



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Fiscal Year 2013 EQIP Program Information
Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The purpose of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible goals; optimize environmental benefits; and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up, voluntary, conservation program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that provides financial and technical assistance for approved conservation practices based on a current conservation plan.

In order to be considered eligible for EQIP the applicant must have a vested interest in production agricultural or non-industrial private forest land and meet other program eligibility requirements.

About the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds

The purpose of the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds is to assist growers in French Camp Slough Watersheds; French Camp Slough, Duck Creek, Lone Tree Creek, and Littlejohns Creek; in reducing non-recoverable water losses and to reduce nutrient, sediment, and chemical loads at the edge of fields.

This initiative provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers who are willing to improve irrigation systems, implement irrigation water management, and implement vegetative filtering practices on irrigated cropland.

The Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds will specifically target irrigated agricultural operations that have the capacity to adopt and apply:

- water conservation on irrigated cropland with emphasis on improved irrigation water management; and,
- water quality improvements on irrigated cropland with emphasis on improved water, pest and nutrient management, and concentrated-flow erosion control.

Applications will be screened and ranked using factors that measure the projected environmental benefits improving surface and groundwater quality and irrigation water use efficiency. This initiative will provide financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in the target area who are willing to improve water quality by implementing conservation practices on agricultural operations.

Submitting an EQIP Application

Interested applicants may apply for EQIP by completing the application, Form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application, and submitting the application to the NRCS field office in person, by phone, email, or fax in the county which you own land or have an agricultural operation.

Interested owners and/or operators of land managed for agricultural production within French Camp Slough Watersheds, French Camp Slough, Duck Creek, Lone Tree Creek, and Littlejohns



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Creek, in San Joaquin County may be eligible for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds.

Requesting Conservation Planning Assistance

Interested applicants are encouraged to request conservation planning and technical assistance from a local NRCS field office to help with the development of a conservation plan; the basis for any EQIP application is a conservation plan. Some of the benefits of developing a customized conservation plan include: helping you to comply with environmental regulations; preparing you for various conservation programs opportunities and identifying immediate or potential resource problems that could hurt your production.

How EQIP Works

EQIP initiatives are funding opportunities created to assure funds are available to resource priorities across various land use types, for special emphasis resource needs and to assure that underserved groups have access to assistance.

An EQIP initiative is a ranking and funding pool where similar applications are evaluated. Applications for an EQIP initiative will be evaluated based on screening and ranking criteria that consider the benefits of planned conservation practices as identified by local, state and national priorities. The basis for an EQIP application is a conservation plan.

Please contact your local NRCS field office about EQIP eligibility and the application process or visit http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip_program_eligibility.html and http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/how_to_apply_for_eqip.html for more information.

Program payments are limited to \$300,000 a person or entity for all contracts entered into during any six-year period. This limitation includes unpaid prior year contract obligations as of October 1, 2008, as well as new contract obligations. For the purpose of applying this requirement, the six-year period will include those payments made in fiscal years 2009-2014.

Practice Payment Caps for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds

The following lists the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds practice payment caps for fiscal year 2013. Some limits to the maximum amount of incentive funding to be received for certain practices have been put in place. The level at which practice payments are allowed still provide a powerful incentive for improvements, while allowing limited funding support to reach more participants.

For irrigation systems, multiple fields or blocks using the same well, pump, filtration, and mainlines will be considered a single system. One field or system may not be split into different applications in order to circumvent the payment cap.

These practice payment caps apply to the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds only. Please contact your local field office if you have questions.



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Table 1. Payment Caps for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds

Conservation Practice	Standard Rate Payment Cap	Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Rate Payment Cap	Limited Resource Farmer Rate Payment Cap
441 - Micro-irrigation System	\$140,000	\$210,000	\$252,000
449 – Irrigation Water Management	25,500	\$38,250	\$45,900
595– Integrated Pest Management	25,500	\$38,250	\$45,900

Approved NRCS Land Uses

Only approved NRCS land uses are eligible for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds. Approved land uses are:

- Cropland

Approved NRCS Resource Concerns

Only approved NRCS resource concerns are eligible for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds. Approved resource concerns are:

Water Quality:

- Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water
- Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water
- Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water

Water Quantity:

- Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land

Approved NRCS Conservation Practices

Only approved NRCS conservation practices are eligible for financial assistance through the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds.

All conservation plans selected for financial assistance through the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds must include documentation that an alternative containing the core practices was presented to the decision-maker. Every application and contract developed for this initiative must include at least one of the applicable core practices.

Core conservation practices are critical to addressing the targeted resource concern(s) for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds and achieving the desired environmental outcome(s). Supporting practices are those practices needed to make the core practices function properly or to address a specific site or condition related to the identified resource concern(s).

Eligible Core Conservation Practices

Water Quality:

- 340 – Cover Crop
- 342 – Critical Area Planting
- 441 – Irrigation System, Microirrigation
- 449 – Irrigation Water Management
- 587 – Structure for Water Control
- 595 – Integrated Pest Management

Water Quantity:

- 441 – Irrigation System, Microirrigation
- 449 - Irrigation Water Management

Eligible Supporting Conservation Practices

Water Quality:

- 309 – Agrichemical Handling Facility
- 320 – Irrigation Canal or Lateral*
- 342 – Critical Area Planting*
- 350 – Sediment Basin
- 388 – Irrigation Field Ditch*
- 430 – Irrigation Pipeline*
- 436 – Irrigation Reservoir*
- 442 – Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- 443 – Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
- 450 – Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application
- 533 – Pumping Plant*
- 587 – Structure for Water Control*
- 620 – Underground Outlet*
- 638 – Water and Sediment Control Basin

Water Quantity:

- 320 – Irrigation Canal or Lateral*
- 388 – Irrigation Field Ditch*
- 430 – Irrigation Pipeline*
- 436 – Irrigation Reservoir*
- 442 – Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- 443 – Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
- 464 – Irrigation Land Leveling
- 533 – Pumping Plant*
- 587 – Structure for Water Control*
- 620 – Underground Outlet*



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*These practices are potential components of (447) Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery. Cost-share rates for 447 are based on the component practices.

For more information about NRCS conservation practices visit http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=NRCSDEV11_001020 the website link for all NRCS conservation practice standards.

Application Screening Criteria for the Bay-Delta Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watershed

The purpose of screening criteria is to prioritize applications into ‘High’, ‘Medium’ or ‘Low’ categories prior to application ranking. All eligible applications for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds will be screened and applications in the ‘High’ priority category will be ranked. ‘Medium’ priority applications will be ranked only if funding is available. An application screening worksheet is included at the end of this document and will be used by NRCS to screen applications submitted for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds. The following is for reference only.

High Priority Category: (All of the following is true)

- 1) Conservation practices in the EQIP application and schedule of operations are supported by a conservation plan and meet all the below criteria:
 - a. The following steps of the conservation planning process have been completed: an appropriate field visit(s); a resource inventory and analysis; alternatives presented to the client; decision(s) made by the client; and, client decision appropriately documented.
 - b. All practices in the EQIP application and schedule of operations are scheduled for completion within 3 years of the contract obligation date.
 - c. Planned land unit is under a management plan as defined by a local coalition for the purposes of the State of California Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Medium Priority Category: (All of the following is true)

- 1) Conservation practices in the EQIP application conservation plan and schedule of operations are supported by a conservation plan and meets all the below criteria:
 - a. The following steps of the conservation planning process have been completed: an appropriate field visit(s); a resource inventory and analysis; alternatives presented to the client; decision(s) made by the client; and, client decision appropriately documented.
 - b. Planned land unit is under a management plan as defined by a local coalition for the purposes of the State of California Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Low Priority Category: (If one of the following is true)

- 1) All other applications for the initiative that do not screen as “High” or “Medium” priority.
- 2) During the previous two EQIP program years, fiscal year 2011 and 2012, did the applicant have a NRCS cost-share contract where at least one of the following is true:
 - a. One or more practices were two or more years behind schedule for installation.

- b. The contract was terminated for any reason.

Application Ranking Criteria for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds

The purpose of the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds ranking criteria is to evaluate the environmental benefits of conservation treatments included in an EQIP application, i.e. the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan. An application ranking score is based on national, state and local ranking criteria and the cost-efficiency of conservation practices in the EQIP application. The cost-efficiency score is based upon broad averages of the cost and environmental benefits of each practice in the EQIP application.

The following sections list the national, state and local ranking criteria for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds and are provided for reference only. Applications will be evaluated electronically by NRCS using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT).

National Ranking Criteria

Only questions 2, 3, and 9 are applicable to the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds; all other questions will be answered "No" in the AERT.

- 1) If the application is for development of a **Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)**, the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.
 - a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
- 2) **Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality** - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:
 - a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?
 - b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?
 - c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?
- 3) **Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation** - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:
 - a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?
 - b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?

- c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?
- 4) **Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources** - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:
 - a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?
 - b. Reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH₄ (Methane), and N₂O (Nitrous Oxide)?
 - c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?
- 5) **Soil Health:** Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:
 - a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?
 - b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?
- 6) **Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation** - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:
 - a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?
 - b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?
- 7) **High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities:** Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:
 - a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?
 - b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?
 - a. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?
 - c. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?
 - d. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?
 - e. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?
- 8) **Energy Conservation** - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:
 - a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?
 - b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?
 - c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?
- 9) **Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations** - Will the proposed project result in:
 - a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?
 - b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?

- c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?

State Ranking Criteria

All questions are applicable to the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds.

1) **State Category One - WATER QUANTITY: Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land**
(Select "Yes" to One Question Only)

- a. Conservation treatment includes implementation of an irrigation system that results in an increase of 20 percent or greater annual water savings. Annual water savings has been estimated using the California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools.
- b. Conservation treatment includes implementation of an irrigation system that results in an increase of 10 to 19 percent annual water savings. Annual water savings has been estimated using the California Irrigation Water Savings Tool found in the California eFOTG Section 1, Resource Assessment Tools.

2) **State Category Two - WATER QUANTITY: Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land**
(Select "Yes" to All that Apply)

- a. Conservation treatment will achieve Level II or III irrigation water management according to NRCS CA Bulletin 201-11-3, and the farm operation ranks as "Medium" or "High" in need for 449 – Irrigation Water Management as determined from the Irrigation Scheduling planning tool.
- b. Conservation treatment includes vegetative practices that effect water conservation such as cover crop or mulching.

3) **State Category Three - WATER QUALITY: Excessive Levels of Nutrients or Organics in Surface Water** (Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes "Management Practices" that will minimize or eliminate the potential for "nutrients and organics" in runoff water to degrade the water quality of a surface water body and the treatment area is located:

- a. "Directly adjacent to a surface water body" listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category "Nutrients" and/or "Other Organics". The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- b. "Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary" that flows into a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category "Nutrients" and/or "Other Organics". The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- c. "Directly adjacent to a blue line stream" as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.

- d. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.

4) **State Category Four - WATER QUALITY: Excessive Levels of Nutrients or Organics in Surface Water** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes “Structural and/or Vegetative Practices” that will minimize or eliminate the potential for “nutrients and organics” in runoff water to degrade the water quality of a surface water body and the treatment area is located:

- a. “Directly adjacent to a surface water body” listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category “Nutrients” and/or “Other Organics”. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- b. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category “Nutrients” and/or “Other Organics”. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- c. “Directly adjacent to a blue line stream” as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.
- d. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.

5) **State Category Five - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes "Management Practices" that will minimize or eliminate the use of high-risk pesticides where the hazard rating will be reduced from "Extra High" or "High" to at least "Intermediate" according to the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST), the tool can be found at www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/winpst.html, and the treatment area is located:

- a. “Directly adjacent to a surface water body” listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category “Pesticides”. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- b. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category “Pesticides”. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- c. “Directly adjacent to a blue line stream” as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.
- d. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.

6) **State Category Six - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes "Management Practices" that will minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides where the hazard rating will be reduced from "Intermediate" to at least "Very Low" according to the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST), the tool can be found at www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/winpst.html, and the treatment area is located:

- a. “Directly adjacent to a surface water body” listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category “Pesticides”. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- b. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category “Pesticides”. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- c. “Directly adjacent to a blue line stream” as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.
- d. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.

7) **State Category Seven - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes “Structural and/or Vegetative Practices” that will minimize or eliminate the potential for “pesticides” in runoff water to degrade the water quality of a surface water body and the treatment area is located:

- a. “Directly adjacent to a surface water body” listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category “Pesticides”. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- b. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category “Pesticides”. The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- c. “Directly adjacent to a blue line stream” as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.
- d. “Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary” that flows into a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.

Local Ranking Criteria

All questions are applicable to the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds.

- 1) **Local Category One – Pest Management (WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water)** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)
 - a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes management strategies to reduce pesticide risks to surface waters and includes a comprehensive, year-round, approach utilizing a university developed integrated pest management (IPM) system that defines IPM activities for all significant pests scheduled for appropriate times.
 - b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes irrigation water management strategies to reduce pesticide risks to surface waters and includes a basic, key pest/reduced risk management, approach that utilizes university researched and developed integrated pest management (IPM) system for specific pests(s) that includes defined and timed IPM activities for those pests, but does not address all significant pests systematically.

- 2) **Local Category Two – WATER QUALITY: Excessive Levels of Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water**
 - a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes strategies to reduce nutrient and organic materials impacts to surface water quality.

- 3) **Local Category Three – Irrigation Water Management (WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water)** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)
 - a. Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level I, but not Level II or III.
 - b. Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level II but not Level III.
 - c. Proposed Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level III only.

- 4) **Local Category Four – Off-Site Sediment Transport (WATER QUALITY: Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water)** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)
 - a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes structural and/or vegetative practices to minimize transport of sediment to surface water during winter storm events and the irrigation season.

- 5) **Local Category Five – Irrigation Efficiency (WATER QUANTITY: Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Lands)**
- a. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan results in an irrigation system conversion to a more efficient system; or an irrigation system retrofit; or an irrigation conveyance improvement and estimated annual water saving is 25 percent or greater as calculated using the California NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator or from an irrigation evaluation or audit.
 - b. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan results in an irrigation system conversion to a more efficient system; or an irrigation system retrofit; or an irrigation conveyance improvement and estimated annual water saving is 20 percent or more but less than 25 percent as calculated using the California NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator or from an irrigation evaluation or audit.
 - c. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan results in an irrigation system conversion to a more efficient system; or an irrigation system retrofit; or an irrigation conveyance improvement and estimated annual water saving is 15 percent or more but less than 20 percent as calculated using the California NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator or from an irrigation evaluation or audit.
 - d. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan results in an irrigation system conversion to a more efficient system; or an irrigation system retrofit; or an irrigation conveyance improvement and estimated annual water saving is 10 percent or more but less than 15 percent as calculated using the California NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator or from an irrigation evaluation or audit.
 - e. Conservation treatment in the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan results in an irrigation system conversion to a more efficient system; or an irrigation system retrofit; or an irrigation conveyance improvement and estimated annual water saving is less than 10 percent as calculated using the California NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator or from an irrigation evaluation or audit.



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Contact a NRCS Field Office

For more information about the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds and about conservation planning assistance please contact the field office in the county which you own land or manage cropland.

USDA-NRCS, San Joaquin County

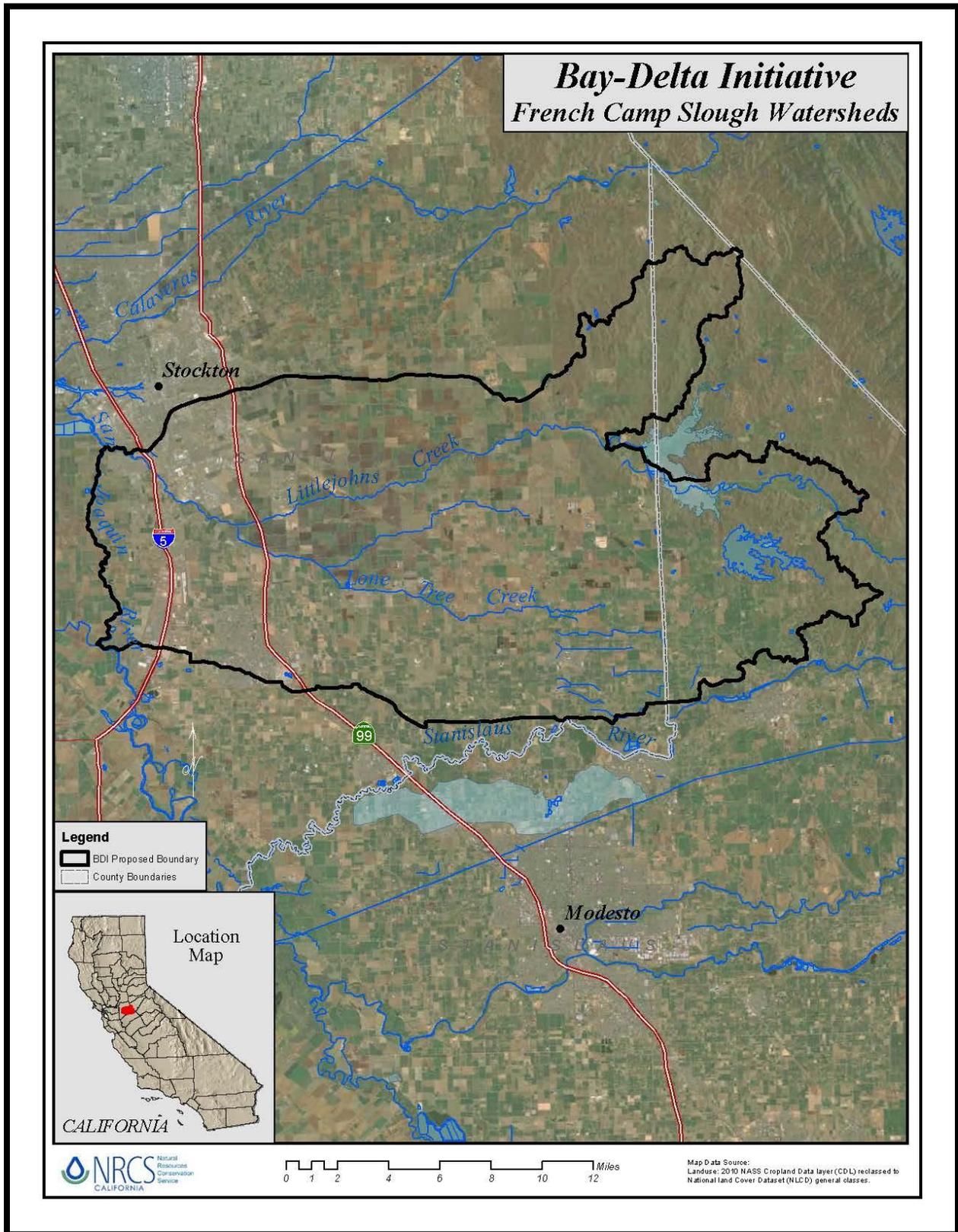
Stockton Service Center

3422 W. Hammer Lane

Stockton, CA 95219

(209) 472-7127

Ora Van Steyn, District Conservationist





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<p>Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Fiscal Year 2013 Application Screening Worksheet</p> <p><u>A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.</u></p>	
Applicant Name:	Application No:
Evaluator Name:	Date:
<p>This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Lower Snake River assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, application periods are established for purposes of evaluation, ranking, and funding decisions. The goal of this screening tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are managed efficiently to address priority conservation needs related to this initiative.</p> <p>Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (high, medium, and low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant. The priority determination of high, medium or low must be recorded in ProTracts for this applicant.</p>	
<p><u>High Priority Category:</u> (All of the following is true)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conservation practices in the EQIP application and schedule of operations are supported by a conservation plan and meet all the below criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The following steps of the conservation planning process have been completed: an appropriate field visit(s); a resource inventory and analysis; alternatives presented to the client; decision(s) made by the client; and, client decision appropriately documented. b. All practices in the EQIP application and schedule of operations are scheduled for completion within 3 years of the contract obligation date. c. Planned land unit is under a management plan as defined by a local coalition for the purposes of the State of California Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. 	<p>High Priority Status in ProTracts</p>



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Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the French Camp Slough Watersheds**

<p><u>Medium Priority Category:</u> (All of the following is true)</p> <p>1) Conservation practices in the EQIP application conservation plan and schedule of operations are supported by a conservation plan and meets all the below criteria:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. The following steps of the conservation planning process have been completed: an appropriate field visit(s); a resource inventory and analysis; alternatives presented to the client; decision(s) made by the client; and, client decision appropriately documented.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Planned land unit is under a management plan as defined by a local coalition for the purposes of the State of California Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.</p>		<p>Medium Priority Status in ProTracts</p>
<p><u>Low Priority Category:</u> (If one of the following are true)</p> <p>1) All other applications for the initiative that do not screen as “High” or “Medium” priority.</p> <p>2) During the previous two EQIP program years, fiscal year 2011 and 2012, did the applicant have a NRCS cost-share contract where at least one of the following is true:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. One or more practices were two or more years behind schedule for installation.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. The contract was terminated for any reason.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. The applicant declined to sign/accept a program contract after NRCS preparation of the contract and approval of the application for funding assignment.</p>		<p>Low Priority Status in ProTracts</p>
<p>District Conservationist Approval Signature:</p>		<p>Date Approved:</p>