



October 14, 2015

CALIFORNIA NRCS TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 127

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

Purposes:

1. Updates the Range and Pasture Assessment Tools and the FPPA Tables, Section I.
2. Updates to HEL listing for Kern County, Section II.
3. Issue updates to Conservation Practice Documents in Section IV.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section I:

- Many Resource Assessment Tools for Range and Pasture were added. Section I > Resource Assessment Tools > Range & Pasture Tools > see attached document for a list of available tools ([List_of_Assessment_Tools_for_Range_and_Pasture.pdf](#)).
- County Farmable Land Acreage Table listing information that is used by CA NRCS staff to complete form AD-1006 as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). Updated with 2012 data.

Section II: HEL List added for soil survey area CA691: Kern Co, SW Part, 1993.

Section IV: The following California-approved Conservation Practice Documents have been revised or added.

Code	Practice Name	Std (CPS)	Over view	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
314	Brush Management 314A: Juniper Control 314C: Multiple Species			• •	•		
382	Fence 382A: Barbed, Smooth, or Woven Wire 382C: Electrical			• •	•		
376	Field Operations Emissions Reduction <i>(replaces the Interim Practice – 756)</i>	•					
355	Groundwater Testing	•					•
325	High Tunnel System <i>(replaces the Interim Practice, 798-Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops)</i>	•	•	•	•		•

Code	Practice Name	Std (CPS)	Over view	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
353	Monitoring Well	•			•	•	•
484	Mulching	•					
590	Nutrient Management	•					
649	Structures for Wildlife 649E: Nest Structures: Bat Houses 649L: Raptor Perch Pole 649M: Escape Ramp Retrofit			• • •			
642	Water Well	•		•	•	•	•
351	Well Decommissioning	•			•	•	•
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 644E: Cropland – Habitat Ponds 644F: Cropland – Temporary Nesting Islands			• •			

Narrative Summary of Changes to Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) and Documents

Brush Management (Code 314) – Added Prescribed Grazing (528) as a supporting practice to the specifications for 314A-Juniper Control specification. 314C – Multiple Species specification and Implementation Requirements added.

Fence (Code 382) – 382A-Fence-Barbed, Smooth or Woven Wire Specification revised. 382A-Implementation Requirements added. 382C – Electric Fence specification updated the diagrams and photos.

Field Operations Emissions Reduction (Code 325) – This is a new national conservation practice standard with a 1-year lifespan that replaces the Interim Practice (756) of the same name. The purpose is improving air quality by reducing PM emissions.

Groundwater Testing (Code 355) – The agency changed the title from “Well Water Testing” to “Groundwater Testing,” to reflect that this practice can be used to test groundwater from both wells and springs. The agency also modified conditions where practice applies and removed items from criteria operation and maintenance.

High Tunnel System (Code 325) – Interim CPS Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798) has been replaced by CPS High Tunnel Systems (325). The most significant change from the interim to final Standard is that 325 has only one purpose instead of the five purposes of the interim.

Monitoring Well (Code 353) – The suite of Conservation Practice Documents were updated. The agency changed the definition, deleted a purpose, modified the conditions where practice applies, changed some criteria, and added considerations.

Mulching (Code 484) – The Standard was updated to remove the general criteria restriction of incorporating the mulching material until after the purpose of the practice has been met. Other

changes include increased surface cover requirement for moisture and energy conservation, and criteria for when compost is used to address a soil health resource concern.

Nutrient Management (Code 590) – In the second paragraph of General Criteria, urease inhibitors and nitrification inhibitors were added to clarify enhanced efficiency fertilizer use requirements. The Agricultural Laboratory Proficiency (ALP) Program was added to NAPT as a recognized laboratory quality certification organization for soil test results.

Structures for Wildlife (Code 649) – Three specifications added to provide information on how to install Bat Houses, Raptor Perch Poles, and Escape Ramps retrofitted on existing watering facilities.

Water Well (Code 642) – The agency changed the criteria to clarify that domestic use and irrigation wells must follow consensus standards, grouting, and sealing with a water-tight seal required in annulus of the casing, clarified suitable filter pack materials, removed numerical limit on intake velocity through screens, and added a statement to emphasize all wells must be developed. The paragraph on well performance testing after completion was moved from criteria to considerations.

Well Decommissioning (CPS 351) – The name of the Standard was change from Water Well Decommissioning to Well Decommissioning to reflect that this standard is used to decommission both water wells and monitoring wells. The agency revised the purposes and criteria sections. Disinfection was moved from criteria to considerations. The suite of conservation practice documents were updated accordingly.

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) – Two practice specifications added for Habitat Ponds and Temporary Nesting Islands for wildlife on cropland.

Location of Documents

The California eFOTG, located on the web at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx is being updated to reflect these changes to Sections I, II & 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 1-7, dated May 29, 2015, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, Numerical Order” contents, pages 1-8, dated October 14, 2015.

Replace old documents with the new, as described in this Technical Guide Notice.



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ATTACHMENTS: (copies sent by request) (Copies will be posted to the California eFOTG.)

DIST: AE