



# AGENDA

## **Conservation Incentive Contracts: A New Farm Bill Tool Pilot Focus: Drought & Resiliency**

**Introduction - Carlos Suarez, State Conservationist**

**Program Overview for CA Pilot - Dean Kwasny, Farm Bill Programs**

**Questions & Answers**

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS

*California Funding: \$22,774,000*





## EQIP-CIC Pilot

- Limited to 4 western states – AZ, CA, CO, OR
- \$22.7M in funding for CA
- Designed to test a new program & learn from doing
- To be expanded nationally next year
- Short window for sign-up, planning, ranking, & obligation



# Purpose

- 1) Steppingstone for producers familiar with EQIP to test drive CSP type enhancements
  - Allows producers to implement elements of CSP on a smaller scale
- 2) Provides additional stewardship opportunities for producers through EQIP based on:
  - Land Use
  - Priority Resource Concerns within a High Priority Area (HPA)



# Types of Incentive Payments

- 1) Payments for adopting conservation practices
  - Structural & vegetative practices
  - Paid after installation and certification
- 2) Payments for managing, maintaining, and improving conservation work:
  - Enhancements
  - Paid the fiscal year after certification
  - May not need to occur every year

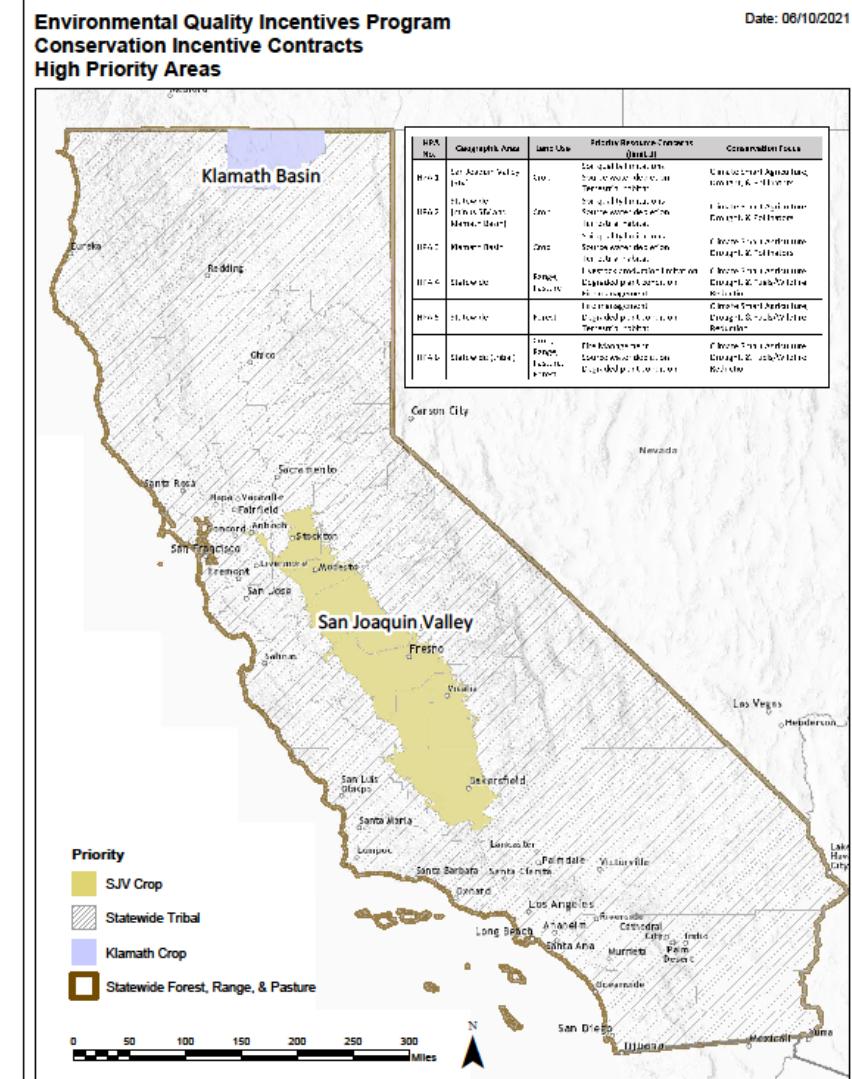


## Eligible Land Uses & Priority Resource Concerns

Land Use	Conservation Focus	NRCS Priority Resource Concern
1) Crop	Drought, Climate Smart Agriculture, & Pollinator Habitat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Source Water Depletion</li><li>2. Soil Quality Limitation</li><li>3. Terrestrial Habitat</li></ol>
2) Range & Pasture	Drought, Climate Smart Agriculture, & Wildfire/Fuels Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Livestock production limitation</li><li>2. Degraded plant condition</li><li>3. Fire management</li></ol>
3) Forest	Drought, Climate Smart Agriculture, & Wildfire/Fuels Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fire Management</li><li>2. Degraded Plant condition</li><li>3. Terrestrial Habitat</li></ol>

## High Priority Areas

Geography	Land Use
San Joaquin Valley	Crop
Klamath Basin	Crop
Statewide	Crop
	Range and Pasture
	Forest
Statewide Tribal	Crop, Range, Pasture, Forest





# Conservation Practices and Enhancements

Land Use	Number of Offered Practices	Number of Offered Enhancements
Crop	89	162
Range & Pasture	68	96
Forest	69	26

*Producers should contact their local Field Office for a complete list of practices and enhancements, and to begin planning their projects.*

# Program Crosswalk



Feature	EQIP	EQIP CIC	CSP
Conservation Target	Addresses an identified resource concern	Addresses at least 1 identified high priority resource concern	Encourages maintenance of existing conservation work and adoption of new conservation activities
Footprint	Planning Land Unit	Planning Land Unit	Entire operation
Requires existing conservation efforts to be in place at time of application	No	No	Yes
Minimum Priority Resource concerns	N/A	1	Based on program requirements
Minimum Contract Period	1 year	5 years	5 years
Maximum Contract Period	10 years	In discussion with option for 10 years	5 years

# Payments Limitations

- 1) EQIP - \$450,000
- 2) EQIP CIC - \$200,000 (separate from EQIP “classic”)
- 3) CSP - \$200,000





# Benefits of EQIP CIC

- Access to CSP enhancements through EQIP
- Opportunity to implement CSP enhancements on a smaller scale and *adopt a longer-term conservation approach*
- Increased funding cap above EQIP “classic”
- Contracts can include enhancements only or enhancements and practices (must include at least 1 enhancement)
- Opportunity to pilot program and provide feedback on nationwide rollout
- Another tool to get conservation on the ground



# EQIP CIC – Rangeland Scenario

- Existing EQIP application
- Land Use is Range
- Already planned conservation practices - livestock well, fencing, prescribed grazing
- Addresses Priority Resource Concern - Livestock Production Limitation
  - **Suitable Enhancements**
    - ✓ E472A – Managing Livestock Access to Waterbodies
    - ✓ E382A – Incorporating Wildlife-friendly Fencing
    - ✓ E528R – Management of Intensive Rotational Grazing
    - ✓ E528N – Improved Grazing Management through Monitoring
    - ✓ E314A – Brush Management to Improve Wildlife Habitat
    - ✓ E315B – Herbaceous Weed Treatment



# EQIP CIC – Cropland Scenario

- Existing EQIP application
- Land Use is Crop (orchard/vineyard)
- Already planned conservation practices – Micro-Irrigation
- Addresses Priority Resource Concern – Source Water Depletion
  - **Suitable Enhancements**
    - ✓ E449F – Intermediate Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Year 1
    - ✓ E449G – Intermediate Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Years 2-5
    - ✓ E484A – Mulching to Improve Soil Health
    - ✓ E334A – Controlled Traffic Farming to Reduce Compaction
    - ✓ E340B – Cover Crop to Improve Soil Health and Soil Organic Matter

# EQIP – CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS (CIC)

## EQIP CIC – Important Dates



# Questions & Answers

