Pre-Approved Conservation Practices for the Salinas River

Sixteen conservation practices have been pre-approved by the regulatory agencies for inclusion in the Salinas River PIR. These practices are promoted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the WQPP to improve water quality, protect and restore the health of the watershed and preserve important agricultural lands.

ACCESS ROADS (IMPROVEMENT)	This practice is used to improve an existing road used for moving livestock, produce, and equipment and to provide access from proper property management while controlling runoff to prevent erosion and maintain or improve water quality. An example of the practice might include re-grading and outsloping a road so that water is less erosive as it travels across the road This practice is used only on existing roads.
CRITICAL AREA PLANTING	Planting vegetation such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes, on highly erodible or critically eroding areas (does not include 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.
FENCE	A constructed barrier to livestock, wildlife or people. This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to facilitate the application of conservation practices that treat the natural resources. It may also be applied anywhere livestock control is needed. Fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve the purpose.
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.
IRRIGATION REGULATING RESERVOIR	A small storage reservoir constructed to regulate or store a supply of water for irrigation. A reservoir created for the short-period storage of either diverted surface water, water from a pumped or flowing well, or water from an irrigation delivery system to provide for improved management of irrigation water.

PIPELINE	Pipeline installed for conveying water for livestock or for recreation. Conveying water from a source of supply to points of its use to shift livestock to constructed water sources and away from stream and lakes. This practice is designed to reduce bank erosion, sediment yield and manure in water courses.
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 bottom lands and in waterways and streams. Basins are generally located at the base of agricultural lands adjacent to natural drainage or riparian areas.
SPRING DEVELOPMENT	Improving springs and seeps by fencing out livestock, excavating, cleaning, capping or providing collection and storage facilities. This practice is used to improve the distribution of water or increase the quantity of water for livestock and wildlife. Spring development uses an excavation process that does not result in the placement of fill in or around spring 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 STABILIZATION	This practice involves stabilizing the channel of a stream with suitable structures and applies to stream channels undergoing damaging aggradation or degradation that cannot be controlled with upstream practices.
TANK OR TROUGH	A trough or tank installed to provide drinking water for livestock. This practice provides watering facilities at selected locations that protect vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing through better grassland management for erosion control. Another purpose can be to reduce or eliminate the need for livestock to be in streams, which reduces the waste and improves the water quality.
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.