



May 6, 2015

**CALIFORNIA NRCS TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI**

**TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 130**

**SUBJECT: Issue New and Revised Documents to the Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV.**

**Purposes:**

1. Issue updates to Conservation Practice Documents in Section IV.

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

**Explanation:**

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

Code	Practice Name	Std (CPS)	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
560	Access Road	•		•		•
309	Agrichemical Handling Facility	•		•	•	•
327	Conservation Cover	•				•
376	Field Operations Emissions Reduction (posted on 1/16) Remove all document listed as 376A		•	•		
449	Irrigation Water Management	•				•
462	Precision Land Forming	•				•
600	Terrace	•				•
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	•	•	•		•
634	Waste Transfer	•		•	•	•

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

**Access Road (Code 560)** – The agency revised the definition. The chart for the location of cross-slope drainage features was modified to include a variety of soils rather than a single soil. The agency clarified references to supporting practices.

**Agrichemical Handling Facility (Code 309)** – The agency added new criteria under which lowering the water table would be allowable, expanded sizing criteria of the agrichemical handling pad, clarified language under the storage capacity criteria, added new criteria for an equipment wash bay, and updated and added clarification to the criteria for concrete exposed to agrichemicals..

**Conservation Cover (Code 327)** – National changes: Managing pests was not appropriate as the purpose of this standard and was deleted. Added “beneficial organism habitat” to the pollinator purpose of the practice. Practice was limited to Herbaceous Vegetation. Added one new reference: National Agronomy Technical Note 9, Preventing or Mitigating Potential Negative Impacts of Pesticides on Pollinators Using IPM and Other Conservation Practices.

**Field Operations Emissions Reduction (Code 376)** – Updated the specifications and Implementations requirements to include all activities – removed 376A documents.

**Irrigation Water Management (Code 449)** – The purpose of improving air quality was removed. The standard has been clarified by focusing on criteria for the collection of data the producer needs to make the separate but related irrigation decisions for when to irrigate and how much to apply. A criterion was added for establishing appropriate target or threshold values of soil moisture, crop water use, or crop response, to help the producer establish irrigation frequency. A criterion was added to establish a method by which the producer will be able to recognize when deep percolation is occurring. Emphasis has been placed on the need to develop a “plan” to assist the producer in implementing the practice. Guidance for developing or documenting a plan will be forthcoming.

**Precision Land Forming (Code 462)** – Updated the operation and maintenance section and references.

**Terrace (Code 600)** – The agency clearly defined pressure flow and gravity flow, added tractive stress references, updated the operation and maintenance section, and added references.

**Tree/Shrub Pruning (Code 660)** – The agency added two new purposes and updated the criteria, considerations, plans and specifications, operation and maintenance, and references sections.

**Waste Transfer (Code 634)** – The agency removed “hauling waste material with equipment or vehicles” from the conditions where this practice is applied and expanded the design criteria information specific for waste transfer pipelines.

### Location of Documents

The California eFOTG, located on the web at [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg\\_locator.aspx](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx) is being updated to reflect these changes to Sections 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 December 29, 2015, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, Numerical Order” contents, pages 1-8, dated May 6, 2016.

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