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October 31, 2012

CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 113

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

Purposes:

1. To issue new, revised, and interim California conservation practice standards and specifications, and update the Index of Conservation Practice Standards.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

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

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
327	Conservation Cover	•	•			•
340	Cover Crop	•				
342	Critical Area Planting	•				•
592	Feed Management	•				•
756	Field Operations Emissions Reduction (Interim)	•	5/ or 7/			
394	Firebreak	•				•
399	Fishpond Management	•				•
383	Fuel Break	•				•
516	Livestock Pipeline	•	•	•	•	•
484	Mulching	•				
379	Multi-Story Cropping	•	3/ or 5/			•

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
521A	Pond Sealing and Lining, Flexible Membrane	•				•
528	Prescribed Grazing	•	A-E	A-E		•
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	•	•	•		•
329	Residue and Tillage Management, NoTill/StripTill/DirectSeed	•	•	•		•
346	Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	•		•		•
344	Residue Management, Seasonal	•				
381	Silvopasture Establishment	•	3/or 8/			•
360	Waste Facility Closure	•			•	•
614	Watering Facility	•				•

3/ or 8/ -- Specifications available on request of the State Forester or State Range Specialist

Section IV: The following California Approved or Interim Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications have been removed from Section IV of the CA eFOTG:

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
633	Waste Utilization	•	•			•
718	Precision Pest Control Application	•	•	•	•	•

Narrative Summary of Changes to Standards

Conservation Cover (Code 327) - The code added pollinator habitat to the purpose of wildlife habitat, and added considerations for lighter seeding rates when wildlife and/or pollinators are a primary purpose.

Cover Crop (Code 340) - Clarification added to the Conditions Where Practice Applies statement that cover crop is for *seasonal* use and does not apply to plantings for forage production.

Critical Area Planting (Code 342) - The practice was revised to include a purpose to stabilize stream and channel banks and shorelines, and provided additional criteria to establish cover on the stream banks and shorelines. In addition, seeding and planting considerations were added to address pollinators and wildlife.

Feed Management (Code 592) - The units changed from “Animal Units (AUs) or Number” to “Animal Units (AUs) Affected”. The Purpose changed to include pathogen, odor, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas mitigation. Additions to Conditions Where Practice Applies, Criteria, Considerations, Operations and Maintenance, and References were made to support the change in Purpose.

Field Operations Emissions Reduction (Code 756) – Interim Practice Standard. Can be used to reduce air quality-related emissions related to operation of field equipment.

Firebreak (Code 394) - The term “pollinator” was added to the planning consideration that discusses wildlife.

Fishpond Management (Code 399) - The Definition was changed. Two issues previously included under "Considerations" have been moved to the "Criteria" section and additional action was added to the "Operation and Maintenance" section.

Fuel Break (Code 383) – California had previously added much information in the Standard that is now being moved to the Specifications. California is now adopting the newly updated National Standard with minor modifications. Updated Specifications will be issued separately.

Livestock Pipeline (Code 516) - The title changed from “Pipeline” to “Livestock Pipeline.” Revised Criteria and removed material specifications; recreation uses were removed; expanded Considerations; revised Plans and Specifications to include a complete docket of requirements; and revised Operation and Maintenance. Other associated documents (specifications, practice requirements, statement of work) were reviewed and no text changes were made other than the Name in the Title.

Mulching (Code 484) – Removed reference to “incorporating” mulch that had previously been stated in the Additional Criteria to Improve Soil Quality. Additional minor changes to consolidate some wording.

Multi-Story Cropping (Code 379) – New Standard for California --- Adopted the National Standard as is. Potential uses for organic systems and for Native American cropping system applications.

Pond Sealing and Lining, Flexible Membrane (Code 521A) - The material requirements have been revised to conform to industry-wide practice and to the most current versions of accepted generic standards, such as American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) and other industry standards. Criteria includes requirements for venting of gasses from under the membrane if installed on specified soil types. Changes made to the maximum allowable side slopes.

Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) – This standard was formally reviewed at the national level and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. No changes were made. The date of the standard was changed.

Precision Pest Control Application (Code 718) – This Interim Standard has been discontinued. All documents should be archived. Pest Control issues will be handled under the 595-Integrated

Pest Management Standard. Potentially other purposes can be addressed using the new Interim Practice “Field Operations Emissions Reduction” (756).

Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (Code 345) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. The revision combined Additional Criteria for wind and water erosion into one set of criteria. Criteria were added to the Operation and Maintenance section of the practice to evaluate on-site performance of the practice. This will help to determine if the purpose(s) are being achieved. A variance was approved for CA to add a purpose to reduce particulate matter (PM-10) for air quality resource concern.

Residue and Tillage Management, NoTill/StripTill/DirectSeed (Code 329) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. Additional Criteria to Reduce Sheet/Rill Erosion; Reduce Wind Erosion; and Reduce Soil Particulate Emissions were combined into one set of criteria. The Operation and Maintenance had additions to evaluate the function of the practice onsite to ensure the purpose(s) is/are achieved. A variance was approved for CA to add a purpose to reduce particulate matter (PM-10) for air quality resource concern.

Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (Code 346) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. Criteria were added to the Operation and Maintenance section of the standard to evaluate the effectiveness of the practice to achieve the planned Purpose(s).

Residue and Tillage Management, Seasonal (Code 344) – A new Purpose of “Harvest and utilize renewable bioenergy feedstocks” and accompanying additional Criteria was added to provide crop residues for bioenergy feedstocks. Then additional criteria to harvest crop residues for bioenergy feedstocks for renewable energy production tied to erosion. Where Practice Applies section was revised to include all cropland where biomass is removed for bioenergy feedstocks. This allows the use of this practice to remove crop residues from other residue management practices without adding specific criteria to each of those practices for biomass removal. Removed the purpose “Reduce off-site transport of sediment” and added to “Reduce associated particulate matter” to the wind erosion Purpose. Additional Operation and Maintenance criteria were added to evaluate the onsite application of the practice to ensure the planned purposes are achieved.

Silvopasture Establishment (Code 381) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. New for use in California since it’s a required practice for National Organic Initiatives.

Waste Facility Closure (Code 360) – This standard was updated to include the remediation of contaminated soil in dry waste storage facilities. The title was also changed from “Closure of Waste Impoundments” to “Waste Facility Closure” to reflect the expanded definition of decommissioning dry waste facilities. A more widespread use of this standard is anticipated with the inclusion of dry waste facilities. Statement of Work and O&M sheets were updated. There is no specification sheet for this practice.

Waste Utilization (Code 633) – All Nutrient-based Waste Utilization activities will be handled under the Nutrient Management (Code 590) Practice Standard. The CA STGC has decided to hold off on adopting the new 633-Waste Recycling Practice Standard until such time that we can

determine a need for the new practice as written. Interested parties can look at the national standard found at the following website:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/?&cid=nrcs143_026849##u

Watering Facility (Code 614) – Criteria were reworded slightly for escape ramp design features. Removed standard statements in the Considerations section regarding endangered species and cultural resources – this is considered under NRCS planning policy.

Location of Documents

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 I and IV. Previous document versions will be moved to the Archived folders.

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

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-8, dated May 31, 2012, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, Numerical Order” contents, pages 1-8, dated October 31, 2012.

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.



TOM HEDT
State Resource Conservationist

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

DIST: O