



December 29, 2015

CALIFORNIA NRCS TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 129

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

Purposes:

1. Updates the Technical Notes, Assessment Tools and Reference Lists, Section I.
2. Issue updated Resource Concern Checklists and new Planning Workbooks by Land Use, Section III.
3. Issue updates to Conservation Practice Documents in Section IV.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section I:

- Technical Notes:
 - TN-AIR QUALITY-CA-03: State Implementation Plan Creditability of Voluntary Incentive-Based Emission Reductions from Replacement of Off-Road Mobile Agricultural Equipment. Summarizes the criteria for ensuring that incentive-based emission reductions become SIP-creditable and to memorialize the collaboration and agreements for making this process possible.
 - TN-BIOLOGY-CA-22: Assessing Special Environmental Concerns (Update)
 - TN-BIOLOGY-CA-23: Conservation Measures to Reduce Impacts to Nesting Birds.
 - TN-BIOLOGY-CA-24: Balancing Wildlife Needs with Fuels Management
 - TN-BIOLOGY-CA-25: Forest Wildlife
- Reference Lists
 - Useful Air Quality References with links and brief descriptions.
- Assessment Tools:
 - Rangeland Pollinator Habitat Assessment
 - Rangeland Inventory Worksheet
 - Water Quality Index

Section III:

- Updates to the Resource Concern Checklists: Crop, Pasture, Range, & Forest.
- A folder for the Conservation Planning On Your Land Workbooks has been created. The Workbooks will be placed on the California Website and a link provided on the eFOTG.

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

Code	Practice Name	Std (CPS)	Over view	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
372	Combustion System Improvement <i>Documentation and Calculation Worksheets posted in a new "Engine Worksheets" folder.</i>						
327	Conservation Cover, 327A Pollinator Specifications, (Update)			•			
332	Contour Buffer Strips	•			•		•
330	Contour Farming				•		
340	Cover Crop			•			
342	Critical Area Planting				•		
589C	Cross Wind Trap Strips	•	•	•	•		•
368	Emergency Animal Mortality Mgmt	•					•
376	Field Operations Emissions Reduction <i>376A-Clean Harvest Technology</i>			•	•		
512	Forage and Biomass Planting				•		
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	•			•		•
412	Grassed Waterway	•			•		•
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	•					•
422	Hedgerow Establishment <i>Pollinator specifications</i>			•			
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	•			•		
576	Livestock Shelter Structure	•	•		•	•	•
319	On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility	•					•
582	Open Channel	•					•
528	Prescribed Grazing			•			
550	Range Planting	•			•		
558	Roof Runoff Structure	•				•	•
609	Surface Roughening	•		•	•		•

Code	Practice Name	Std (CPS)	Over view	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
614	Watering Facility	•					•
901-4000	Construction Specifications for Concrete			•			

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

Combustion System Improvement (Code 372) – Added a new folder within the Conservation Practice folder called “Engine Worksheets”. Included are five worksheets to document emissions reductions and calculations and worksheets to support the CA AQ State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Conservation Cover (Code 327) – Updated the Specifications (327A) for pollinators in the Central Valley, Central Coast and Southern California to refine the species selection based on more experience from actual plantings.

Contour Buffer Strips (Code 332) – Added an additional practice purpose to reduce transport of nutrients downslope and combined the additional criteria for this purpose with the additional criteria to reduce transport of sediment and other waterborne contaminants downslope. Made minor wording modifications to improve understanding and reduce redundancy in the standard.

Contour Farming (Code 330) – Changed the Implementation Requirements from a pdf to a word document.

Cover Crop (Code 340) – Added some grazing guidelines into the Specification.

Critical Area Planting (Code 342) – Changed the Implementation Requirements from a pdf to a word document.

Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589C) – Removed the purpose to induce windborne sediment deposition as this is covered under the purpose to reduce soil erosion and induce windblown sediment deposition. Deleted the purpose to provide food and cover for pollinators and wildlife. In the general criteria for the practice, changed the language from using university extension guides to NRCS approved technical references for seeding and establishment.

Emergency Animal Mortality Management (Code 368) – This is a new conservation practice standard defined as a means or method for the management of animal carcasses from catastrophic mortality events.

Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) – Updated the Implementation Requirements document.

Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410) – The agency refined the definition, modified criteria, and updated terminology related to hazard classification.

Grassed Waterway (Code 412) – The agency refined the definition and purposes slightly and modified the criteria to allow the use of state planting guides. The agency clarified references to supporting practices.

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561) – The agency changed the units of this practice from acres to square feet to better reflect usage. The definition of this practice changed slightly. Criteria for the use of concrete and mulches were modified. Criteria for the use of vegetation and other material as a

surface treatment were added. Considerations for animal health and air quality were added. The agency clarified references to supporting practices.

Hedgerow Establishment (Code 422) – Updated the specification for pollinators; removed some of the species that didn't work very well.

Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (Code 447) – A purpose has been added to address the capture, storage and re-use of rainfall runoff from irrigated land when the purpose is to protect downstream water quality. The standard now also requires the development of a plan addressing sediment removal and disposal to maintain storage capacity. Under criteria for storage, two new criteria setting the minimum size of the storage component were added. Four new references were added.

Irrigation Water Management (Code 449) – The purpose of improving air quality was removed. IWM would not be applied to treat air quality in and of itself. The purpose of decreasing nonpoint source pollution of surface and groundwater resources was rewritten as “Decrease degradation of surface and groundwater resources.” The criteria section has been edited for clarity, and the criteria for plant stress monitoring were updated to include current technology. Several new references were added.

Livestock Shelter Structure (Code 576) – The agency created this new conservation practice standard that includes wind or shade structures. For shade structures, California will only be utilizing the portable structures options.

On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility (Code 319) – The agency created this new conservation practice standard to address the need for on-farm secondary containment of oil and petroleum products. (Anything that can create sheen on water would be included). The lifespan of this practice is 15 years.

Open Channel (Code 582) – The agency refined the definition, modified criteria, added considerations, updated requirements for plans and specifications, and updated requirements for operation and maintenance.

Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) – Added a supplement to the specifications to provide information on methods to determine grazing capacity.

Range Planting (Code 550) – Minor edits to the Considerations section of the Standard. Revised the Implementation Requirements.

Roof Runoff Structure (Code 558) –The agency added inventory and assessment information, clarified the language and organization of the standard, added conditions and criteria for capturing roof runoff for other uses, and added considerations.

Surface Roughening (Code 609) – Revised the condition where the practice applies to stress the practice is “emergency tillage” and not the primary method of erosion control. The general criterion for the random roughness based in the “soil erodibility factor” from the former wind erosion equation was removed. The current technology is now based on the Wind Erosion Prediction System technology. Adding a Documentation Requirements to describe what to measure for completion certification.

Watering Facility (Code 614) –The agency revised the definition of this practice and a purpose was added. The criteria for watering ramps were added. There is more emphasis on water storage tanks.

The lifespan of this practice changed from 20 years to 10 years. The agency clarified references to supporting practices.

Construction Specification for Concrete (Code 901) – Updated the Construction Specification for Concrete (4000psi).

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, III & 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 October 14, 2015, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, Numerical Order” contents, pages 1-8, dated December 29, 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