

Pre-Approved Conservation Practices for the Salinas River

Ten conservation practices have been pre-approved by the regulatory agencies for inclusion in the Elkhorn Slough PIR. They were identified and included because they address both on-farm and environmental needs, have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing erosion and improving habitat, and result in net environmental benefit. These practices are promoted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Water Quality Protection Program of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to improve water quality, protect and restore the health of the watershed and preserve important agricultural lands.

CRITICAL AREA PLANTING	Planting vegetation such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes, on highly erodible or critically eroding areas (not including tree planting mainly for wood products), this practice is used to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat and visual resources.
DIVERSION	An earth channel constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side. This practice will assist in the stabilization of a watershed, resulting in the reduction of sheet and rill erosion by reducing the length of slope. Sediment may also be reduced by the elimination of gullies. This may reduce the amount of sediment and related pollutants delivered to the surface waters.
FILTER STRIP	A strip or area of vegetation for removing sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants from runoff and wastewater. This practice is used on cropland at the lower edges of fields adjacent to streams, ponds, and lakes to remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff.
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE	A structure built into the creek bed or channel bottom to control the grade and prevent head cutting in natural or artificial channels. This practice refers to rock, concrete, or timber structures that do not control the rate of flow or water level in channels. This practice will not be used in fish-bearing streams.
GRASSED WATERWAY	A natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and velocities, and established to suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff. This practice may reduce the erosion in a concentrated flow area, such as a gully or in gullies and may result in the reduction of sediment and substances delivered to receiving waters.
SEDIMENT BASINS	Basins constructed to collect and store debris or sediment. Sediment basins will trap sediment, sediment associated materials, and other debris and prevent undesirable deposition on bottomlands and in waterways and streams. Basins are generally located at the base of agricultural lands adjacent to natural drainage or riparian areas.
STREAM BANK PROTECTION	Using vegetation or structures to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries, or excavated channels against scour and erosion. The banks of streams and waterbodies are protected to reduce sediment loads causing downstream damage and pollution and to improve the stream for fish and wildlife habitat as well as protect adjacent land from erosion damage.
STREAM CHANNEL	This practice involves stabilizing the channel of a stream with suitable structures. And applies to stream channels undergoing damaging aggradation or degradation that cannot

STABILIZATION	be controlled with upstream practices.
UNDERGROUND OUTLETS	A conduit installed beneath the surface of the ground to collect surface water and convey it to a suitable outlet.
WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN	An earthen embankment or a combination ridge and channel generally constructed across the slope and minor watercourses to form a sediment trap and water detention basin. This practice traps and removes sediment and sediment-attached substances from runoff.