



Natural Resources Conservation Service
430 G Street, #4164
Davis, CA 95616
(530) 792-5667
(530) 477-5793 (Fax)

February 14, 2008

CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 95

SUBJECT: Section V – California Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE)

Purpose: To formally adopt the on-line SmarTech California version of the CPPE as the official copy for the state and link it to Section V of the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

Effective Date: Effective upon receipt.

Background: The Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) worksheet is a tool to help evaluate the effectiveness of alternative conservation practices and systems of practices developed during the conservation planning process. The current CPPE designates a numerical value rating for each NRCS conservation practice relative to each resource concern. For instance, the implementation of Irrigation Systems, Microirrigation (practice 441) has an effects value of +5 relative to the ‘Water Quantity-Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land’ resource concern.

The effects values range from -5 to +5. The definitions for the values can be seen in the following table:

Effects Quantification

-5	Significant Increase in the Problem
-4	Moderate to Significant Increase in the Problem
-3	Moderate Increase in the Problem
-2	Slight to Moderate Increase in the Problem
-1	Slight Increase in the Problem
0	No Effect, Situational, Insignificant, Facilitating
1	Slight Decrease in the Problem
2	Slight to Moderate Decrease in the Problem
3	Moderate Decrease in the Problem
4	Moderate to Significant Decrease in the Problem
5	Significant Decrease in the Problem

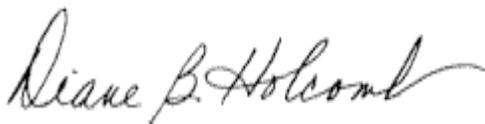
The California CPPE worksheet can be accessed on-line or downloaded as an Excel spreadsheet through the eFOTG, Section V. It can also be viewed by going to the my.NRCS website and clicking on the Technology tab. The CPPE link is under the SmartTech Modules section in the far right column: <https://smartech.sc.egov.usda.gov/> (Note: you will need to click on the “Yes” button in the Security Alert window several times to make this link work here.) An Excel spreadsheet of the current California CPPE is attached to this notice.

When viewing the CPPE worksheet, it is helpful to remember that conservation practice definitions and purposes are found in the conservation practice standards in Section IV of the eFOTG while definitions for the Resource Concerns can be found in conjunction with the Resource Quality Criteria in Section III of the eFOTG. The resource quality criteria provide information regarding the minimum level of treatment acceptable for each resource concern and also describe assessment tools for evaluating the quality criteria.

California CPPE values are used as part of the Farm Bill program ranking tools to calculate Efficiency Scores. This score is part of the overall ranking for each application. Because these are statewide ranking tools, the CPPE located in SmarTech is statewide in scope. Effects are reviewed periodically and may be modified by the State Technical Guide Committee. The current version of CPPE includes recent changes made in response to requests from the field.

For planning purposes, Service Centers may choose to edit the values in the CPPE for local conditions. In order to modify the CPPE, Service Centers must export the on-line CPPE to Excel worksheets, make the modifications, and save them locally.

Optional Filing Instructions: The official copy of the California Conservation Practice Physical Effects database is located in eFOTG, Section V. Service Centers may optionally choose to export the online CPPE values to Excel spreadsheets and print and file these locally in the FOTG binders.



DIANE B. HOLCOMB
State Resource Conservationist

DIST: All Employees