Irrigation System and Tailwater Recovery

A practice designed to capture excess irrigation water, provide temporary water storage, and redistribute water back to the system for reuse. This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to conserve irrigation water and improve offsite water quality.

Nutrient management measures, pest management measures, and irrigation system management are essential components of this practice, and will be planned and implemented to limit chemical-laden tailwater as much as practical.

Basins and pump houses may be placed within a 100 foot setback, but only when the farmable or grazing area is already within a 100 foot setback; existing riparian vegetation will not be removed in order to install a tailwater recovery basin or pump house. All pump intakes will be screened.

Storage basins will be sized to provide adequate retention time for the breakdown of chemicals contained in runoff. Seepage of chemical-laden water from a storage facility will be controlled to the extent possible by using natural soil liners, commercial liners or other approved methods.

Environmental values considered during planning and design include cultural resources; rare, threatened, and endangered species; air quality; and water quality and water quantity.

How the Permit Coordination Program Works for Landowners

- Landowner requests assistance from the NRCS/Cachuma RCD
- NRCS/Cachuma RCD develops a conservation plan to meet landowner needs, enhance natural resources, and comply with Program permits
- Landowner signs Cooperator Agreement to implement the conservation plan
- Project is covered by Program’s programmatic approvals and agreements
- Participating agencies include California Department of Fish and Game, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, NOAA Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
- All practices completed under this program must have a clear environmental benefit

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