

### **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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River**

The purpose of the Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River is to minimize impacts to water quality within the Sutter County section of the Lower Feather River Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 18020159 that drains to the Lower Snake River and Wadsworth Canal. These water courses were chosen after three 2011 exceedences for organophosphate pesticides in the Lower Snake River that have the potential to result in a Clean Water Act (CWA) 303(d) listing as impaired for beneficial uses. In addition to pest management, other contributing factors to organophosphate in surface waters include cropland runoff, both stormwater and irrigation water, and concentrated flow erosion across croplands.

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

The Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River is targeted specifically to 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 pest management and 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 Lower Feather River Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 18020159 that drains to the Lower Snake River and Wadsworth Canal of Sutter County may be eligible for the Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River.

### **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](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](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.

### **Approved NRCS Land Uses**

Only approved NRCS land uses are eligible for the Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River. Approved land uses are:

- Cropland

### **Approved NRCS Resource Concerns**

Only approved NRCS resource concerns are eligible for the Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River. 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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River.

All conservation plans selected for financial assistance through the Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River 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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River 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 Quantity:

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

Water Quality:

- 327 – Conservation Cover
- 340 – Cover Crop
- 441 – Irrigation System, Microirrigation
- 449 – Irrigation Water Management
- 590 – Nutrient Management
- 595 – Integrated Pest Management

**Eligible Supporting Conservation Practices**

Water Quality:

- 430 – Irrigation Pipeline
- 436 – Irrigation Reservoir
- 442 – Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- 533 – Pumping Plant
- 587 – Structure for Water Control

#### Water Quantity

- 430 – Irrigation Pipeline
- 436 – Irrigation Reservoir
- 442 – Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- 533 – Pumping Plant
- 587 – Structure for Water Control

For more information about NRCS conservation practices visit [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=NRCSDEV11\\_001020](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 Lower Snake River**

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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River 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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River. The following is for reference only.

#### **High 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. 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 directly adjacent to a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for both or either of the following pollutant category: Pesticides or Nutrients.
  - d. Conservation practices in application result in a water savings greater than or equal to 35 percent of existing water usage.

#### **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. Conservation practices in application result in a water savings of at least 25 percent of existing water usage.

**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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River**

The purpose of the Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River 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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River 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, 7 and 9 are applicable to the Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River; 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 green house gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide), CH<sub>4</sub> (Methane), and N<sub>2</sub>O (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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River.

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](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](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](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](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](http://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](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](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](http://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](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](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](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](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 Initiative for the Lower Snake River.

1) **Local Category One – Pest Management (WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water)**

(Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

- a. Conservation treatment 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 includes 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 – Nutrient Management (WATER QUALITY: Excessive Levels of Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water)**

- a. Conservation treatment includes nutrient management strategies to reduce impacts to surface and ground water quality. Water quality concerns are addressed through appropriate fertilization techniques based on soil, tissue, yield sampling and record keeping. NRCS conservation practice, 590 – Nutrient Management, is scheduled in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations.

3) **Local Category Three – Irrigation Water Management (WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water)**

(Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

- a. Conservation treatment results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level I, but not Level II or III.
- b. Conservation treatment results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level II but not Level III.
- c. Proposed Conservation treatment results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level III.

4) **Local Category Four – Irrigation Water Management (WATER QUALITY: Excessive Levels of Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water)**

(Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

(Level I = Basic Irrigation Water Management; Level 2 = Intermediate Irrigation Water Management; Level III = Advanced Irrigation Water Management)

- a. Conservation treatment results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level I, but not Level II or III.
- b. Conservation treatment results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level II but not Level III.
- c. Proposed Conservation treatment results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level III.

**5) Local Category Five – Concentrated Flow Erosion (WATER QUALITY: Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water)**

(Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

(Level I = Basic Irrigation Water Management; Level 2 = Intermediate Irrigation Water Management; Level III = Advanced Irrigation Water Management)

- a. Conservation treatment includes NRCS conservation practices, 449 - Irrigation Water Management and 327 – Conservation Cover, to minimize irrigation-induced erosion and transport of sediment to surface water during winter storm events.
- b. Conservation treatment includes NRCS conservation practices, 449 - Irrigation Water Management and 340 - Cover Crop, to minimize irrigation-induced erosion and transport of sediment to surface water during winter storm events.
- c. Conservation treatment includes NRCS practice 449 - Irrigation Water Management, to minimize irrigation-induced erosion and transport of sediment to surface water during winter storm events.
- d. Conservation treatment will result in the elimination of tillage operations currently necessary to facilitate irrigation.

**6) Local Category Six – Irrigation Efficiency (WATER QUANTITY: Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Lands)**

- a. Conservation treatment 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 35 percent or greater as calculated using the California NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator or from an irrigation evaluation or audit.
- b. Conservation treatment 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 35 percent as calculated using the California NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator or from an irrigation evaluation or audit.



**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)  
Fiscal Year 2013 EQIP Program Information  
Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River**

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**Contact a NRCS Field Office**

For more information about the Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River and about conservation planning assistance please contact the field office in the county which you own land or manage cropland.

**USDA-NRCS, Sutter County**

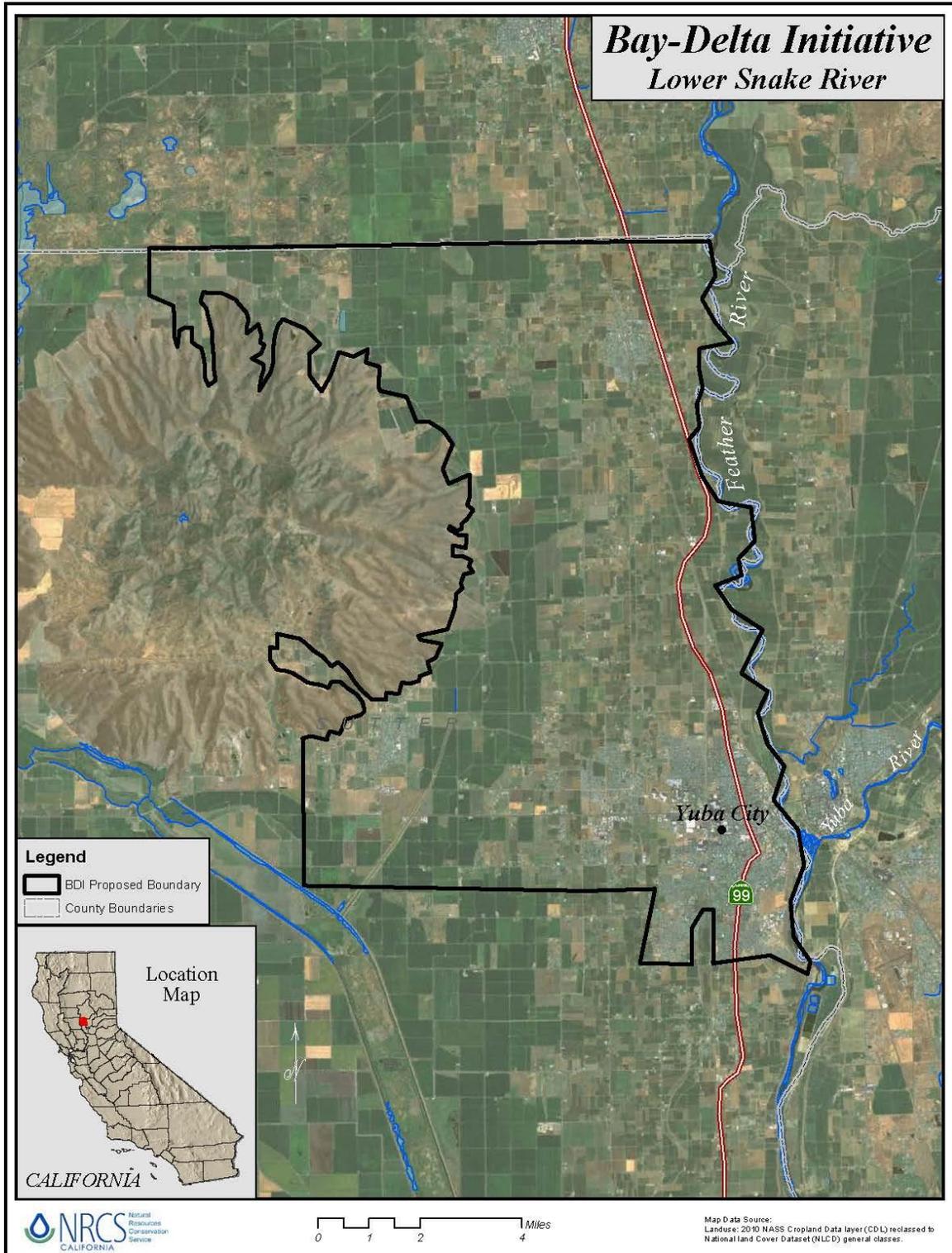
Yuba City Service Center

1511 Butte House Road, Suite B

Yuba City, CA 95993

(530) 674-1461

Alan Atkins, District Conservationist





**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)  
Fiscal Year 2013 EQIP Program Information  
Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River**

<p><b>Fiscal Year 2013 Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River Application Screening Worksheet</b></p> <p><b><u>A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EOIP application.</u></b></p>	
<b>Applicant Name:</b>	<b>Application No:</b>
<b>Evaluator Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<p>This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for Bay-Delta 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><b><u>High Priority Category:</u></b> (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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>b. All practices in the EQIP application and schedule of operations are scheduled for completion within 3 years of the contract obligation date.</li> <li>c. Planned land unit is directly adjacent to a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for both or either of the following pollutant category: Pesticides or Nutrients.</li> <li>d. Conservation practices in application result in a water savings greater than or equal to 35 percent of existing water usage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>High Priority Status in ProTracts</b></p>



**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)  
Fiscal Year 2013 EQIP Program Information  
Bay-Delta Initiative for the Lower Snake River**

<p><b><u>Medium Priority Category:</u></b> (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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>c. Conservation practices in application result in a water savings of at least 25 percent of existing water usage.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Medium Priority Status in ProTracts</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Low Priority Category:</u></b> (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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. One or more practices were two or more years behind schedule for installation.</li> <li>b. The contract was terminated for any reason.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Low Priority Status in ProTracts</b></p>	
<p>District Conservationist Approval Signature:</p>		<p>Date Approved:</p>	