



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Workshop Announcement

To: Division 9 Project Property Owners

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is holding a workshop to announce its WaterSMART Bay-Delta Agricultural Water Conservation & Efficiency Projects Program. This program provides financial and technical assistance to those growers addressing water conservation needs on their farms and ranches. For the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, these funds are limited to you, the Division 9 Project property owners, and provides grant monies towards the implementation of your on-farm water conservation and efficiency practices.

Where: SSJID Board Room
11011 E. Highway 120
Manteca, California

When: Thursday, June 16, 9am

Information regarding this program is enclosed. If you have additional questions, please contact John Van Ryn or David Simpson, USDA NRCS (209)472-7127 Ext. 3.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM
Natural Resources Conservation Service
WaterSMART – Fiscal Year 2011

Program Description

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address water conservation needs on their farms and ranches. Assistance is provided in conjunction with the USDI Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Bay-Delta Agricultural Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects Program. Five Bay-Delta projects in California were selected for funding in 2011. **For the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) project, EQIP funds are limited to SSJID Division 9.**

Funding for this initiative is provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This initiative provides technical planning and financial assistance, administered through EQIP contracts, to implement eligible practices that meet specific NRCS standards and guidelines. The highest priority EQIP applications that provide the greatest environmental benefit will be ranked highest in awarding funding through an evaluation process. Payments are limited to 50% of the estimated average cost of applying the practice. Limited Resource, Socially Disadvantaged, Indian Tribes, and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers may be eligible for payment rates of 75 – 90 %.

Participants must first obtain NRCS contract approval prior to the purchase and installation/application of a practice. Any system or practice installed/applied prior to contracted execution is not eligible unless the applicant has been granted a waiver of this requirement by the NRCS State Conservationist. All payments are made after work is complete, project costs have been incurred and documented, and all certifications are complete as required by the contract. Applicants can apply to the NRCS State Conservationist for a waiver of the prior approval requirement. Waivers will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Eligible Counties

San Joaquin

Signup Period: June 16th to June 30th

To be eligible for EQIP a complete application must be submitted to the local NRCS office by close-of-business (COB) **June 30th, 2011**. Incomplete applications may be deferred to the next funding cycle. Deferred applications may be re-submitted when complete for the next fiscal year ranking cycle. EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis.



Approved Practice List:

The following table lists the conservation practices approved for payment for this EQIP WaterSMART project.

Practices Approved for Payment:

Practice Code	Practice Name (Units)
430DD	Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, High-Pressure, Underground, Plastic (Ft.)
430EE	Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic (Ft.)
441	Irrigation System, Micro-irrigation
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (Ac.)
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (No.)
449	Irrigation Water Management – System Evaluations (No)
464	Irrigation Land Leveling (Ac.)
533	Pumping Plant (No)
587	Structure for Water Control (No.)