

For: California State and County Offices

**Implementing the Emergency Conservation Program
for Southern California (ECPSOCA) Appropriation Funds**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Pub. L. 108-199), Division H, Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets, provided funding for the Emergency Conservation Program in the amount of \$12 million. These funds were specifically targeted to southern California.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- instructions on implementing the ECP appropriation, to be known as “ECPSOCA” funds
- State and County Offices with administration methods for ECPSOCA funds.

Note: This notice shall be used only for the implementation of ECPSOCA funds in southern California. Unless specifically provided for in this notice, ECPSOCA funds shall be administered according to 1-ECP.

C Contact

If there are questions about this notice:

- applicable County Offices shall contact the State Office
- State Offices shall contact Clayton Furukawa, CEPD at 202-690-0571.

<p>Disposal Date</p> <p>January 1, 2005</p>	<p>Distribution</p> <p>CA State Office; State Office relays to Southern County Offices</p>
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2 Eligibility Requirements for ECPSOCA

A Producer and Land Eligibility Requirements

The basic ECP producer and land eligibility requirements are applicable for ECPSOCA, except for the following exceptions.

- Because of the language in the law, only counties considered to be in southern California are eligible for ECPSOCA. These southern California counties are:
 - Kern
 - Los Angeles
 - Orange
 - Riverside
 - San Bernardino
 - San Diego
 - San Luis Obispo
 - Santa Barbara
 - Tulare
 - Ventura.
- The land affected by the recent wildfires were previously determined to be ineligible for ECP because they were arson caused. After further review, it has been determined that lands affected by these wildfires are eligible for ECP assistance because of the dry conditions and the magnitude of the damage done by high winds. Therefore, ECP Other - Wildfire may be used in those southern California counties that were severely damaged by the recent wildfires.

B Eligible Disasters

Any natural disaster in southern California may be eligible to be considered for ECPSOCA.

C Eligible ECP Practices

All ECP practices listed in 1-ECP are eligible under ECPSOCA.

3 ECPSOCA Policies and Procedures

A Cost Share Rate

Policies and procedures in 1-ECP apply to ECPSOCA.

Note the following change to ECP because of changes in the ECP regulations. The cost share rate for ECP practices have been increased to a maximum of 75 percent. Under ECP drought, the cost share rate for permanent practices is still limited to 50 percent.

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3 ECPSOCA Policies and Procedures (Continued)

B Inspections

On-site inspections continue to be required before approval of any ECPSOCA request.

C Accepting ECPSOCA Applications

Until such time as new software is available to process ECPSOCA requests, accept ECPSOCA applications manually. Use Program Code ECPSOCA.

D Ledger

ECPSOCA funds must be accounted for separately from regular ECP appropriated funds through a separate ledger. Therefore, a new Fund Code/Payment Code is being established to provide a separate ledger. These codes will be provided at a later date.

E Funding

ECPSOCA funds will be allocated in the near future. The State Offices will hold allocations in reserve at the State Office until the Fund Code/Payment Code is received.

F Software Availability

The ECP software will be modified and included in a future release to provide for the ECPSOCA Fund Code/Payment Code. The National FSA Office will immediately notify the State Office when the new software is released.

Note: County Offices must be sure that the ECPSOCA Program Code is entered on AD-245 when recording application.

G Approving Contracts

ECPSOCA applications may be approved when funds are received and posted to the ECPSOCA ledger.

H Payments

Payments earned under ECPSOCA are subject to the same provision as regular ECP, including setoff and assignments, Prompt Payment Provisions, and maximum payment limitations provisions.

Payment will be issued through the accounting interface using the ECPSOCA Payment Code that will be provided at a later date.

ECPSOCA will be included in the Electronic Funds Control application.

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3 ECPSOCA Policies and Procedures (Continued)

I Compliance

Follow compliance procedures in 1-ECP.

4 Action

A State Office Action

States Offices shall:

- immediately provide a copy of this notice to the southern California County Offices
- **not** take action to move funds from ledgers until software containing the ECPSOCA Fund Code is received in the State Office
- when allocation is received, immediately allocate to applicable County Offices in both:
 - ECP ledger
 - e-funds control application.

B County Office Action

After ECPSOCA software is installed, County Offices shall:

- update the Conservation Table File to reflect the 75 percent cost share rate for all ECP practices
- update the Conservation Table File to reflect component codes with new C/S rate
- **not** post funds to ledgers until notified to do so by the State Office.