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**CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI**

**TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 108**

**SUBJECT: Updates to the Field Office Technical Guide**

**Purposes:**

1. Update the Introduction to Section III.
2. Issue new and revised California conservation practice standards and specifications, cancel standards that have been discontinued, and update the Index of Conservation Practice Standards.

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

**Explanation:**

**Section III:** The Introduction to Section III has been updated, adding in a description of Conservation Activity Plans.

**Section IV:** The following California Approved Conservation Practice Standards and specifications have been added or revised to Section IV of eFOTG:

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
310	Bedding	•	---	---	•	•
326	Clearing and Snagging	•	•	•	•	•
362	Diversion	•	•	•	•	•
366	Anaerobic Digester	•	---	---	---	•
428	Irrigation Ditch Lining	•	---	•	•	•
428A	Irrigation Ditch Lining, Concrete	---	•	---	---	---
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	•	•	•	•	•
511	Forage Harvest Management	•	•	•	---	•

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
521B	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	•	•	•	•	•
521C	Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealant	•	•	•	•	•
521D	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment	•	•	•	•	•
554	Drainage Water Management	•	•	---	•	•
555	Rock Barrier	•	---	---	•	•
607	Surface Drain, Field Ditch	•	•	•	•	•
608	Surface Drain, Main or Lateral	•	•	•	•	•

**Bedding (Code 310):** The Criteria was revised to remove regulatory compliance statement and Considerations were revised to streamline text.

**Clearing and Snagging (Code 326):** No significant technical changes were made to this practice standard; however, significant edits and grammatical changes have been made. Definition was revised to clarify that clearing and snagging includes the removal of vegetation from streambanks. Criteria were limited to the purposes stated, while Considerations were expanded to improve the conservation function. Policy statements (e.g., must comply with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations) were removed from the standard. Minimum requirements for plan and specification content were added. References were added.

**Diversion (Code 362):** Revisions include: a change from permissible velocity to an effective stress approach in design for stability and capacity of the diversion; expansion of the Plans and Specifications section; and updated references.

**Anaerobic Digester (366):** Two existing practice standards were combined [Anaerobic Digester – Ambient Temperature (Code 365) and Anaerobic Digester – Controlled Temperature (Code 366)] into a revised 366-Anaerobic Digester standard. Every Section of this standard has been edited to ensure it addresses all types of anaerobic digesters.

**Irrigation Ditch Lining (Code 428):** The title changed from “Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch and Canal Lining”, combining the three previous separate standards for Plain Concrete (A), Flexible Membrane (B), and Galvanized Steel (C). Criteria for Chemical Linings, and References were added. The specification, 428A Irrigation Ditch Lining, Concrete was revised to reflect changes in the 428 standard.

**Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (Code 447):** Changes were made throughout the standard. The conditions where the practice applies have been changed to include pumping plants, and irrigation pits were renamed as irrigation collecting basins. Additional considerations have been added for water quantity due to rainfall runoff and effects on visual resources.

**Forage Harvest Management (Code 511):** Revisions are minor in nature. Moisture content was changed in the Criteria Section. References were updated.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant (Code 521B):** This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The standard was revised to better match the changes to our technical guidance document, National Engineering Handbook Series, Part 651, AWMFH, Chapter 10, Appendix 10D.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealant (Code 521C):** This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The standard was revised to better match the changes to our technical guidance document, National Engineering Handbook Series, Part 651, Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH), Chapter 10, Appendix 10D.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment (Code 521D):** This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The standard was revised to better match the changes to our technical guidance document, National Engineering Handbook Series, Part 651, AWMFH, Chapter 10, Appendix 10D.

**Drainage Water Management (Code 554):** Changes were made to this standard to better address key issues/concerns in assisting landowners with drainage water management. More emphasis was placed on timing associated with water table management, primarily by adding criteria for allowable management time frames linked to crop planting and harvest. Purposes were edited to reflect more specific impacts of the practice.

**Rock Barrier (Code 555):** This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The Considerations Section was expanded to consider the vegetation response and effects on microhabitats for wildlife and pollinators.

**Surface Drain, Field Ditch (Code 607):** The title was changed from “Surface Drainage, Field Ditch”. Criteria for capacity was added, Considerations expanded, and References were added.

**Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (Code 608):** The title was changed from “Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral”. The text was streamlined and References were added.

The following California conservation practice standards and/or associated documents are being cancelled. These documents will be moved to the archive section of the California eFOTG.

Code	Practice Name	Reason
365	Anaerobic Digester, Ambient Temperature	Combined into 366 – Anaerobic Digester (includes all types)

428A	Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch and Canal Lining, Plain Concrete	428 - Irrigation Ditch Lining is now one Standard. 428A is addressed as a specification within the 428 standard.
428B	Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch and Canal Lining, Flexible Membrane	428 - Irrigation Ditch Lining is now one Standard. 428B may be addressed in the future as a specification within the 428 standard.
428C	Irrigation Water Conveyance, Ditch and Canal Lining, Galvanized Steel	428 - Irrigation Ditch Lining is now one Standard. 428C may be addressed in the future as a specification within the 428 standard.

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 Sections III and IV.

**Optional Filing Instructions (for copies of FOTG maintained in Field Offices)**

Remove the old Introduction to Section III, dated July, 2000, and insert the new document dated April, 2011.

Replace the “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated January 21, 2011, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated April 4, 2011.

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated January 21, 2011, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index”, pages 1-11, dated April 4, 2011.

Remove the old practice standards, specifications, practice requirements, operation and maintenance, and statements of work and insert the new practice standards and documents issued above in Section IV.



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ATTACHMENTS: (electronic) (Copies will be posted to the California eFOTG.)

DIST: O