

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Application Ranking Summary
FY17 AFO Coastal**

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.	250
Local Category Two - SOIL EROSION: Classic Gullies (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
2. 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.	25
Local Category Three - 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. 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)	
3. a. At least 20 percent annual water savings.	20
3. b. At least 15 percent annual water savings.	15
3. c. At least 10 percent annual water savings.	10
3. d. At least 5 percent annual water savings.	5

<p>Local Category Four - 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)</p>	
4. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations increases storage capacity or reduces storage requirement to fully match wastewater storage need.	40
4. 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.	15
<p>Local Category Five - Nutrient Application Efficiency and Distribution Uniformity (Cropland, Pastureland and/or Rangeland Only Ranking Criteria) WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)</p>	
5. 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.	20
5. 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.	10
5. 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
5. d. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes structural practices to improve manure application uniformity either within a field or among fields.	10
<p>Local Category Six - Solids Management (Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria) WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water Refer to Table 1 of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, 632 - Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility to determine average separation efficiency. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in an average separation efficiency of: (Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
6. a. Greater than or equal to 52 percent of solids/sand separated from wastewater prior to entering the manure storage lagoon.	30
6. b. Greater than or equal to 10 percent, but less than 52 percent of solids/sand separated from wastewater prior to entering the manure storage lagoon.	20
6. c. 10 percent or less of solids/sand separated from wastewater prior to entering the manure storage lagoon or, will improve existing separator efficiency, waste handling, containment, and/or processing within confines of headquarters.	10

<p>Local Category Seven - Risk to Surface Water Quality from Headquarters, Cropland, Pastureland, or Rangeland Runoff</p> <p>WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Surface Water</p> <p>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations on headquarters, cropland, pastureland and/or rangeland will address runoff to a surface water body, where an existing pathway to surface water exists, and the hydrologic soil group is predominately:</p> <p>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
7. a. Hydrologic soil group D, very slow infiltration rates.	10
7. b. Hydrologic soil group C, slow infiltration rates.	8
7. c. Hydrologic soil group B, moderate infiltration rates.	6
7. d. Hydrologic soil group A, high infiltration rates.	4
<p>Local Category Eight - 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</p> <p>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;</p> <p>and:</p> <p>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable)</p>	
8. a. Receiving waterbody is listed on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category, 'Nutrients'.	15
8. 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
8. c. Receiving waterbody is neither a. or b. (above)	5
<p>Local Category Nine - Solid/Liquid Waste and Silage/Haylage Storage</p> <p>(Headquarters Only Ranking Criteria) WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater</p> <p>Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations includes practices that will reduce groundwater contamination from manure or silage by installing a water tight structure and/or an impervious surface for which the stored material consistency is:</p> <p>(Select "Yes" to One Answer Only, if applicable – select the highest ranking scenario)</p>	
9. a. 'Liquid' and has a depth greater than 5.0 feet and sits on bare ground.	30
9. b. 'Semi-solid' or 'slurry' and has a depth greater than 5.0 feet and sits on bare ground.	25
9. c. 'Liquid' and has a depth less than or equal to 5.0 feet and sits on bare ground.	20
9. d. 'Semi-solid' or 'slurry' and has a depth less than or equal to 5.0 feet and sits on bare ground.	15
9. e. 'Solid' or 'stackable' and sits on bare ground.	10
<p>Local Category Ten - 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>	

10. a. Hydrologic soil group A, high infiltration rates.	10
10. b. Hydrologic soil group B, moderate infiltration rates.	8
10. c. Hydrologic soil group C, slow infiltration rates.	6
10. d. Hydrologic soil group D, very slow infiltration rates.	4
Local Category Eleven - Eliminate Contamination Risk to Groundwater from Headquarters, Cropland or Pastureland WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess Nutrients in Groundwater (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
11. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will eliminate a direct conduit to groundwater.	30
Local Category Twelve - 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)	
12. 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.	40
12. b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will increase distribution of nutrients to more land in accordance with the CNMP.	15
Local Category Thirteen - 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)	
13. a. Hydrologic soil group D, very slow infiltration rates.	10
13. b. Hydrologic soil group C, slow infiltration rates.	8
13. c. Hydrologic soil group B, moderate infiltration rates.	6
13. d. Hydrologic soil group A, high infiltration rates.	4
Local Category Fourteen - Risk to Surface Water Quality from Headquarters, Cropland, Pastureland and/or Rangeland Runoff WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive Sediment in Surface Water 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 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)	
14. a. Receiving waterbody is listed on the 303(d) list for the pollutant category, 'Sediments'.	15
14. 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
14. c. Receiving waterbody is neither a. or b. (above).	5
Local Category Fifteen - Odor Management AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Objectionable Odors (Select "Yes," if applicable)	
15. a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will reduce objectionable odors.	15

Local Category Sixteen - Prescribed Grazing Management DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health (Select "Yes" to All Applicable Answers)	
16. a. Conservation treatment includes NRCS conservation practice, 528 – Prescribed Grazing, in the EQIP application schedule of operations.	15
16. 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
16. 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.	5
16. d. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations will result in livestock exclusion from riparian areas and/or wetlands.	5
Local Category Seventeen - 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)	
17. a. Reduce energy use by at least 30 percent.	15
17. b. Reduce energy use by at least 20 percent.	10
17. c. Reduce energy use by at least 10 percent.	5
Local Category Eighteen - 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)	
18. a. Reduce energy use by at least 30 percent.	15
18. b. Reduce energy use by at least 20 percent.	10
18. c. Reduce energy use by at least 10 percent.	5