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June 30, 2011

CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 109

SUBJECT: Issue New and Revised Documents to the Field Office Technical Guide, Sections III and IV

Purposes:

1. To issue new Technical Criteria for Conservation Activity Plan, Section III.
2. To issue new and revised Approved and Interim California conservation practice standards and specifications, and update the Index of Conservation Practice Standards, Section IV.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section III: Technical Criteria for development of Conservation Activity Plans for Agricultural Energy Management Plans on a Landscape Level (Code 124) have been approved and posted to Section III of the eFOTG.

Section IV: The following California Approved and Interim Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications have been added or revised to Section IV of the eFOTG:

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	•	•	•	•	•
396	Aquatic Organism Passage	•	•	•	•	•
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	•	•	•	•	•
331	Contour Orchards or Other Perennial Crops	•	•	---	---	•
512	Forage and Biomass Planting	•	•	•	---	•
655	Forest Trails and Landings	---	---	•	•	•
	(continued next page)					

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
595	Integrated Pest Management	•	---	---	---	---
595	IPM-National Agronomy Technical Note 4 (Posted within the 595 folder for reference)	---	---	---	---	---
430	Irrigation Pipeline	•	---	•	•	•
	430-CMP (corrugated metal pipe)	---	•	---	---	---
	430-PP (plastic pipe)	---	•	---	---	---
	430-SP (steel pipe)	---	•	---	---	---
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	•	•	•	•	•
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	•	•	•	•	•
798	Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (Interim)	•	---	---	---	---
578	Stream Crossing	•	•	•	•	•
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	•	•	•	•	•
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	•	•	•	---	•
636	Water Harvesting Catchment	•	---	---	•	•
351	Water Well Decommissioning	•	---	---	•	•

Animal Trails and Walkways (Code 575) – Proposed revisions are limited but include greater emphasis of potential impacts to water courses and other environmental and cultural resources.

Aquatic Organism Passage (Code 396) – The name was changed from Fish Passage. Two Criteria were added to the practice standard.

Channel Bed Stabilization (Code 584) - This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The name was changed from Channel Stabilization for better description, and minor edits were made.

Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops (Code 331) – The revision includes several significant changes. This revision changes the practice name from “Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas” to “Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops,” and adds reduction in transport of sediment and other associated contaminant as a purpose. Also, this revision removes several statements in the criteria that are not applicable to this conservation practice, adds requirements in “Plans and Specifications,” includes the addition of vegetative ground cover and associated benefits as a consideration, and adds references.

Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) – The name was changed from “Pasture and Hay Planting” to “Forage and Biomass Planting” in recognition of similarities among plant species used for this purpose. Production of feedstock for biofuel production was added as a purpose. The practice remains applicable to all lands where appropriate, but does not include establishment of annually planted food, fiber, or oilseed crops. Additional Considerations have been incorporated. Plans and Specifications now identify specific elements that are to be addressed in the plan.

Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655) – Practice Requirements, Statement of Work, and O&M documents were updated.

Integrated Pest Management (595) - The practice was revised to include specific NRCS Integrated Pest Management (IPM) risk reduction techniques to address identified hazards related to cultural, biological, and chemical pest suppression strategies. A technical note has been developed to support the implementation of the NRCS IPM mitigation techniques (National Agronomy Technical Note 4 is posted with the 595 Practice Standard for easy reference). The name of the standard was changed to reflect the IPM approach to reduce the risks/hazards related to pest prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression activities.

Irrigation Pipeline (Code 430) – The title was changed from “Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, (various)”, combining six previous separate standards for Aluminum Tubing (AA), Nonreinforced Concrete (CC), High-Pressure, Underground Plastic (DD), Low-Pressure, Underground Plastic (EE), Steel (FF), and Reinforced Plastic Mortar (GG). The standard for Asbestos-Cement Pipe (BB) was deleted. Criteria in NEH-636, Chapter 52 “Structural Design of Flexible Conduits” are referenced. Langelier Saturation Index equation and References were added.

New Purposes of “Reduce Energy Use” and “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” along with accompanying Criteria and Reference were added.

Individual specifications are provided for:

Plastic Pipe

Steel Pipe

Corrugated Metal Pipe

Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (Code 443) – Changes included the following: removed the No. unit; Added “Reduced Energy Use” as a Purpose; incorporated criteria and considerations for Multi-Outlet Pipelines, thus eliminating the need for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Above Ground, Multi Outlet Pipeline (Code 431); added design criteria for backflow prevention, flow measurement, risers & valves, and for reduced energy use; expanded “Considerations” section; and added “References” section.

Lined Waterway or Outlet (Code 468) - This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. Changes to the standard include the following: revision in the range in Manning’s roughness, and references cited in the criteria section; expansion of the “Considerations” section to include fish and wildlife and soil bioengineering, etc.; and more comprehensive guidance on what should be included in the “Plans and Specifications” section.

Seasonal High Tunnel Systems for Crops (734) (Interim) – The Definition was changed to the remove the restriction that the structure would have no electrical, heating, and/or ventilation systems.

Stream Crossing (Code 578) - This standard was formally reviewed to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. Upon further review of public comments, only the date was updated.

Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Code 580) - This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The reference to 322 Channel Bank Vegetation was removed and replaced with a reference to 342 Critical Area Planting.

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) – This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. There were no significant changes. The date of the standard was changed.

Water Harvesting Catchment (Code 636) - This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. Changes included the revision of the “Purpose” section; streamlining of text; and expansion of the “Considerations” section.

Water Well Decommissioning (Code 351) - This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The standard’s name was changed from Well Decommissioning, distinguishing water well decommissioning from industry practices for closure of other purposed wells (oil, injection, etc.). The purpose was clarified. Additional clarification on plugging materials was 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
431	Above Ground Multi-Outlet Pipe	Incorporated into the Surface Irrigation Standard, 443.
322	Channel Bank Vegetation	Incorporated into Critical Area Seeding (342) and Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
430AA thru 430GG	Irrigation Water Conveyance, (various materials) Pipeline	All Pipelines have been incorporated under one Practice Standard, Irrigation Pipeline (430). Specifications are developed for Corrugated Metal, Plastic, and Steel Pipeline.

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)

Replace the “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated April 4, 2011, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated June 30, 2011.

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated April 4, 2011, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated June 30, 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane B. Holcomb".

DIANE B. HOLCOMB
State Resource Conservationist

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

DIST: O