San Diego County Permit Coordination Program
NRCS Conservation Practices

NRCS Practice Name	*Common or Alternative Name*	*Brief Description*	*Service Life (yr)*
(1) Critical Area Planting ***NRCS Practice# 342***	Vegetative stabilization Soil stabilization Seed bed preparation	Planting vegetation such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes, on highly-erodible or critically eroding areas, such as riparian areas or steep slopes. This practice is used to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat and aesthetic resources. This practice is used for planting of native plants following site disturbance or eradication of invasive plants. Minor grading or disking for seedbed preparation may be required prior to seeding or placement of cuttings. Planting may include whip cuttings, pole cuttings, or container plants.	10
(2) Filter Strip ***NRCS Practice# 393***	Buffer Buffer strip	A strip or area of vegetation for trapping sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants from runoff. The strip or area is situated between (at the lower edge) cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land and waterways and other environmentally sensitive areas. Installation often requires minor soil manipulation to remove surface irregularities and prepare for planting. Filter strips may also create habitat for native wildlife.	10
(3) Obstruction Removal ***NRCS Practice# 500***	Trash removal Debris removal	Removing and disposing of unwanted or hazardous structures from riparian areas and waterways including structures, cars, appliances, trash, and other materials (items that are anthropogenic and not natural to the system). Large objects will be removed unless their removal would result in a (net) detrimental effect. Structures are removed when the stream is dry or during the lowest flows to minimize impacts.	10
(4) Restoration & Management of Declining Habitats ***NRCS Practice# 643***	Native plantings Wildlife plantings Exotics removal	Restoring and conserving native vegetated communities and associated wildlife species in riparian or upland areas. This practice encompasses a variety of activities intended to restore land or aquatic habitats degraded by human activity; provide habitat for rare and declining wildlife species, increase native plant community diversity; improve wildfire safety; and overall management of declining native habitats. This practice is used to remove exotic plants using target pesticides that are safe for aquatic species (i.e., Rodeo) and mechanical techniques such as cutting, mowing, and mulching, to improve upland, riparian, or aquatic habitat.	15
(5) Sediment Basin ***NRCS Practice #350***	Sediment trap Settling pond	Constructed to collect and store debris or sediment. Sediment basins trap sediment, sediment associated materials, and other debris and prevent uncontrolled release and deposition to offsite bottom lands and waterways. They do not treat the source of sediment but provides a barrier to reduce water degradation downstream. Basins are generally located at the base of agricultural lands adjacent to natural drainage or riparian areas. <u>Basins will not be built in perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral water bodies or stream channels subject to Army Corps or state jurisdiction</u>. They collect waters on site for reuse or release to natural channels at a design volume and flow rate. The design of outlets may include structures for water control and underground outlets to prevent scouring during conveyance/discharge.	20

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(6) Streambank Protection ***NRCS Practice# 580***	Vegetative stabilization Structural stabilization Bank stabilization Riparian planting	Using vegetation or structures to stabilize and protect banks of man-made or natural channels, rivers, or streams against scour, erosion, and prevent downstream sedimentation. Practices using rock will only be used when flow velocities preclude vegetative stabilization. May include willow sprigging, brush mattressing, live vegetative crib walls, or placement of rock.	20
(7) Stream Channel Stabilization ***NRCS Practice# 584***	Vegetative stabilization Structural stabilization	Stabilizing the channel of a stream with suitable structures. This practice applies to stream channels undergoing damaging aggradation or degradation that cannot be controlled with upstream practices (bank protection or upstream water control measures). The design and installation of stabilization structures produce a secure streambed favorable to wildlife and riparian growth. Practices using rock will only be used when flow velocities preclude vegetative stabilization. This practice may also include removal of accumulated sand or sediment that has caused the channel to become plugged due to a large storm, bank failure, or other catastrophic event. Sandy terrace habitat for the arroyo toad will not be disturbed by this practice.	10
(8) Tail water Recovery System ***NRCS Practice# 447***		Installing an irrigation system in which all facilities are utilized for the collection, storage, and transportation for reuse and treatment of irrigation tail water. <u>Recovered tail water will never be discharged off site</u>. This practice is used to conserve irrigation water supplies and protect off site water quality and sensitive resources, using a variety of collection and conveyance structures, including pick up ditches, sumps, pits, drains, pipelines, and basins.	20
(9) Underground Outlets ***NRCS Practice# 620***	Inlet Outlet structure Water conveyance	Pipes or other conduits installed beneath the surface of the ground to collect surface runoff and (1) convey it to a sediment basin or other appropriate structure <u>OR</u> (2) convey it from a basin to a suitable natural drainage channel to prevent erosive surface flow. This runoff is discharged at sediment basin or other structure where high velocity runoff is calmed and suspended sediment trapped prior to reuse on the property or release to a natural drainage channel. Rock may be placed at outlets for energy dissipation to ensure the discharge velocity is below the permissible velocity of the receiving channel.	20