Residue and Tillage Management or Field Operations Emission Reductions AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) Percent reduction of tillage passages will be documented on the "Reduced-Pass Tillage Management Worksheet". Conservation treatment results in reduction of field tillage passes in the treatment unit by: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
3. a. 90 to 100 percent	8
3. b. 75 to 89 percent	6
3. c. 50 to 74 percent	4
3. d. 30 to 49 percent	2
Local Category Four – Residue and Tillage Management or Field Operations Emission Reductions AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Reduction of PM10 emissions is documented by the "Reduced-Pass Tillage Management Worksheet". Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in reduction of PM10 emissions by: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
4. a. 60 percent or more.	6
4. b. 45 to 59 percent.	4
4. c. 30 to 44 percent.	2
Local Category Five – Residue and Tillage Management or Field Operations Emission Reductions AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment results in implementation of conservation tillage management; and: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
5. a. 75 percent or more of the planned land unit soils are, predominately, classified as HEL.	6
5. b. 50 to 74 percent of the planned land unit soils are, predominately, classified as HEL.	4
5. c. 25 to 49 percent of the planned land unit soils are, predominately, classified as HEL.	2
Local Category Six – "Low-Dust" Nut Harvesters AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment results in reduced PM emissions where the crop to be harvested is: (Select Yes to All Applicable Answers)	
6. a. An almond orchard.	15
6. b. A walnut orchard.	12

6. c. Any other nut orchard.	10
Local Category Seven – "Low-Dust" Nut Harvesters AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment results in reduced PM emissions where the soil is: (Select Yes to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
7. a. A clay soil with at least 50 percent or higher clay content, where the orchard is irrigated by drip or microirrigation.	15
7. b. A loam soil where the orchard is irrigated by drip or microirrigation.	12
7. c. Any soil type where the orchard is tilled, compacted and irrigated prior to harvest.	10
Local Category Eight – Unpaved Roads and Traffic Areas AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment minimizes fugitive dust from vehicles (on-road, off-road, farm equipment, etc.) driving on unpaved roads and traffic areas, where: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
8. a. At least 75 percent or more of total surface area planned for treatment are on unpaved roads and/or traffic areas that exceed 50 Vehicle Daily Trips (VDT) on more than 30 days from May through October.	10
8. b. At least 75 percent or more of total surface area planned for treatment are on unpaved roads and/or traffic areas that exceed 50 VDT on more than 30 days of the year.	8
8. c. At least 75 percent or more of the total surface area planned for treatment are on unpaved roads and/or traffic areas that exceed 25 VDT on more than 30 days from May through October.	6
8. d. At least 75 percent or more of the total surface area planned for treatment are on unpaved roads and/or traffic areas that exceed 25 VDT on more than 30 days of the year.	4
Local Category Nine – Unpaved Roads and Traffic Areas AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment minimizes fugitive dust from unpaved roads and traffic areas by applying SC250, SC800, or lignin-based (on certified organic farms) dust suppressants where: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
9. a. All of the unpaved road or traffic area segment(s) planned for treatment have never received any type of dust suppressant treatment (not including water).	10
9. b. All of the unpaved road or traffic area segment(s) planned for treatment have never been treated with bituminous road oils or lignin-based dust suppressants, but may have been treated with other types of dust suppressants (such as magnesium chloride or calcium chloride road salts, or other dust suppressant products, but not including water).	8
9. c. Less than 25 percent of the total unpaved road or traffic surface area planned for treatment were treated over five years ago with bituminous road oils or lignin-based dust suppressants	6
Local Category Ten – Unpaved Roads and Traffic Areas AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment is to apply SC250, SC800, or lignin-based (on certified organic farms) dust suppressants and install additional PM mitigation measures, that include: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	

10. a. Pre-conditioning the unpaved road or traffic area surface by grading slopes and applying road base, crushed asphalt or other non-toxic surface conditioning material (excluding water); installing gates or barriers to limit vehicle access or gates already installed for limiting vehicle access; and posting speed-limit signs of 15 miles per hour (or slower).	10
10. b. Pre-conditioning the unpaved road or traffic area surface by grading to design slopes and applying road base, crushed asphalt or other non-toxic surface conditioning material (excluding water).	8
10. c. Installing gates or barriers to limit vehicle access, or gates or barriers are already in place and being used to limit vehicle access.	6
10. d. Posting speed-limit signs of 15 miles per hour (or slower), or some other dust mitigation technique.	4
Local Category Eleven – Windbreaks and Shelterbelts at CAFOs AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Objectionable Odors Tree species with low or moderate biogenic emissions are posted on-line on the Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo SelectTree website at: http://selecttree.calpoly.edu/search-trees-by-characteristics Conservation treatment will mitigate biogenic emissions from windbreak plantings that are demonstrated to have: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
11. a. Low biogenic emissions.	15
11. b. Moderate biogenic emissions.	10
Local Category Twelve – Windbreaks and Shelterbelts at CAFOs AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Objectionable Odors Conservation treatment includes a windbreak planting designed to: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
12. a. Protect all feasible locations around the CAFO, both upwind and downwind of corrals, ponds, trails, chutes, paths to milking parlor and other heavy use areas.	15
12. b. Protect feasible locations at the CAFO, primarily downwind of corrals, ponds, trails, chutes, paths to milking parlor and other heavy use areas.	12
12. c. To protect some, but not all, feasible locations around the CAFO, primarily downwind of corrals, ponds, trails, chutes, paths to milking parlor and other heavy use areas.	9
Local Category Thirteen – Sprinkler System at Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations results in installation of a dust control sprinkler system to reduce particulate emissions where animals are kept: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
13. a. Year-round.	10
13. b. A minimum of 8 months between the months of March to November.	8
13. c. A minimum of 6 months between the months of March to November.	6

Local Category Fourteen – Sprinkler System at Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment results in installation of a dust control sprinkler system to reduce particulate emissions from: (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
14. a. Open lots/loafing areas.	10
14. b. Holding pens or corrals.	8
Local Category Fifteen – Sprinkler System at Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment results in installation of a dust control sprinkler system to reduce particulate emissions; and, the typical precipitation between June 1st and August 31th is: (Select Yes to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
15. a. Less than 1/8 inch.	10
15. b. Less than 1/4 inch.	8
15. c. Less than 1/2 inch.	6
Local Category Sixteen – Chipping of Orchard or Vineyard Removal Debris AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Ozone Precursors AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Objectionable Odors Conservation treatment will result in chipping of removed: (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
16. a. Vineyard.	15
16. b. Walnut or almond orchard trees.	12
16. c. Citrus orchard trees.	10
16. d. Any other type of permanent crop.	5
Local Category Seventeen – Orchard or Vineyard Removals AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Ozone Precursors AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Objectionable Odors Conservation treatment results in all chipped material is to be: (Select “Yes” to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
17. a. Removed and transported off-site to be used as fuel for renewable biomass power generation.	15
17. b. Remain on the farm to be incorporated into the soil.	12
17. c. Remain on the farm and used for other agricultural purposes, such as animal bedding materials, dust suppressants on unpaved roads and traffic areas, ground cover, or feedstock for composting.	10
17. d. Removed and transported off-site to be used for animal bedding materials, dust suppressants on unpaved roads and traffic areas, ground cover, feedstock for composting, or other use.	8

Local Category Eighteen – Obstruction Removal and Disposal of Chemically-Treated Wooden Stakes AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment results in removal of chemically-treated wood from the field where: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
18. a. The entire vineyard is supported with chemically-treated wooden stakes and endposts.	15
18. b. The entire tree orchard or other permanent crop is supported with chemically-treated wooded stakes.	10
18. c. Vineyard, tree orchard, or other permanent crop has some, but not all wooden stakes are chemically treated.	8
Local Category Nineteen – Obstruction Removal and Disposal of Chemically-Treated Wooden Stakes AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors Conservation treatment is to clear the land of obstructions for planting a new crop where the chemically-treated wood: (Select "Yes" to Only One Answer, if applicable)	
19. a. Is present and used in the field for propping the existing vineyard or orchard.	15
19. b. Has already been removed from the field and is stacked nearby waiting for proper disposal.	10

