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April 3, 2007

**CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI**

**TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 86**

**SUBJECT: Section IV - California Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications**

**Purpose:** To cancel practices, issue revised and new California practice standards, specifications, practice requirements, operation and maintenance and statements of work, and update the Index of Conservation Practices.

**Effective Date:** When contents are received.

**Explanation:** Cancelled, new, and revised California Conservation Practices:

Enclosed (attached electronically) are the revised California conservation documents for:

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
314	Brush Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
322	Channel Bank Vegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
331	Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
340	Cover Crop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
342	Critical Area Planting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
589A	Cross Wind Ridges	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
589C	Cross Wind Trap Strips	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
592	Feed Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
382	Fence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
394	Firebreak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
396	Fish Passage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
399	Fishpond Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
511	Forage Harvest Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
384	Forest Slash Treatment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
383	Fuel Break	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
422	Hedgerow Planting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
449	Irrigation Water Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
521A	Pond Sealing and Lining, Flexible Membrane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
521D	Pond Sealing and Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
528A	Prescribed Grazing - Annual Rangeland		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1/</sup>		
528B	Prescribed Grazing – Irrigated Pasture		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1/</sup>		
528C	Prescribed Grazing – Perennial Rangeland		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1/</sup>		
528D	Prescribed Grazing - Wetlands		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <sup>1/</sup>		
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
346	Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
344	Residue Management, Seasonal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
643	Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
585	Stripcropping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
472	Use Exclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
601	Vegetative Barrier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
633	Waste Utilization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

1/ Practice Requirements will be uploaded to the eFOTG in Word and will be replaced by a fillable Adobe Acrobat pdf file when available.

The following California conservation documents are being cancelled: These documents will be moved to the archive section of the eFOTG.

585	Contour Stripcropping	All documents	Replaced by 585 Stripcropping
521A	Pond Sealing and Lining, Flexible Membrane	Material Specifications only	Information is included in the specification by hotlink.
329B	Residue Management (B), Mulch Till	All documents	Replaced by 345 Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till
329C	Residue Management (C), Ridge Till	All documents	Replaced by 346 Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till
646	Shallow Water Development for Wildlife	All documents	Replaced by 646 Shallow Water Development and Management

Below is a brief explanation of the significant changes made to each standard.

**Brush Management (Code 314)** - The brush management conservation practice standards was reviewed and updated to reflect current agency policy, science and technology. Environmental risk analysis is included to meet the NRCS pest management policy.

**Channel Bank Vegetation (Code 322)** - The name was changed from Channel Vegetation. This is a complete re-write of this standard to include criteria for each purpose and to conform to existing policy.

**Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Area (Code 331)** - This is a complete rewrite of this standard to meet existing policy, including establishment of criteria to meet the purpose(s) listed.

**Cover Crop (Code 340)** - A purpose to reduce and minimize soil compaction has been added, as well as criteria to support this purpose.

**Critical Area Planting (Code 342)** - Practice standard revised to bring it in line with existing policy.

**Cross Wind Ridges (Code 589A)** - Practice standard revised with minor editing.

**Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589C)** - Practice standard updated and only minor changes made.

**Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (Code 647)** - This practice standard has been revised to simplify the presentation. The substantive aspects of the standard remain essentially unchanged.

**Feed Management (Code 592)** – New practice standard developed to provide technical guidance for developing and implementing feed management strategies on animal feeding operations (AFOs) or confined feeding operations (CAFOs).

**Fence (Code 382)** - This standard has been reviewed and only minor changes have been made to the standard.

**Firebreak (Code 394)** - Practice standard updated and only minor changes were made.

**Fish Passage (Code 396)** - This practice standard has been significantly modified from the previous version. The definition, practice purpose, and conditions where the practice applies were reworded to better reflect the scope and range of projects carried out under Code 396. The criteria section was rearranged into two broad sections: planning and evaluation, and design requirements. A number of criteria in the standard have been changed to be more consistent with current technology. New considerations were added to expand planners' thought processes on other aspects of fish passage projects. Plans and specifications and operations and maintenance items were outlined to suggest improved methods of communicating project specifics to involved parties. Ten references were added to support criteria and considerations discussed in the standard.

**Fishpond Management (Code 399)** - Changes to this practice standard include clarifying language regarding aquaculture purposes; adding State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan implementation recommendations; emphasizing the need for a comprehensive pond management plan; and including aquatic organism health sampling aspects. Current references on fish culture, nuisance species, and detection of pathogens were added.

**Forage Harvest Management (Code 511)** - The Forage Harvest Management practice standard was reviewed and updates made were appropriate to improve consistency of direction and reflect current technology. References added.

**Forest Slash Treatment (Code 384)** – This is a new practice standard developed to address proper handling of woody residues created during forestry, agroforestry and horticultural activities.

**Fuel Break (Code 383)** – This is a new practice standard developed to address reducing fuel loads in areas at risk from wildfire. It is measured in acres.

**Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (Code 548)** - This standard has been reviewed and only minor changes have been made. The Conditions where practice applies has been clarified to state that it is applicable only on slopes less than 30 percent.

**Hedgerow Planting (Code 422)** - Three new purposes were added to this standard to improve air quality. These include using a Hedgerow planting to impede transport of particulate matter, reduce chemical drift or odor, and increase carbon storage in biomass and soils on the site.

**Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Code 603)** - Air quality was incorporated into this standard in the purpose for reducing soil erosion. The criteria for achieving this purpose are included in the additional criteria for reducing soil erosion and/or particulate generation from wind.

**Irrigation Water Management (Code 449)** - This practice standard has been revised to include more substantial criteria associated with irrigator responsibilities.

**Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512)** - Practice standard was reviewed and updated to current technology. Carbon sequestration is now included as a purpose.

**Pond Sealing and Lining, Flexible Membrane (Code 521A)** –Criteria for lining wastewater ponds has been separated from criteria for clean water ponds. Other changes are minor.

**Pond Sealing and Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment (Code 521C)** The specification corrects an error that was in the previous edition.

**Prescribed Grazing – Annual Rangeland (Code 528A)** Specifications and Practice Requirements Sheet have been revised.

**Prescribed Grazing – Irrigated Pasture (Code 528B)** Specifications and Practice Requirements Sheet have been revised.

**Prescribed Grazing – Perennial Rangeland (Code 528C)** Specifications and Practice Requirements Sheet have been revised.

**Prescribed Grazing – Wetlands (Code 528D)** Specifications and Practice Requirements Sheet have been revised.

**Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (Code 345)** - A purpose and supporting criteria have been added for reducing soil particulate emissions into the atmosphere. Minor changes have been made to the criteria relating to increase plant-available moisture. Replaces Residue Management, Mulch Till (Code 329B).

**Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (Code 346)** - Only minor changes were made to this standard, primarily to keep terminology consistent with the other two residue/tillage management practices. Replaces Residue Management, Ridge Till (Code 329C).

**Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344)** - The definition was expanded to include biannual and annually planted crops. Standard allows management of residue by grazing and mechanical removal as well as residue burial by tillage. Criteria were added for reduction of offsite transport of sediment, nutrients and pesticides.

**Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (Code 643)** – New practice standard to comply with the National standard dated 8/05. This practice standard has been extensively edited for the purpose of improving understanding. The substantive aspects of the standard are essentially unchanged. Replaces Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (Code 643).

**Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390)** - This practice standard has been substantially revised. The definition has been expanded. The purpose section has been edited and reformatted. The criteria section has been revised extensively and now contains a specific sub-section on terrestrial wildlife.

**Shallow Water Development and Management (Code 646)** – New practice standard to comply with the National standard dated 8/98. This practice standard has been revised extensively to apply to the fullest array of wildlife species possible and on both agricultural and non-agricultural lands. Replaces Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (Code 646).

**Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395)** - Practice standard revised to comply with the National standard dated 8/06. Changes were made to all sections of the standard. The conditions where practice applies section were broadened to include a statement that captures additional components of stream habitats and identifies the “Stream Visual Assessment Protocol” as an evaluation tool to assess conditions. Considerations were expanded to include fish barriers, fish screens, and geomorphic features of streams.

**Stripcropping (Code 585)** – Stripcropping is a new practice standard that includes the following practice standards: Contour Stripcropping (585), dated February 2000; Stripcropping, Field (586), dated October 1978; and Cross Wind Stripcropping (589B), dated June 1994. The decision was

made that these practices involve the same basic technology and were therefore combined into a single standard.

**Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)** –This practice standard has been extensively edited for the purpose of improving understanding. The substantive aspects of the standard are essentially unchanged. Replaces Wildlife Upland Habitat Management (Code 645).

**Use Exclusion (Code 472)** - Practice standard updated with only minor changes.

**Vegetative Barrier (Code 601)** - Practice standard reviewed with no changes to the content.

**Waste Utilization (Code 633)** - Air quality was added as a purpose to this standard. Air quality related criteria were added to the standard to achieve the air quality purpose. Tons were added as a reporting unit for this practice to accommodate the non-land application purposes for utilizing waste. A general criteria statement was added to the standard limiting land application rates of waste to those that are consistent with the requirements of the NRCS conservation practice standard for nutrient management (590).

**Water and Sediment Control Basin (Code 638)** – Additional criteria was added for embankments greater than 6 feet.

**Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)** – New practice standard to comply with the National standard dated 8/05. This practice standard has been revised to include more substantial criteria associated with habitat evaluation or appraisal needs to identify habitat-limiting factors. Replaces Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management (Code 644).

The California eFOTG, located on the web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/> and in my.nrcs at <https://my.nrcs.usda.gov/default.aspx>, is being updated to reflect these changes to Section IV.

### **Optional Filing Instructions**

Replace the “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-10, dated August 28, 2006, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-10, dated April 3, 2007.

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-10, dated August 28, 2006, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-10, dated April 3, 2007.

Remove the old practice Standards, Specifications, Practice Requirements, O&M Plans, and Statements of Work, and insert the new practice Standards, Specifications, Practice Requirements, O&M Plans and Statements of Work issued above.



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State Resource Conservationist

ATTACHMENTS: (electronic)  
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