

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

STRUCTURE FOR WATER CONTROL

(no.)
CODE 587

DEFINITION

A structure in an irrigation, drainage, or other water management system that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, or maintains a desired water surface elevation.

PURPOSE

To control the stage, discharge, distribution, delivery, or direction of flow of water in open channels or water use areas. Also used for water quality control such as sediment reduction or temperature regulation. These structures are also used to protect fish and wildlife and other natural resources.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies wherever a permanent structure is needed as an integral part of an irrigation, drainage, or other water control system to serve one or more of the following functions:

- To conduct water from one elevation to a lower elevation within, to, or from a ditch, channel, or canal. Typical structures: drops, chutes, turnouts, surface water inlets, head gates, pump boxes, and stilling basins.
- To control the elevation of water in drainage or irrigation ditches. Typical structure: checks.
- To control the division or measurement of irrigation water. Typical structures:

division boxes and water measurement devices.

- To keep trash, debris, or weed seeds from entering pipelines. Typical structure: debris screens.
- To control the direction of channel flow resulting from tides and high water or backflow from flooding. Typical structure: tide and drainage gates.
- To control the level of a water table or to remove surface or subsurface water from adjoining land, to manage water levels for wildlife or recreation. Typical structures: water level control structures, pipe drop inlets, and box inlets.
- To provide water level control for recreation or similar purposes.
- To convey water over, under, or along a ditch, canal, road, or other barrier. Typical structures: bridges, culverts, flumes, inverted siphons.
- To modify water flow to provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and other aquatic animals. Typical structures: deflectors, chutes, cold water release, or structures to make pools and riffles.

Scope

This standard applies to the structure normally installed in a well planned irrigation or drainage system, wildlife facility, or other water management system for the conveyance, flow control, or level regulation of water. It covers the planning and

functional design of such water control structures but not the detailed design criteria or construction specifications for specific structures. It does not apply to structural components of the following practices: **Irrigation Water Conveyance, Plastic Pipeline (430DD)** or **Steel Pipeline (430FF)**, **Subsurface Drain (606)** or **Grade Stabilization Structure (410)**.

CRITERIA

Structures shall be designed on an individual job basis or applicable SCS standard drawings shall be adapted to meet site conditions and functional requirements. They shall be part of an approved and overall engineering plan for irrigation, drainage, wildlife, recreation, channel improvement, or other similar purposes.

The plan shall specify the location, grades, dimensions, materials, and hydraulic and structural requirements for the individual structure. Provisions must be made for necessary maintenance. Care must be used to insure that the area's visual resources are not damaged. If watercourse fisheries are important, special precautions or design features may be needed to assure the continuation of fish migrations.

If soil and climatic conditions permit a protective cover or vegetation shall be established on all disturbed earth surfaces. If soil or climatic conditions preclude the use of vegetation and protection is needed, nonvegetative means such as mulches or gravel may be used. In some places, temporary vegetation may be used until permanent vegetation can be established. The structure can be fenced, if necessary, to protect the vegetation. Seedbed preparation, planting, fertilization, and mulching shall comply with the Hawaii Standard for Critical Area Planting (Code 342).

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Water Quantity

- Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, deep percolation, and ground water recharge.
- Potential for change in the rate of plant growth and transpiration because of changes in the volume of soil water.
- Effects on downstream flows or aquifers that would affect other water uses or users.
- Effects on the volume of downstream flow that might cause environmental, social or economic effects.
- The effect on the water table of the field to ensure that it will provide a suitable rooting depth for the anticipated crop.
- Potential use for irrigation management to conserve water.

Water Quality

- Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment and soluble and sediment-attached substances by runoff.
- Effects on the movement of dissolved substances below the root zone and to ground water.
- Short term and construction-related effects of this practice on the quality of downstream water.
- Effects of water level control on the temperatures of downstream waters for their effects on aquatic and wildlife communities.
- Effects on wetlands or water-related wildlife habitats.

- Effects of the visual quality of downstream water resources.

CONSTRUCTION PLANS

Plans and specifications for installation of Structures for Water Control shall be in keeping with this standard and shall

describe the requirements for application of the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

Specifications for installation shall be included in the Hawaii construction specifications for the irrigation, drainage, or water management system in which the water control structure will be installed.