



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Fiscal Year 2013 EQIP Program Information
Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area

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 Walker Creek Represented Area

The purpose of the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area is to provide technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to help comply with the Colusa Glenn Sub-watershed (CGS) management plan to address water quality exceedances at the Walker Creek Represented Area monitoring site.

The CGSP is charged by the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) with helping producers meet the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley's (RWQCB) Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program guidelines. The intent of Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area is to help producers to implement CGSP's high priority water quality and water conservation practices to meet the management plan goals and objectives.

The Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area encourages the implementation of pest management, nutrient management, vegetative and structural practices to reduce the off-site transport of chemicals, nutrients and sediment, and practices to increase irrigation efficiency. The initiative specifically targets irrigated agricultural operations that have the capacity to adopt and apply:

- management practices to improve water quality with emphasis on improved pest management and nutrient management;
- vegetative and structural practices to improve water quality, and,
- practices to increase irrigation efficiency with emphasis on irrigation water management,
- practices to improve riparian wildlife habitat.

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 the Walker Creek, Colusa Drain and Sacramento River Watershed areas located in Glenn County may be eligible for the Bay-Delta Initiative for Walker Creek Represented Area.

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.

Approved NRCS Land Uses

Only approved NRCS land uses are eligible for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area. Approved land uses are:

- Cropland

Approved NRCS Resource Concerns

Only approved NRCS resource concerns are eligible for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area. 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

Animals - Fish and Wildlife:

- Inadequate Food
- Inadequate Cover/Shelter
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Imbalance Among and Within Populations
- Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species: Declining Species, Species of Special Concern

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 Walker Creek Represented Area.

All conservation plans selected for financial assistance through the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area 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 Walker Creek Represented Area 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:

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

Water Quantity:

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

Fish and Wildlife Habitat:

- 390 – Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- 391 – Riparian Forest Buffer
- 422 – Hedgerow Planting
- 580 – Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- 734 – Fish and Wildlife Structure

Eligible Supporting Conservation Practices

Water Quality:

- 320 – Irrigation Canal or Lateral*
- 350 – Sediment Basin
- 386 – Field Border
- 388 – Irrigation Field Ditch*
- 393 – Filter Strip
- 412 – Grassed Waterway
- 422 – Hedgerow Planting
- 430 – Irrigation Pipeline*
- 436 – Irrigation Reservoir*
- 533 – Pumping Plant*
- 587 – Structure for Water Control*
- 620 – Underground Outlet*

Water Quantity:

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

Fish and Wildlife Habitat:

- 441 – Irrigation System, microirrigation
- 315 – Herbaceous Weed Control
- 612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment

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

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 Walker Creek Representative Area 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 Walker Creek Represented Area. The following is for reference only.

Application priority will be based on the screening factors below:

- The organophosphate insecticide, Chlorpyrifos, has been used to manage pests on the treatment area within the last two years.
- Treatment area is directly adjacent to a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.
- Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes NRCS management practice, 595 – Integrated Pest Management.

Application Ranking Criteria

The purpose of the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area 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 Walker Creek Represented Area 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 Walker Creek Represented Area; 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 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:
- Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?
 - Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?
 - 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:
- Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?
 - Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?
 - 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 Walker Creek Represented Area.

- 1) **State Category One - WATER QUANTITY: Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land**
(Select "Yes" to One Question Only)
- 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.
 - 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)
(Level 2 = Intermediate Irrigation Water Management; Level III = Advanced Irrigation Water Management)
- 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.
 - Conservation treatment includes vegetative practices that effect water conservation such as cover crop or mulching.

3) **State Category Three - WATER QUALITY: Excessive Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment includes “**Management Practices**” that will minimize or eliminate the potential for “suspended sediment” 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 “Sediment”. 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 “Sediment”. 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 Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment includes “**Structural and/or Vegetative Practices**” that will minimize or eliminate the potential for “suspended sediment” 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 “Sediment”. 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 “Sediment”. 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: Excessive Levels of Nutrients or Organics in Surface Water** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

Conservation 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.
- 6) **State Category Six - WATER QUALITY: Excessive Levels of Nutrients or Organics in Surface Water**(Select “Yes” to Only One Question)
Conservation treatment 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.
- 7) **State Category Seven - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water** (Select “Yes” to Only One Question)
Conservation treatment 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 “**Moderately 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.

8) **State Category Eight - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water** (Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment includes "**Management Practices**" that will minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides where the hazard rating will be reduced from "**Moderately Low**" 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.

9) **State Category Nine - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water** (Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment 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.

- 10) **State Category Ten - FISH AND WILDLIFE: All Concerns** (Select "Yes" to Only One Question)
- a. Fish or Wildlife conservation treatments “**predominantly**” affect habitat for Federal or State threatened, endangered, rare, and selected species (selected species included: Tricolored blackbird, Western burrowing owl, Foothill yellow-legged frog, Steelhead, Western pond turtle and pollinators) where the planned Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5), CA Native Bee Pollinator Habitat Assessment Guide score is greater than or equal to 140 (≥ 140), or for instream habitat improvements, a Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) score of greater than or equal to 7 (≥ 7).
 - b. Fish or Wildlife Improvements “**predominantly**” affecting habitat for Rare, Proposed, Candidate or CA Fully Protected plant or animal species where the planned Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5), or for instream habitat improvements, a Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) score of greater than or equal to 7 (≥ 7).
 - c. Fish or Wildlife Improvements “**predominantly**” affecting habitat for Species of Special Concern (as identified by California Department of Fish and Game) where the planned Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5), or for instream habitat improvements, a Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) score of greater than or equal to 7 (≥ 7).
 - d. Fish or Wildlife Improvements “**predominantly**” affecting habitat for common animal species where the planned Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) score meeting quality criteria (> 0.5), or for instream habitat improvements, a Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) score of greater than or equal to 7 (≥ 7).

Local Ranking Criteria

All questions are applicable to the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area.

1) **Local Category One – Integrated Pest Management Strategies**

(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; and, the organophosphate insecticide, Chlorpyrifos, has been used to manage pests on the treatment area within the last two years.
- b. Conservation treatment 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; and, the organophosphate insecticide, Chlorpyrifos, has been used to manage pests on the treatment area within the last two years.

- c. 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.
- d. Conservation treatment includes integrated pest 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 Strategies

(WATER QUALITY: Excessive Levels of Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water)

(Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

- 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 Strategies

(WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water; Excessive Levels of Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water; 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 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. Conservation treatments in the EQIP schedule of operations results in attainment of NRCS conservation practice, 449 - Irrigation Water Management, Level III.

4) Local Category Four – Off-Site Sediment Transport

(WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water; Excessive Levels of Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water; Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water)

(Select “Yes” to Only One Question)

- a. Conservation treatment includes structural and/or vegetative practices to minimize transport of sediment to surface water during winter storm events.

5) Local Category Five - Irrigation Efficiency

(WATER QUANTITY: Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land)

(Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

- 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 15 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 15 percent as calculated using the California NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator or from an irrigation evaluation or audit.

6) Local Category Six – Riparian Habitat Restoration

(WATER QUANTITY: Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land)

(Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

- a. Conservation treatments will improve multiple habitat types, improving habitat elements for both upland/riparian, based on the appropriate Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG), and instream conditions, based on Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP2), that benefit both terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. The score on the WHEG worksheet for the Land Use/Cover Type is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5); if instream practices are scheduled the SVAP score of greater than or equal to 7 (≥ 7).
- b. Conservation treatments will improve the riparian zone within 100 feet from a perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral stream. The score on the WHEG Riparian worksheet is greater than or equal to 0.5 (≥ 0.5).
- c. Conservation treatments will restore or enhance habitat for pollinators; the minimum score on the California Native Bee Pollinator Habitat Assessment Guide is 140 points.



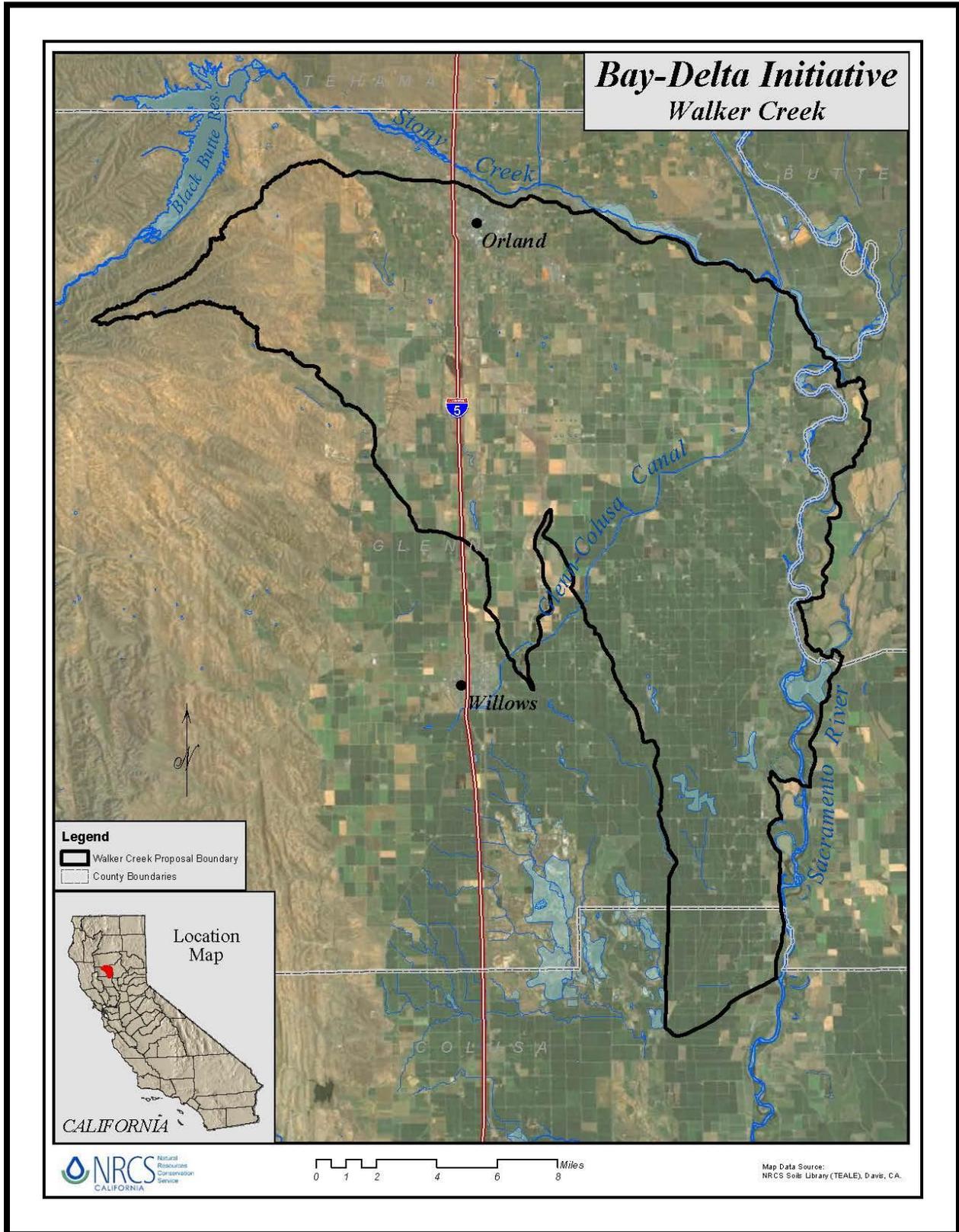
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
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Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area

Contact a NRCS Field Office

For more information about the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area and about conservation planning assistance please contact the field office in the county which you own land or manage cropland.

USDA-NRCS, Glenn County

Willows Service Center
132 N. Enright Avenue, Suite B
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-4601
Robert Vlach, District Conservationist





**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Fiscal Year 2013 EQIP Program Information
Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area**

<p>Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area Fiscal Year 2013 Application Screening Worksheet</p> <p><u>A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EOIP 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 Walker Creek Represented Area 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 national 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>High Priority Category: (All of the following criteria apply)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The treatment area is directly adjacent to a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map. 2. The organophosphate insecticide Chlopyrifos has been used to manage pests on the treatment area within the last two years. 3. Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes NRCS conservation practice, 595 –Integrated Pest Management. 	<p>High Priority Status in ProTracts</p>
<p>Medium Priority Category: (All of the following criteria apply)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The organophosphate insecticide Chlopyrifos has been used to manage pests on the treatment area within the last two years. 2. Conservation treatment in the EQIP conservation plan and schedule of operations includes NRCS conservation practice, 595 –Integrated Pest Management. 	<p>Medium Priority Status in ProTracts</p>



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Low Priority Category: (All of the following criteria apply) 1. All other applications for the Bay-Delta Cropland Initiative for the Walker Creek Represented Area.			Low Priority Status in ProTracts
District Conservationist Approval Signature:		Date Approved:	