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October 3, 2011

CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 110

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

Purposes:

1. To issue new Quality Criteria and Planning/Resource Inventory Guides to address Energy as a Resource Concern.
2. 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 III: The following updates have been made:

- Energy Efficiency for Headquarters and Landscapes has been added to the “Checklist for Resource Problems or Conditions” and to the “Summary 79 Resource Concerns”.
- The Quality Criteria document “Resource Assessment Checklist for Evaluating and Assessing Resource Quality at a Site” has been updated to include Energy resources.
- Conservation Planning Energy Questionnaire has been posted to be used as needed with resource assessments for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Production.

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

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
331	Alley Cropping	•				•
450	Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application	•				
340	Cover Crop	•				•
402	Dam	•		•		•
348	Dam, Diversion	•		•		•

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
375	Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces	•	•			•
374	Farmstead Energy Improvement	•	A-C	•	•	•
386	Field Border	•	•	•		•
393	Filter Strip	•		(JS)	•	•
666	Forest Stand Improvement	•				•
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	•				
315	Herbaceous Weed Control	•				
428	Irrigation Ditch Lining	•				
436	Irrigation Reservoir	•				
441	Irrigation System, MicroIrrigation	•				•
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler	•				
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	•				
449	Irrigation Water Management	•				•
484	Mulching	•	•	•		•
516	Pipeline	•	•	•	•	•
378	Pond	•		•		•
533	Pumping Plant	•				
716	Renewable Energy System (Interim)	•	A-E	•	•	•
367	Roofs and Covers	•	•			•
570	Stormwater Runoff Control	•	•		•	•
587	Structure for Water Control B. Plastic Pipe Culverts D. Wind Machines		• •			•
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	•				•
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation					•
355	Well Water Testing	•		•		•
384	Woody Residue Treatment	•				•

Narrative Summary of Changes to Standards

Alley Cropping (Code 311) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” with accompanying additional Criteria was added.

Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application (Code 450) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” with accompanying Criteria was added.

Cover Crop (Code 340) – The purpose to produce supplemental forage was removed. A Purpose and accompanying Criteria were added to promote biological nitrogen fixation and “Reduce Energy Use” by using legume cover crops. Three additional considerations to address the use of cover crops to break pest cycles, recycle nutrients, and recommend the use of mixtures to support pollinator habitat. Additional Operation and Maintenance criteria were added to evaluate the onsite application of the practice to ensure the planned purposes are achieved.

Dam (Code 402) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” with accompanying additional Criteria was added.

Dam, Diversion (Code 348) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” with accompanying additional Criteria was added.

Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces (Code 375) – This is a new conservation practice standard.

Farmstead Energy Improvement (Code 374) – New Practice Standard adopted by CA; Addresses Energy as a primary resource concern. Energy Audit required prior to use.

Field Border (Code 386) — Pollinator habitat was added to the wildlife habitat purpose and to the criteria, and other considerations were added to address pollinator habitat.

Filter Strip (Code 393) — Considerations were added to address opportunities to include plant species and additional filter strip width to support pollinator habitat.

Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” with accompanying additional Criteria was added. The term “pollinator” was added to the “Additional Criteria to Enhance Wildlife Habitat” section and to the “Considerations” section that discusses wildlife habitat. Reference to Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (Code 647) and Rare and Declining Habitats (Code 643) was also added to the Additional Criteria to Enhance Wildlife Habitat. The “Additional Considerations” section was added, discussing invasive/noxious weed control and wildlife/sustainability requirements when biomass is removed for energy use. A reference to Access Road (Code 560) was added to the “General Criteria” section.

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561) – More detail was added to the purposes. The criteria were changed, eliminating specific reference to 4,000 lb. design load. The reference to Design Note 24 was made in lieu of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials publication. Criteria for rainfall diversion “Roofs” was removed and placed in the practice standard, Roofs and Covers (Code 367). Minimum requirements for plan and

specification content were added. Minimum requirements for operation and maintenance (O&M) plans were added. References were also added.

Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315) – This is a new standard to provide for herbaceous weed control on lands not actively in crop production. Requirements are included for biological, chemical, and mechanical control.

Irrigation Ditch Lining (Code 428) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” with accompanying Criteria was added.

Irrigation Pipeline (Code 430) – New Purposes of “Reduce Energy Use” and “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” along with accompanying Criteria and Reference were added.

Irrigation Reservoir (Code 436) – New Purposes of “Reduce Energy Use” and “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” along with accompanying Criteria and Reference were added.

Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Code 441) – The Unit was changed from (No. & Ac.) to (Ac.). A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying Criteria were added. The filter permissible design head loss was changed, and a requirement for an Irrigation Water Management Plan was added.

Irrigation System, Sprinkler (Code 442) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying Criteria and Reference were added. The Unit was changed from (No. & Ac.) to (Ac.).

Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (Code 447) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added.

Irrigation Water Management (Code 449) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria and Reference were added.

Mulching (Code 484) – 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). Municipal trash allowable was set to be no higher than 0.1% by volume.

Pipeline (Code 516) – New Purposes of “Reduce Energy Use” and “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” along with accompanying Criteria and Reference were added.

Pond (Code 378) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” and accompanying additional Criteria was added.

Pumping Plant (Code 533) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. The Criteria Applicable to All Purposes was augmented for renewable power units, and Additional Criteria Applicable to the Improvement of Energy Efficiency was removed.

Maintenance criteria were added to evaluate the onsite application of the practice to ensure the planned purposes are achieved.

Renewable Energy System (Code 716) Interim – New Interim Practice adopted by CA; Addresses Energy as a primary resource concern.

Roofs and Covers (Code 367) — The Title was changed from Waste Facility Cover to Roofs and Covers. Additional purpose and criteria were added for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and odor reduction. New criteria for design of roofs and covers have been incorporated including diversion of clean rain water from animal corrals/holding areas (roofs) as a purpose -- CA formerly used 561 Heavy Use Area Protection for this -- and referenced in Animal Mortality Facility (Code 316) and Composting Facility (Code 317) for use consistency. Additional criteria for biogas control, utilization, and safety were incorporated into the standard.

Stormwater Runoff Control (Code 570) — The title was changed from Runoff Management System. The definition was changed to reflect the new title and the broader scope of the practice. The purpose was rewritten to include erosion and sedimentation, water quality, and water quantity.

Structure for Water Control (Code 587).—Two specification sheets have been revised. 587B Plastic Pipe Culverts - Modified to ensure that Cal-OSHA safety requirements are met. 587D Wind Machine - Name change from “Russian River Pilot”. Portable tower wind machine specs have been added. Minor editing has been done on the rest of the document. This was coordinated with the Petaluma Office and the Area II Engineer, as they are the predominate (if not only) users of this specification.

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. The term “pollinator” was added to the wildlife planning consideration that discusses wildlife. Practice standards referenced in the standard were updated to the new names (e.g., Access Control and Integrated Pest Management).

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) – Updated Statement of Work.

Well Water Testing (Code 355).— The “Conditions Where Practice Applies” section was updated to exclude water wells not for agricultural use, and minor edits were made.

Woody Residue Treatment (formerly Forest Slash Treatment) (Code 384) – The title was changed from “Forest Slash Treatment” to “Woody Residue Treatment.” A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. The term “pollinator” was added to general criteria and to the wildlife planning considerations. Practice standards referenced in the standard were updated to reflect their new names (e.g., “Access Control and Integrated Pest Management”). A slash treatment reference from Northern Arizona University was also added.

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. Previous document versions will be moved to the Archived folder.

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

Replace the Quality Criteria and Assessment Checklists with the new versions in Section III.

Replace the “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated June 30, 2011, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-12, dated October 3, 2011.

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated June 30, 2011, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-12, dated October 3, 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.



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

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