

Appendix A

Scoping Report and Comments



Memorandum

Date:	April 18, 2012
To:	Maria Wong, Executive Director Yolo Natural Heritage Program JPA 120 West Main Street, Suite C Woodland, CA 95695
Cc:	Cori Mustin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Heidi Tschudin, Yolo Natural Heritage Program JPA Bonnie Chiu, ICF International
From:	Jennifer Rogers, ICF International Community Affairs Specialist
Subject:	Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan Final Scoping Report

Introduction

The Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (JPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP or Plan) for Yolo County. This is a comprehensive, county-wide plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. The Plan serves as a habitat conservation plan (HCP) pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and a natural community conservation plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA). The JPA is composed of members representing Yolo County; the Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland; and the University of California at Davis (Local Partners).

The EIS/EIR will be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The JPA will act as the lead agency under CEQA, and the Service will act as the lead agency under NEPA (collectively referred to as "lead agencies"). The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is a Responsible Agency and a Trustee Agency for purposes of CEQA.

The JPA and the Service will prepare a joint document in compliance with CEQA and NEPA. The JPA will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for CEQA purposes, and the Service will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for NEPA purposes. The EIS/EIR will consider the proposed action (issuance of ESA permits) and a reasonable range of alternatives. A detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives will be included in the EIS/EIR. It is anticipated that several alternatives will be developed, which may include alternatives that vary by the level of conservation, impacts caused by the proposed activities, permit area, covered species, or a combination of these factors. The EIS/EIR is anticipated to address potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and beneficial effects on the following environmental issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gases/climate change, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation/open space, socioeconomics, environmental justice, traffic/transportation, and utilities/service systems. For potentially significant impacts, the EIS/EIR will identify mitigation measures where feasible to reduce these impacts to a level below significance.

The JPA and the Service held two scoping meetings for the public and interested parties on Monday, November 7, 2011. This document summarizes the scoping process and comments received, both at the meeting and during the entire 45-day scoping period.

Noticing

Notice of Intent

In compliance with the requirements set forth in NEPA, the Service prepared a notice of intent (NOI) describing its intent to prepare an EIS, the proposed action, possible alternatives, and relevant scoping meeting and contact information. The NOI was posted in the *Federal Register*, the United States Government's official noticing and reporting publication, on October 21, 2011. The comment period for the NOI was October 21, 2011, to December 5, 2011.

Notice of Preparation

In compliance with the requirements set forth in CEQA, the JPA prepared a notice of preparation (NOP). The NOP contained a brief description of the proposed project; probable environmental effects; the date, time and place of the public scoping meetings; and contact information. The NOP solicited participation in determining the scope of the EIS/EIR. The comment period on the NOP was October 21, 2011, to December 5, 2011.

Mailings

On October 21, 2011, the NOP was sent to Responsible and Trustee Agencies and federal agencies involved, the State Clearinghouse, parties previously requesting notice in writing, and other

interested parties. In total, 141 copies of the NOP were mailed. Of those, eight were returned by the postal service because of an erroneous address, vacant residence, or related cause.

Email Communications

ICF developed a concise notice for the purposes of notifying the JPA's contacts, by email, about the scoping meetings and public comment period. The JPA sent this email out to its distribution list of 298 interested parties on Thursday, November 3, 2011.

Media Release

A media release was sent electronically to nearly 250 local, regional, and national news contacts supplied by both the JPA and the Service. Local publications that received this release included the *Davis Enterprise*, *Woodland Daily Democrat*, *Winters Express*, *West Sacramento News-Ledger*, *West Sacramento Press*, and the *Sacramento Bee*.

Web Site

The JPA developed Web-friendly language to publicize the scoping meetings and comment period for the NOP and NOI, and to provide information about the Plan, including the current draft of the Plan, and the associated environmental process. The pages developed, known as the Environmental Portal, are located at: <<http://www.yoloconservationplan.org/enviro-portal.html>>.

The Service posted a news release on the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office website to notify the public regarding the release of the NOI, the public scoping meetings, and the comment period for the NOI. The news release is located at: <<http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/Outreach/2011/10-21/news-release-2011-10-21.htm>>.

Legal Notices

Legal notices briefly introducing the lead agencies, the purpose of the Plan, the scoping period, the scoping meetings, and other related information were placed in the *Woodland Daily Democrat*, *Davis Enterprise*, and the *Sacramento Bee* newspapers on October 21, 2011. The *Sacramento Bee* was intended to reach a regional public audience, and the *Woodland Daily Democrat* and the *Davis Enterprise* were intended to reach local, county residents.

Appendix A contains copies of the following documents:

- Notice of Preparation
- Notice of Intent
- Meeting invitation e-blast
- Media release
- Legal notices

Public Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings were held to inform the public of the proposed Plan and provide an opportunity for input on the range of alternatives, potential environmental effects, and any issues of concern. The two meetings were held on November 7, 2011, at the West Sacramento City Hall in the Galleria Room—one from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., and the other from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The location of the meetings was chosen for its large meeting space, its accessibility to the freeway, and regional residents' familiarity with its location. The meeting times were chosen to accommodate schedules of public agency representatives and the general public. A total of 14 people attended the two meetings.

A 30-minute presentation was given at each meeting as a brief introduction to the proposed Plan and its objectives, schedule, potential alternatives, and associated environmental compliance process. Following the presentation, meeting attendees were given the opportunity to provide oral comments or ask questions of the representatives of the lead agencies during a question and answer session (Q&A). Before and after the presentation and Q&A session attendees could read information about the Plan, presented on foam core boards, and interact with JPA, Service, and consultant staff.

ICF developed 10 informational boards specifically for the meetings; the JPA brought existing boards related to the Plan to display as well. The boards described the Plan's history and purpose, Plan area, relationship between the agencies, environmental considerations, the NEPA/CEQA process, and the covered species and activities. The JPA, the Service and consultant staff were available during the open house portion to provide additional detail or answer any questions.

An electronic "Kiosk," a portable computer with large touch-screen, was available at the meetings and was subsequently made available at various locations throughout the county during the scoping period as another means of presenting maps and information about the Plan and soliciting public feedback. The touch-screen Kiosk displayed information about the Plan, similar to that presented on the Web site or on the boards at the scoping meetings. Language developed for the Kiosk encouraged users to submit their written comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR during the scoping period. The JPA posted the schedule showing locations, dates, and times to view the kiosk on its website.

Comment cards were offered at the public meetings so that meeting attendees could provide comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR in a written format. These cards could be filled out during the meeting and given to a lead agency or consultant staff, or filled out after the meeting and sent to the JPA by December 5, 2011.

Appendix B contains copies of the following materials:

- Display boards
- PowerPoint presentation
- Two-sided comment card

Public Feedback

A total of 14 people attended the two public scoping meetings held on November 7, 2011. During the Q&A session, attendees had the opportunity to provide oral comments and ask questions. During the meetings, the lead agencies encouraged attendees to submit written comments for formal consideration and so that names of commenting individuals and organizations will be in the record. Table 1, Comments Received, summarizes each of the comments received during the scoping period, including at the meetings. Very generalized themes found within those comments are grouped and provided as a bullet list below.

- Alternatives studied in the EIS/EIR should not just assume build out of existing general plans; alternatives should also consider future changes in general plans, for example, assume scaled back growth.
- Provide clear delineation of covered activities.
- Provide clarity regarding why farmers need endangered species act coverage.
- Address environmental impacts of conservation actions.
- Address third party impacts; for example, as a result of development, will new species occupy or move to agricultural lands.
- Provide clarity about how the Plan will address aquatic species without including them in the Plan.
- Address public health, including vector control.
- Address whether flood management and levee maintenance activities, and renewable energy projects would be covered under the Plan. Maria Wong of the JPA responded that yes, these activities are proposed covered activities under the Plan.

Sixteen comments were received during the comment period. The general themes of these comments are summarized in Table 1 below. Appendix C contains all written comments received during the scoping period.

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Table 1. Comments Received

Date Received	Agency/Affiliation	Name/Title	Summary of Comment
Public Agency			
11/23/2011	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Gregor Blackburn, CFM, Branch Chief	The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) asks the lead agencies to review the current flood insurance rate maps (FIRMS) for the cities and counties in the Plan area and take them into consideration while planning the proposed project.
1/12/2012	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan is a member agency of the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) that requested future coordination to ensure compatibility between the Plan’s terrestrial objectives and SFCWA’s aquatic objectives. • Metropolitan forwarded SFCWA’s February 2011 NOP for the Proposed Lower Yolo Restoration Project EIR, which is being proposed to partially fulfill tidal restoration targets contained in the Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives described in the Service’s 2008 Delta Smelt Biological Opinion and the National Marine Fisheries Service’s 2009 salmonid Biological Opinion to the California Department of Water Resources. • The Lower Yolo Restoration Project would also partially fulfill tidal restoration objectives under the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The referenced NOP for the Proposed Lower Yolo Restoration Project EIR is available online at http://www.baydeltalive.com/assets/eec462358f80cc8d9910bfda974fa6f4/application/pdf/Lower-Yolo-NOP_2011-0225.pdf.
11/7/2011	Department of General Services, for the California Highway Patrol	Shirley Bramham, Associate Architect	The California Highway Patrol (CHP) falls under the jurisdiction of the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for building structure projects. The CHP requests that the facility in Yolo County be named specifically exempt from the requirements of the Plan and any regulation propagated from it.
11/21/2011	The California State Lands Commission	Cy Oggins, Chief, Division of Environmental Planning	The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) recommends that the draft EIS/EIR be as specific as possible about alternatives and the project description. The NOP does not provide information related to how significance criteria will be established. It is necessary that this document provide the logical connection between the covered activities, the significance of effects of the project, and how implementation of the Plan will avoid or reduce those impacts. The document should attempt to repackage the mitigation measures described into a format that makes a clear connection of any given measure to a specific impact, and should describe how the measure will be monitored and enforced. The document should identify feasible mitigation for impacts on resources that may not

Date Received	Agency/Affiliation	Name/Title	Summary of Comment
			<p>be included in the Plan. These measures should be presented as specific, feasible, enforceable obligations or should be presented as formulas containing "performance standards which would mitigate the significant effect of the project and which may be accomplished in more than one specified way." (State CEQA Guidelines 15126.4, subd. (b)). The document should note CSLC's jurisdiction over cultural resources, should make clear that special-status species that are trying to be conserved could still be negatively impacted, should pay particular attention to cumulative effects to greenhouse gases, and should consider the CSLC's environmental justice policy.</p>
11/16/2011	The Central Valley Flood Protection Board	James Herota, Staff Environmental Scientist	<p>The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) asks the lead agencies to be aware of the need to get a Board permit and Title 23 California Code of Regulations, which can be found on the CVFPB Web site, and requests that the Board be kept apprised of progress on Plan.</p>
11/10/2011	Native American Heritage Commission	Katy Sanchez, Program Analyst	<p>The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends doing a records search and, if required, an archaeological inventory. They also advocate contacting the NAHC to get a list of Native American contacts for consultation and a sacred lands file check, being sure to consider that an absence of aboveground evidence does not preclude cultural resources lying underground.</p>
12/5/2011	Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito Vector Control	David Brown, Manager	<p>The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito Vector Control has developed and adopted a Mosquito Reducing Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual that would be of use in the development of the Plan. The District provided two comments and the rationale for each comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment 1: Chapter three of the HCP/NCCP does not address managed wetland, tidal wetland, and riparian habitat allowable maintenance activities outside of a flood conveyance facility. While not necessarily a part of the EIS/EIR, the Plan needs to incorporate the routine maintenance activities associated with management of these properties that are not covered in other land use categories within the Plan. • Rationale: The HCP/NCCP covers a wide range of allowable activities in Yolo County designed to protect listed species while preserving current land uses. Many wetland areas and habitats in Yolo County do not fall under any of the listed categories and may require additional permitting for routine maintenance activities associated with that land use. Furthermore, the District requires annual implementation of Mosquito Reducing BMPs such as routine maintenance activities as part of the District's Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM). • Comment 2: The EIS/EIR must address the effects the HCP/NCCP may have on public health, including vector control. • Rationale: Public health may be adversely affected if impacts are not properly mitigated.

Date Received	Agency/Affiliation	Name/Title	Summary of Comment
			Mitigation measures should include the implementation of mosquito-reducing BMPs to prevent or reduce mosquito production in areas where standing water may occur.
12/5/2011	City of West Sacramento	Sandra White, Senior Planner	The City of West Sacramento commented that because preparation of the Plan will be based on the City's general plan, it should be clearly noted that the existing general plan includes all general plan amendments that have been approved by City Council as of the date of this letter. Preparation of the draft EIS/EIR for the Plan will coincide with the City's general plan update. The draft EIS/EIR for the Plan should include a discussion as to how future amendments to the general plan will impact the Plan and vice versa. The JPA and City should coordinate to ensure the Plan and the updated general plan are aligned on all topics.
11/14/2011	California Department of Transportation	Arthur Murray, District 3	California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 3 wants to be kept informed of project changes, progress.
Individual			
12/5/2011		Rachael Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear about purpose of plan • Doesn't feel Web site addresses how the plan will be implemented or what it will accomplish • Overall, suggests that more information re: species affected needs to be provided • Questions if all environmental laws being followed • More transparency is needed in this process
12/5/2011		Mary Jo Hoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JPA needs to consider the concerns of the community and the Advisory Committee. • Areas 5 and 10 in the Yolo Natural Heritage Program plan are important grasslands and development in the areas is not good. • Wind projects should not be located in these hills due to the cost, health, environmental, and other impacts. • There are alternatives to wind projects that would help reduce GHG emissions
12/1/2011		Charles Hoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not possible to make a reasoned and appropriate comment at this time because comments depend on the content of the plan, which has not been published. • Not knowing what is covered by the plan and how it will be implemented makes it difficult to comment on which alternatives will be studied. • Scoping for the Plan was premature and should not have been held until alternatives are more defined and the Plan has been published and the public has had time to comment on that draft.

Date Received	Agency/Affiliation	Name/Title	Summary of Comment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would have been useful to have the scoping meeting minutes from Nov. 7, 2011 published on the Plan’s online Portal. • There should have been better notification of the Nov. 7, 2011 scoping meeting. • A decision is premature about the Plan because the Yolo-Zamora Advisory Committee was not at the Nov. 7 meetings and did not have an opportunity to weigh in. • It is not clear how to interpret the list of covered species because the public does not know how the Plan will be implemented. • The Plan time period is too long. It should not exceed the timeframe for the General Plan. There should be a maximum permit limit of 10 years. • The Plan should not include the rural, unincorporated, areas because there are many highly sensitive species in the County that require special case-by-case assessments. • The scope of the Plan should be limited to certain types of covered actions rather than open to all actions. The Plan should be limited to residential developments and community services (schools, hospitals, etc).It should exclude roads, bridges, large retail, large industrial, etc. • The Plan should include provisions for members of the public to be notified and have an adequate opportunity to be involved.
12/5/2011		Sandra Montero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EIS/EIR does not seem to follow the recommendation of the Report of Independent Advisors of Yolo County because large facilities such as solar and wind power generation could be covered by incidental take. Permits. • There are no maps on the Web site about the Blue Ridge hills or Capay Hills about raptor nest sites or habitat in nearby grasslands/ag areas. • There is a process going on to construct a large wind facility in Yolo County. It will create a fragment of habitat and impact bats and birds. • How do wind turbines affect honeybees and pollinators? • A 50-year permit would not be responsible because there are too many variables that deserve consideration. • A large wind turbine project should not be considered in the future when the Plan is in effect.
12/2/2011		Glen Holsten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan is supported by this commenter and he welcomes a timely completion.

Date Received	Agency/Affiliation	Name/Title	Summary of Comment
12/5/2011		L. Pfardresher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scoping meeting was not adequately publicized, particularly to the Zamora Advisory Committee. • There is no information on the Web site describing the Plan. • A 50-year plan extends longer than the County’s General Plan and is therefore not appropriate. • All environmental requirements must remain in full force in the development of this Plan.
12/2/2011		Jordi Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not enough information to make a judgment on the Plan. • It is unclear what the JPA’s goal is and which species are trying to be protected. • We need rural community involvement with individual projects, as they are so varied. • Please explain the purpose of the JPA and the goal/purpose/vision. There is not enough transparency and easy-to-read language available to the public. Please provide the public with more information before proceeding.
Non-Government Organization			
12/5/2011	California Farm Bureau Federation	Justin Frederickson	<p>The California Farm Bureau Federation (CFB) commented that this Plan is unique when compared to other HCP/NCCPs. Pros include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan’s express recognition of the existing agricultural landscape as the base of the Plan. • The Plan’s proposed agricultural “habitat values” and agricultural land use “forecasting” mechanisms are extremely interesting, creative, and potentially useful. • The detailed lists of crop-specific “agricultural practices” within Yolo County. • The agencies’ close collaboration with the local agricultural communities in the development of this portion of the program. • The pollinator conservation plan is a positive feature. • The Plan’s restraint in not relying on extensive land acquisition and curtailment of productive agriculture as a mechanism to achieve its goals. <p>Cons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first three working draft HCP/NCCP chapters lack specifics. • The threat of Section 9 take liability figures too prominently in the Plan’s strategy to obtain landowner participation. • This aspect of the working draft document places the Plan at risk of proceeding too much on the same negative or punitive trajectory that has largely spoiled other HCP/NCCPs as opportunities for private-public partnerships to further mutually beneficial goals, and instead made them a

Date Received	Agency/Affiliation	Name/Title	Summary of Comment
			<p>source of basic distrust. Instead of punitive measures, it is hoped that the Plan can redirect itself in a positive direction by focusing on potential incentives and voluntary market mechanisms, such as those described in portions of the June 7, 2010, Plan's Summary of Issues Related to Agriculture document on the Plan Web site.</p>
<p>*Note: This comment was received after the closing deadline for the scoping comment period.</p>			

Next Steps and Recommendations

The comments received during the scoping period will assist in determining the alternatives and the scope of the issues to be evaluated in detail in the draft EIS/EIR for the Plan. Upon the release of the draft EIS/EIR, the public will have 90 days to comment on the document. The draft Plan will also be released for public comment during the same timeframe as the EIS/EIR comment period.

Additionally, at least one public meeting will be held so the public and agencies can learn more about the draft EIS/EIR and provide comments on the draft EIS/EIR.

Once the public comment period on the draft EIS/EIR has concluded, the JPA and the Service will consider and respond to all comments in preparation of the final EIS/EIR. The two agencies will consider all written comments in deciding which alternative(s) to select and implement. The Service will document that selection in a Record of Decision (ROD) (pursuant to NEPA), no sooner than 30 days following publication of the final EIS/EIR, and the JPA will file a Notice of Determination with the Yolo County Clerk within 5 days of project approval (pursuant to CEQA).

Appendix A

Noticing

- Notice of Preparation
- Notice of Intent
- Meeting invitation e-blast
- Media release
- Legal notices

**Notice of Preparation and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings
for an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural
Community Conservation Plan**

October 21, 2011

Introduction

The Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (JPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP or Plan) for Yolo County. This is a comprehensive, county-wide plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. The Plan serves as a habitat conservation plan (HCP) pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and a natural community conservation plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA). The JPA is composed of members representing Yolo County; the Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland; and the University of California at Davis (Local Partners).

The EIS/EIR will be prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The JPA, acting as the lead agency under CEQA, and the Service, acting as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), have determined that an EIS/EIR should be prepared for the Plan. In accordance with NEPA, the Service is publishing a notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is a Responsible Agency and a Trustee Agency for purposes of CEQA.

The Plan area encompasses the entire area of Yolo County—approximately 653,817 acres (see Figures 1 and 2 for regional location and Plan area maps). Covered species are those species addressed in the Plan for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the JPA and Local Partners will seek incidental take authorizations for a period of up to 50 years. Species proposed for coverage in the Plan are species that currently are federally- and/or state-listed as threatened or endangered, or have the potential to become listed during the life of the Plan, and have some likelihood to occur in the Plan area. The Plan is expected to address 35 listed and nonlisted wildlife and plant species (see Covered Species below). The permits are needed to authorize take of listed species that could occur as a result of implementation activities covered under the Plan (see Covered Activities below).

This notice also serves to notify the public of scoping meetings and the public comment period regarding the scope of the EIS/EIR. Additional details regarding meeting locations and times and the public comment period are provided in this notice.

Yolo Natural Heritage Program HCP/NCCP

Background

The JPA was formed in August 2002 to serve as the lead agency for the preparation of the county-wide HCP/NCCP. The Plan describes the measures that will be undertaken to conserve important biological resources, obtain permits for urban growth and public infrastructure projects, and ensure the continuation of Yolo County's rich agricultural heritage.

In 2005, the JPA entered into a Planning Agreement with CDFG and the Service, pursuant to the NCCPA, that set out the initial scope of the program and defined the roles and responsibilities of the parties in the development of the Plan. The Planning Agreement has helped guide the HCP/NCCP planning process and to define the initial scope of the effort.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a systematic and holistic approach to the protection and enhancement of Yolo County's unique and important biodiversity and establish an efficient means by which various land uses take place in compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements. To that end, the HCP/NCCP will provide for the long-term conservation and management of sensitive species and help resolve significant regulatory compliance issues for a range of land uses that occur in the county. The Plan also is designed to accommodate appropriate economic and development activity, support the County's vibrant agricultural economy, and enhance recreational opportunities. The HCP/NCCP will complement a number of other local efforts aimed at advancing conservation objectives in Yolo County.

The proposed Plan is consistent with and is intended to support compliance with other federal and state wildlife and related laws and regulations, other local conservation planning efforts, and the County's general plan. The Yolo County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2030 Countywide General Plan, and certified the associated EIR for the updated general plan on November 10, 2009 (SCH #2008102034).

Project Description

The Plan is being prepared under the combined efforts of the JPA, in coordination with the Service and CDFG. The proposed Plan is designed to streamline and coordinate existing processes for review and permitting of public and private activities that potentially affect protected species. To meet this goal, the Plan sets out a conservation strategy that includes measures to ensure that impacts on covered species and habitats related to covered activities are avoided, minimized, or mitigated, as appropriate. These covered activities encompass the range of existing and future activities that are associated with much of the regional economy (see Covered Activities below). The Plan is further intended to reinforce the role of local government in overseeing local land use planning and decision-making.

Plan Area

The Plan area encompasses the entire area of Yolo County—approximately 653,817 acres (see Figure 1 and 2 for regional location and Plan area maps). With the exception of federal lands, the Plan area, which is synonymous with the proposed permit area, was defined as the area in which covered activities would occur, impacts would be evaluated, and a conservation strategy would be implemented. The boundary of the Plan area is based on political, ecological, and hydrologic factors.

Covered Species

The Plan is expected to address 35 listed and non-listed wildlife and plant species. The list of proposed covered species may change as the planning process progresses; species may be added or removed as more is learned about the nature of covered activities and their impact in the Plan area. Table 1 lists the proposed covered species and their current listing status.

Covered Activities

The purpose of the Plan is to contribute to the conservation of covered species while streamlining endangered species permitting for covered activities in the proposed Plan area. The JPA and Local Partners intend to request incidental take authorization for covered species that could be affected by three general categories of covered activities: (1) permanent development; (2) operation, maintenance, and other ongoing activities; and (3) implementation of the Plan's conservation strategy. Permanent development could include land conversion, public and private infrastructure, and new facilities associated with agricultural and livestock production. Examples of public infrastructure include, but are not limited to, roadways, bridges, utilities (e.g., natural gas), solar and wind power generation facilities, and water conveyance (including flood control). Operation, maintenance, and other ongoing activities could include operation and maintenance of permanent development described above as well as the operation and maintenance of recreational and mining facilities, and agricultural operations and processing. Implementation of the Plan's conservation strategy could include preservation, restoration, creation, enhancement, management, and monitoring activities.

Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

The JPA and the Service will prepare a joint document in compliance with CEQA and NEPA. The JPA will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for CEQA purposes, and the Service will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for NEPA purposes. The EIS/EIR will consider the proposed action (issuance of ESA permits) and a reasonable range of alternatives. A detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives will be included in the EIS/EIR. It is anticipated that several alternatives will be developed, which may include alternatives that vary by the level of conservation, impacts caused by the proposed activities, permit area, covered species, or a combination of these factors. The EIS/EIR is anticipated to address potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and beneficial effects on the following environmental issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gases/climate change, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation/open space, socioeconomics, environmental justice, traffic/transportation, and utilities/service systems.

For potentially significant impacts, the EIS/EIR will identify mitigation measures where feasible to reduce these impacts to a level below significance.

Public Involvement

Public Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings have been scheduled to provide an overview of the Plan and obtain written and/or oral comments on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. The meetings will be held on:

November 7, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

November 7, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Both scoping meetings will be held at the City of West Sacramento City Hall in the Galleria, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento.

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in one of the public meetings should contact Maria Wong at (530) 406-4885 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than 1 week before the public meeting.

Submitting Comments

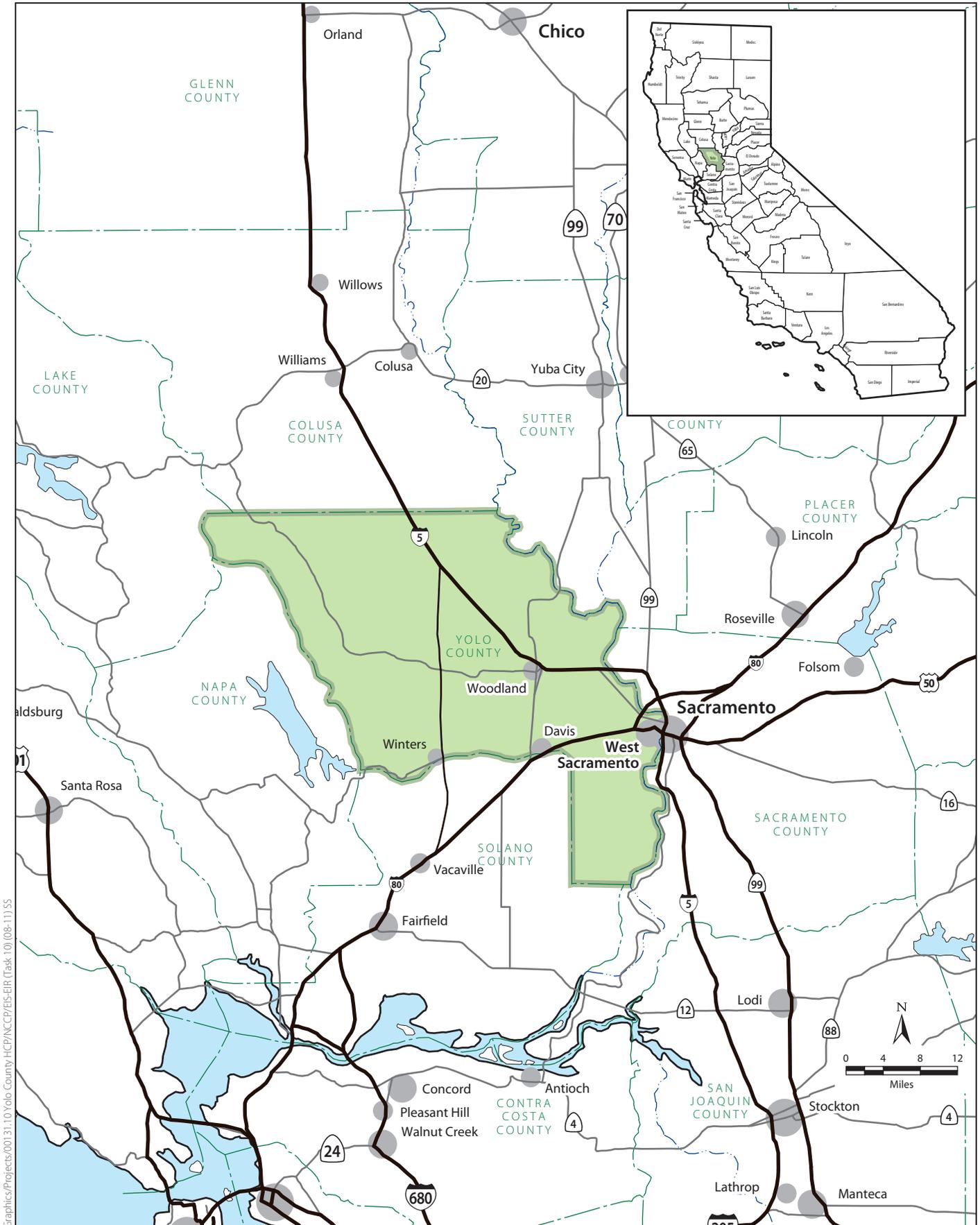
Please send written comments on or before December 5, 2011. Written comments regarding the scope of the EIS/EIR are invited from interested parties to ensure that the full range of environmental issues related to the proposed action is identified and evaluated. All comments received, including names and addresses of commenters, will become part of the official administrative record and will be made available to the public. Information, written comments, or questions related to the preparation of the EIS/EIR should be received on or before December 5, 2011. Written comments should be directed to:

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695
Fax: (530) 668-1801
Email: Yolonhp@yolocounty.org

Traveling Kiosk

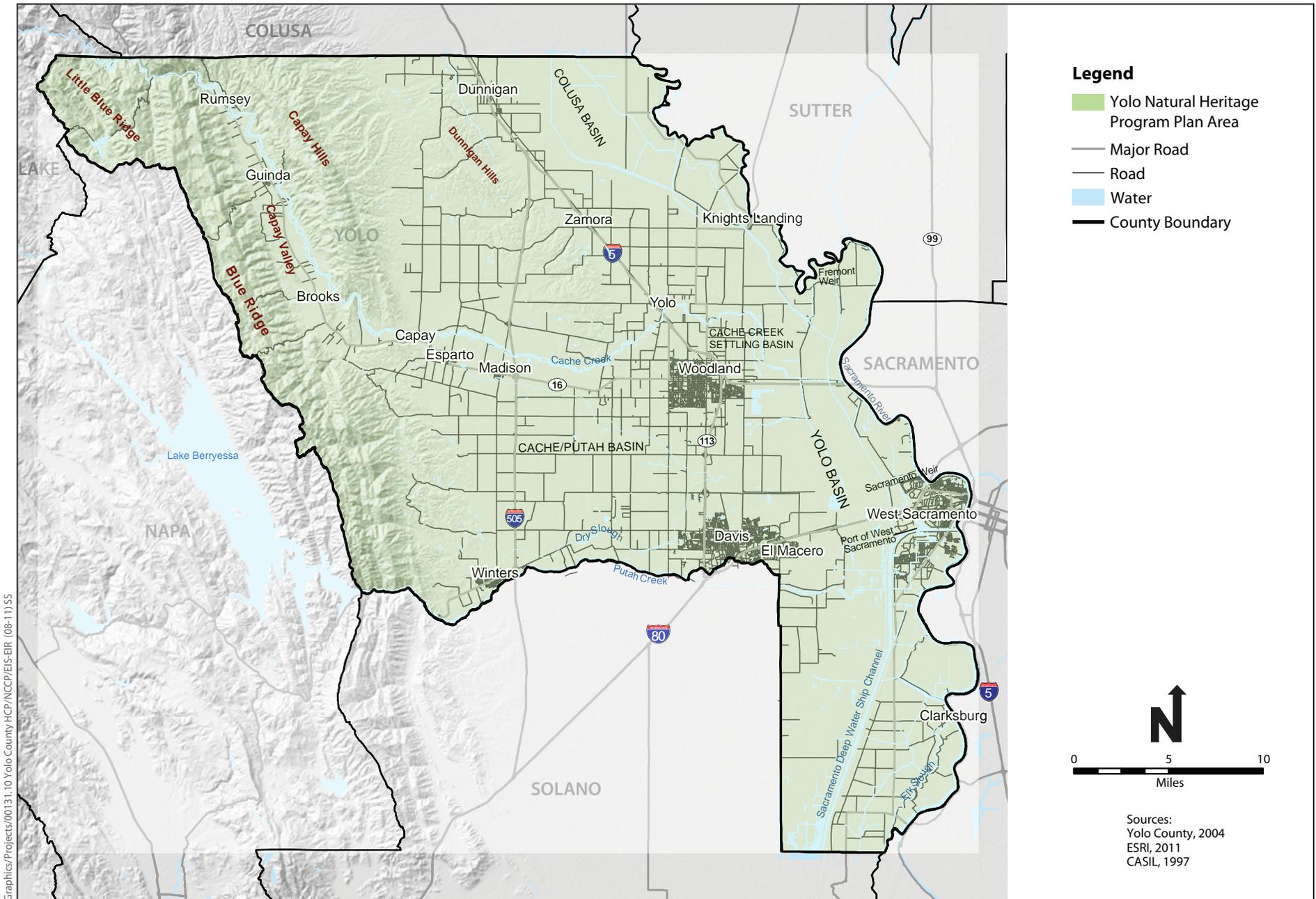
In addition, a traveling information kiosk will be available to the public throughout the 45-day comment period. The kiosk includes a computer station where maps and related information can be viewed and comments can be submitted. A schedule showing locations, dates, and times to view the kiosk can be found at <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org/kiosk>.

For additional information regarding the Yolo Natural Heritage Program, please visit the following website: <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org>.



Graphics/Projects/001.31.10.Yolo County HCP/ANCCP/EIS-EIR (Task 1.0) (08-11) SS

Figure 1
Regional Location



Graphics/Projects/00131.10 Yolo County HCP/NCCP/EIS-ER (08-11).SS

Figure 2
Yolo Natural Heritage Program Plan Area

Table 1. Covered Species under the Yolo NHP and Their Listing Status

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ^a Federal/State/Other
Plants		
1 Alkali milkvetch	<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>tener</i>	-/-/1B
2 Brittle scale	<i>Atriplex depressa</i>	-/-/1B
3 San Joaquin spearscale	<i>Atriplex joaquiniana</i>	-/-/1B
4 Palmate-bracted bird's-beak	<i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i>	E/E/1B
5 Heckard's pepper-grass	<i>Lepidium latipes</i> var. <i>heckardii</i>	-/-/1B
6 Baker's navarretia	<i>Navarretia leucocephala</i> ssp. <i>bakeri</i>	-/-/1B
7 Colusa grass	<i>Neostapfia colusana</i>	T/E/1B
8 Solano grass	<i>Tuctoria mucronata</i>	E/E/1B
Invertebrates		
9 Conservancy fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E/-/-
10 Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T/-/-
11 Midvalley fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta mesovallensis</i>	-/-/-
12 California linderiella	<i>Linderiella occidentalis</i>	-/-/-
13 Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	E/-/-
14 Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T/-/-
Amphibians		
15 California tiger salamander	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	T/T/-
16 Western spadefoot toad	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	-/CSC/-
17 California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	T/CSC/-
18 Foothill yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	-/CSC/-
Reptiles		
19 Western pond turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	-/CSC/-
20 Giant garter snake	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T/T/-
Birds		
21 Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	-/T/-
22 Northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	-/CSC/-
23 White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	-/FP/-
24 Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	PT/CSC/-
25 Black tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	-/CSC/-
26 Western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	C/E/-
27 Western burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>	-/CSC/-
28 Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	-/CSC/-
29 Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E/E/-
30 Purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	-/CSC/-
31 Bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	-/T/-
32 Yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	-/CSC/-
33 Grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	-/CSC/-
34 Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	-/CSC/-
Mammals		
35 Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	-/CSC/-

^a Status:

Federal

- E = listed as endangered under ESA.
- T = listed as threatened under ESA.
- PT = proposed for listing as threatened under ESA.
- C = candidate for listing under ESA.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

- 1B = rare or endangered in California and elsewhere.

State

- E = listed as endangered under CESA.
- T = listed as threatened under CESA.
- CSC = California species of special concern.
- FP = fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code.

Agency Mailing List for Distribution of NOP Dated October 21, 2011

Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
Assemblymember Mariko Yamada		State Capitol, Room 5160	Sacramento	CA	95814
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office	NEPA/CEQA Compliance Dept.	2800 Cottage Way	Sacramento	CA	95825
Bureau of Land Management, Ukiah Field Office	NEPA/CEQA Compliance Dept.	2550 North State Street	Ukiah	CA	95482
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region	NEPA/CEQA Compliance Dept.	2800 Cottage Way	Sacramento	CA	95825
Cacheville Services District		429 First Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Cal EPA	CEQA compliance division	1001 I Street	Sacramento	CA	95812
California Department of Conservation	CEQA Compliance Division	801 K Street, MS-24-02	Sacramento	CA	95814
California Department of Fish and Game, Region 2	Kent Smith	1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
California Department of Fish and Game, Region 3	Carl Wilcox	7329 Silverado Trail	Napa	CA	94558
California Department of Fish and Game, CEQA Compliance Division		1416 9th Street, Floor 12	Sacramento	CA	95814
California Department of Parks and Recreation, CEQA Compliance Division	Bob Baxter	P.O. BOX 942896	Sacramento	CA	94296
California Department of Water Resources	Mark Cowin	1416 Ninth Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
California Department of Water Resources, Division of Water Resources		PO Box 942836	Sacramento	CA	94236
California Department of Water Resources, NFIP State Coordinator		1416 Ninth Street, Room 338	Sacramento	CA	95814
California Dept of Forestry	Yolo/Solano Ranger District	PO Box 86	Brooks	CA	95606
California Dept of Parks & Recreation	Keith M. Steinhart	PO Box 942896	Sacramento	CA	94296
California Farm Bureau Federation	Jack Rice	2300 River Park Drive	Sacramento	CA	95833
California Highway Patrol	CEQA Compliance Division	13739 Andrew Stevens Drive	Woodland	CA	95776
California Natural Resources Agency	Jerry Meral	1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311	Sacramento	CA	95814
California Pubic Utilities Commission, San Francisco Office	CEQA Compliance Division	505 Van Ness Avenue	San Francisco	CA	94102
California Rice Commission	Paul Buttner	8801 Folsom Blvd, Suite 172	Sacramento	CA	95826
Caltrans - Aeronautics Division	Philip Crimmins	PO Box 942874	Sacramento	CA	95814
Caltrans, District 3	CEQA Compliance Division	703 B Street	Marysville	CA	95901
Caltrans, District 3 Transportation Planning	Sacramento Area Office MS-19	2800 Gateway Drive	Sacramento	CA	95833
Caltrans, District 3	Kendall Schinke	2983 Gateway Oaks Blvd., Suite 100	Sacramento	CA	95833

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Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
Capay Valley Fire Protection District		PO Box 6	Brooks	CA	95606
Central Valley Flood Protection Board		3310 El Camino Ave. Rm 151	Sacramento	CA	95821
Central Valley Flood Protection Board	CEQA Compliance Division	3310 El Camino Ave. Il60	Sacramento	CA	95821
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	CEQA Compliance Division	11020 Sun Center Dr, #200	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
City of Davis	Community Development Director	23 Russell Blvd, Suite 2	Davis	CA	95617
City of Sacramento, Community Development Department	Scot Mende	300 Richards Blvd, 3rd Floor	Sacramento	CA	95811
City of West Sacramento Community Development	Community Development Director	1110 West Capitol Avenue	West Sacramento	CA	95691
City of Winters	Community Development Director	318 First Street	Winters	CA	95694
City of Woodland	Community Development Director	520 Court Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Clarksburg Fire District		PO Box 513	Clarksburg	CA	95612
Clarksburg Post Office		36385 North Center Street	Clarksburg	CA	95612
Colusa County	Kent Johanns	220 12th Street	Colusa	CA	95932
Colusa County LAFCO	John Benoit, Executive Officer	P.O.Box 2694	Granite Bay	CA	95746
Davis/East Davis Fire Department		520 Fifth Street	Davis	CA	95616
Delta Area State Lands Commission, Environmental Division	Mary Hays, Land Manager	100 Howe Ave, Suite 100 South	Sacramento	CA	95825
Delta Protection Commission	CEQA Compliance Division	PO Box 530	Walnut Grove	CA	95690
Delta Protection Commission		PO Box 530	Walnut Grove	CA	95690
Department of Boating and Waterways	David Johnson	2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100	Sacramento	CA	95815
Department of Conservation	Office of Land Conservation	801 K Street, MS-13-71	Sacramento	CA	95814
Department of Conservation	Office of Mine Reclamation	801 K Street MS 09-06	Sacramento	CA	95814
Department of Food and Agriculture	CEQA compliance division	1220 N Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
Department of General Services, Real Estate Division	Shirley Bramham	707 3rd Street, Suite 505	West Sacramento	CA	95605
Department of Oil & Gas	District G	801 K Street, 20th Floor	Sacramento	CA	95814
Dunnigan Fire District		PO Box 213	Dunnigan	CA	95937
Dunnigan Water District		PO Box 84	Dunnigan	CA	95937
Elkhorn Volunteer Fire Department		19396 County Road 124	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Esparto Community Services/Sanitary Districts		PO Box 349	Esparto	CA	95627
Esparto Fire District		PO Box 366	Esparto	CA	95627
Federal Aviation Administration	Air Traffic Branch	ASW-520 2601 Meacham Bld	Fort Worth	TX	76137
Federal Aviation Administration	San Francisco Airports Division	831 Mitten Road, Room 210	Burlingame	CA	90410
Federal Highway Administration	California Division	980 9th Street, Suite 400	Sacramento	CA	95814

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Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
Federal Highway Administration	NEPA/CEQA Compliance Dept.	1200 New Jersey Ave., SE	Washington	DC	20590
FEMA Region IX, Federal Emergency Management	Donna Meyer, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer	111 Broadway, Ste. 1200	Oakland	CA	94607
Foundation Wind Power	Matt Wilson	200 Middlefield Road, Suite 203	Menlo Park	CA	94025
John Muir Institute of the Environment		One Shields Avenue	Davis	CA	95616
Knights Landing Fire Department		PO Box 578	Knights Landing	CA	95645
Knights Landing Services District		PO Box 776	Knights Landing	CA	95645
Lake County LAFCO	c/o John Benoit	PO Box 2694	Granite Bay	CA	95746
Lake County Planning Dept		255 North Forbes Street	Lakeport	CA	95453
Madison Fire District		PO Box 12	Madison	CA	95653
Madison Services District		PO Box 40	Madison	CA	95653
National Marine Fisheries Service	Mike Hendrick	650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300	Sacramento	CA	95814
Native American Heritage Commission	Debbie Pilus Treadway	915 Capitol Mall, Room 364	Sacramento	CA	95814
North Delta Water Agency	Melinda Terry	910 K Street, Suite 310	Sacramento	CA	95814
Office of Historic Preservation	Milford Wayne Donaldson	1416 9th Street, Room 1442-7	Sacramento	CA	95814
Office of Transportation Planning, South District 3	Dawn Chester, Chief	Venture Oaks-MS 15	Sacramento	CA	94274
Pacific Gas & Electric	Lou Norton	343 Sacramento Street	Auburn	CA	95603
Port of West Sacramento	Mike Luken, Port Manager	1110 West Capitol Avenue	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Reclamation District # 108	Yolo & Colusa Counties	PO Box 50	Grimes	CA	95950
Reclamation District # 1600	Mull District	429 First Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Reclamation District # 307	Lisbon District	54084 South River Road	Clarksburg	CA	95612
Reclamation District # 730	Knights Landing	PO Box 828	Woodland	CA	95776
Reclamation District # 787	Fair Ranch	37097 Road 6	Knights Landing	CA	95645
Reclamation District # 827	Elkhorn District	PO Box 175	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Reclamation District # 999	Netherlands	38563 Netherlands Road	Clarksburg	CA	95612
Reclamation District #150	Merritt Island	PO Box 422	Clarksburg	CA	95612
Reclamation District #2035	Mike Hall	45324 County Road 25	Woodland	CA	95695
Reclamation District #2068		7178 Yolano Road	Dixon	CA	95620
Reclamation District #537		608 Court Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Reclamation District #537	Lovdal District	50343 County road 128A	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Reclamation District #765	Glide District	6730 Cassidy Lane	Davis	CA	95616
Reclamation District #785	Driver District	20186 Old River Road	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Reclamation District #811	Gregory Demars	624 North Hobson Avenue	West Sacramento	CA	95605
Reclamation District #900	Ken Ruzich	1420 Merkley Avenue	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Reclamation District #900	West Sacramento District	PO Box 673	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Region 5	11020 Sun Center Dr, #200	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670

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Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
Rumsey Rancheria Fire District		PO Box 186	Brooks	CA	95606
Sacramento Air Quality Management District	Karen Huss	1947 Galileo Ct., Ste. 103	Davis	CA	95616
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	Tim Washburn	1007 7th Street, 7th Floor	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sacramento County LAFCO		1112 I Street, Suite 100	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sacramento County Planning and Community Development Agency	Director	827 7th Street, Room 230	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sacramento Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Complex	Environmental Compliance Dept.	752 County Road 99W	Willows	CA	95988
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	CEQA Compliance Division	10545 Armstrong Ave.	Mather	CA	95655
Sacramento Regional Flood Control Agency		1007 7th Street, 7th Floor	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sacramento/Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District	Water Management	8631 Bond Road	Elk Grove	CA	95624
Senator Lois Wolk		State Capitol, Room 5114	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sierra Northern Railway	President	341 Industrial Way	Woodland	CA	95776
Solano County LAFCO	Shaun S. Pritchard, Executive Officer	3700 Hilborn, Ste. 600	Fairfield	CA	94534
Solano County Water Agency	Chris Lee	810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 203	Vacaville	CA	95688
Solano County, Resource Management Planning Services	Birgitta E. Corsello, Director	675 Texas Street	Fairfield	CA	94533
Solano Irrigation District		508 Elmira Road	Vacaville	CA	95687
State Clearinghouse	Office of Planning & Research	1400 10th Street, Rm 121	Sacramento	CA	95814
State Lands Commission, Environmental Management Division	Cy Oggins, Division Chief of Environmental Planning and Management	100 Howe Ave, Suite 100 South	Sacramento	CA	95825
State of California	Office of Planning & Research	1400 Tenth Street, Suite 212	Sacramento	CA	95814
State Water Contractors	Laura King Moon	1121 L Street, Suite 1050	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sutter County	Leanne Mueller	1130 Civic Center Blvd.	Yuba City	CA	95993
Sutter County LAFCO	Stephanie Larsen, Executive Officer	1160 Civic Center Blvd.	Yuba City	CA	95993
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - CESP-K-CO-R		1325 J Street, Room 1444	Sacramento	CA	95814
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District	John Suazo, Attn: Planning Division (CESPK-PD-R)	1325 J Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	Patricia Sanderson Port, Regional Environmental Officer	1111 Jackson Street, Suite 520	Oakland	CA	94607
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Connell Dunning	75 Hawthorne Street	San Francisco	CA	94105

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Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Ken Sanchez, Sacramento Field Office	2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605	Sacramento	CA	95825
UC Davis Fire Department		One Shields Avenue	Davis	CA	95616
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Phil Hogan, Yolo County Service Center	221 West Court Street, Suite 3B	Woodland	CA	95695
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service		221 W. Court Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Water Resources Association of Yolo County		P.O. Box 8624	Woodland	CA	95776
West Plainfield Fire District		24901 County Road 95	Davis	CA	95616
West Sacramento Fire Department		2101 Stone Blvd	West Sacramento	CA	95691
West Sacramento Flood Control Agency	John Powderly	1110 West Capitol Avenue	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Willow Oak Fire District		18111 County Road 94B	Woodland	CA	95695
Winters Fire District		700 Main Street	Winters	CA	95694
Woodland/Springlake Fire Department		532 Court Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo County Agricultural Commission		70 Cottonwood Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo County Environmental Health	Bruce Sarazin, Chief	137 N. Cottonwood St., Ste. 2400	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	Tim O'Halloran, General Manager	34274 State Highway 16	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo County LAFCO		625 Court Street, Room 203	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo County Planning, Resources & Public Works	David Morrison	292 West Beamer Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo County Service Districts	Regina Espinoza	292 W. Beamer Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools		1280 Santa Ana Court, #100	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo County Transit Authority		350 Industrial way	Woodland	CA	95776
Yolo Fire Protection District		PO Box 141	Yolo	CA	95697
Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District	Matt Jones	1947 Galileo Court, Suite 103	Davis	CA	95616
Yolo-Zamora Water District		PO Box 355	Yolo	CA	95697
Yuba County LAFCO	John Benoit, Executive Officer	529 C Street	Marysville	CA	95901
Yuba County Planning department	Wendy Hartman, Planning Director	915 8th Street, Suite 123	Marysville	CA	95901
Zamora Fire District		PO Box 166	Zamora	CA	95698

Non-Governmental Organization Mailing List for Distribution of NOP Dated October 21, 2011

Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
Adams, Broadwell, Joseph & Cardozo Attorneys at Law		601 Gateway Blvd., Suite 1000	South San Francisco	CA	94080
American Rivers, California Flood Management	John Cain, Director	244 Lake Drive	Kensington	CA	94708
ASB Southport II		1107 Kentucky Street	Fairfield	CA	94533
AT & T		40 Executive Court	Napa	CA	94558
Audubon California		765 Univerity Avenue, Suite 200	Sacramento	CA	95825
Audubon California	Valerie Calegari	PO Box 733	Winters	CA	95694
Barbara Butterfield	Customer & Community Relations Manager	202 Cousteau Place	Davis	CA	95618
Best Best & Krieger, LLP	Seth Merewitz	400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1650	Sacramento	CA	95814
Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership	Suzanne Easton	6969 Saint Helena Road	Santa Rosa	CA	95404
Burrowing Owl Preservation Society	Catherine Portman	14841 County road 91B	Woodland	CA	95695
Cache Creek Conservancy	Lynnel Pollock	PO Box 8249	Woodland	CA	95776
Cache Creek Stakeholder Group	Vance Howard	221 West Court Street, Suite 1	Woodland	CA	95695
CalCIMA	Charley Rea	1029 J Street, #420	Sacramento	CA	95814
California Archaeological Inventory NW Information Center	Anthropology Department	Sonoma State University	Rohnert Park	CA	94927
California Farm Bureau Federation	Environmental Compliance Department	2300 River Plaza Drive	Sacramento	CA	95833
California Native Plant Society	Sacramento Valley Chapter	2707 K Street, Suite 1	Sacramento	CA	95816
California Waterfowl Association	Jake Messerli	4630 Northgate Blvd., Suite 150	Sacramento	CA	95834
Capay Valley Vison Group		PO Box 799	Esparto	CA	95627
Center for Biological Diversity		351 California Street, Suite 600	San Francisco	CA	94104
Central Valley Farmland Trust	Bill Martin	8788 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 1	Elk Grove	CA	95614
Clarksburg Branch Library		PO Box 229	Clarksburg	CA	95612
Cortina Band of Indians	Elaine Patterson, Chairwoman	PO Box 1630	Williams	CA	95987
Davis Audubon Society		PO Box 886	Davis	CA	95617
Davis Branch Library		315 E. 14th Street	Davis	CA	95616
Davis Chamber of Commerce		604 Third Street	Davis	CA	95616
Davis Joint Unified School District		526 B Street	Davis	CA	95616
Davis Wilkinson		745 First Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Defenders of Wildlife	Kim Delfino, California Program Director	1303 J Street, Suite 270	Sacramento	CA	95814
Delta Protection Commission		14215 River Road	Walnut Grove	CA	95690
Delta Stewardship Council	Terry Macaulay	980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500	Sacramento	CA	95814
Downtown Association C/O Anita Long (the House Dresser)		617 Main Street	Woodland	CA	95695
DQ University		33250 County Road 31	Davis	CA	95616

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Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
Ducks Unlimited		3074 Gold Canal Dr.	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
El Marcero County Club		44571 Clubhouse Drive	El Marcero	CA	95618
Elizabeth Campbell		PO Box 194	Esparto	CA	95627
Enercon Services, Inc	Athur H. Morrill, Senior Project Manager	3434 Marconi Avenue, Suite C	Sacramento	CA	95821
Esparto Branch Library		17155 Yolo Avenue	Esparto	CA	95627
Esparto Unified School District		26675 Plainfield Street	Esparto	CA	95627
Family Water Alliance		P.O. Box 365	Maxwell	CA	95955
Friends of the River	Ronald Stork, Senior Policy Advocate	1418 20th Street, Suite 100	Sacramento	CA	95811
Friends of the Swainson's Hawk	Judith Lamare, President	915 L Street, Suite C-425	Sacramento	CA	95814
George Phillips		2306 Garfield Avenue	Carmichael	CA	95608
Habitat 2020 Sacramento County	Attn: Chairperson	909 12th Street, suite 100,	Sacramento	CA	95814
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Yolo County		117 West Main Street Suite 15	Woodland	CA	95695
Institue of Ecological Health		409 Jardin Place	Davis	CA	95616
Knights Landing Branch Library		PO Box 517	Knights Landing	CA	95645
Laborers Pacific Southwest Regional Organizing Coalition	Maggie Campbell, Labor Relations Representative	1320 National Drive	Sacramento	CA	95834
Legal Service of Northern California	John Gianola/Leslie Markus	619 North Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee	Rich Marovich, Stroomkeeper	508 Elmira Road	Vacaville	CA	95687
Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee	Rich Marovich, Streamkeeper	PO Box 349	Elmira	CA	95625
North Delta CARES	Mark Pruner	PO Box 271	Clarksburg	CA	95612
North State Building Industry Association		1536 Eureka Road	Roseville	CA	95661
Northern California Carpenters Regional Council	Katie Boyd, Research Department	265 Hegenberger Road, Suite 220	Oakland	CA	94621
Office of Congressman Mike Thompson	Elly Fairclough	712 Main Street, Suite 101	Woodland	CA	95695
OPDE	Greg Brehm	1430 Enterprise Blvd.	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Pacific Bell	Tari Witcher	3675 T Street, Room 170	Sacramento	CA	95851
Pacific Bell	Engineer	40 Executive Court	Napa	CA	94558
Pacific Gas & Electric		242 N. West Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Pacific Gas & Electric	Mike Burke	50 Kentucky Avenue	Woodland	CA	95695
Park Sierra Rail - California Northern Railway		221 Gateway Road West, Suite 401	Napa	CA	94558
PG & E Auburn Land Rights Office	Land Agent	343 Sacramento Street	Auburn	CA	95603
PG & E	Dave Hather	5555 Florin Perkins Rood Room 110	Sacramento	CA	95826
PGE HCP	Mary Boland	245 Market Street, Rm 1053A	San Francisco	CA	94105
Pierce Joint Unified School District		540-A 6th Street	Arbuckle	CA	95912

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Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
Putah Creek Council	Joe Krovoza, Co-Chairman	1868 Imperial Avenue	Davis	CA	95616
River Delta Unified School District		445 Montezuma Street	Rio Vista	CA	94571
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates	Jordan Lang	909 12th Street, Suite 116	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	David Shabazian	1415 L Street, Suite 300	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sacramento River Conservation Area	Beverly Anderson	2440 Main Street	Red Bluff	CA	96080
Sacramento River Preservation Trust		PO Box 5366	Chico	CA	95927
Sacramento Valley Conservancy	Aimee Rutledge	P.O. Box 163351	Sacramento	CA	95816
Sacramento Valley Landowners Association		PO Box 3014	Sacramento	CA	95812
Sacramento Valley Soaring Society		5820 W. 6th Street	Rio Linda	CA	95673
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy	Campbell Ingram	3500 Industrial Blvd.	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Sacramento-Yolo County Mosquito Abatement District		1234 Fortuna Avenue	Woodland	CA	95776
Save Our City		PO Box 583	West Sacramento	CA	95691
SBC	Paul Clark	3675 T Street, Room 170	Sacramento	CA	95816
Shawn Smallwood		109 Luz Place	Davis	CA	95616
Sierra Club	Terry Davis	801 K Street, Suite 2700	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sierra Club - Yolano Group		PO Box 2220	Davis	CA	95617
Sierra Club - Yolano Group		PO Box 909	Davis	CA	95617
Sierra Club Motherlode Chapter	Tony Loftin, Chair, Sacramento Group	801 K Street, Suite 2700	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sierra Club-Yolano Group	Pamela Nieberg and Carolyn Hinshaw , Chairperson	3010 Loyola Drive	Davis	CA	95618
SMUD	Emily Bacchini, Environmental Management	6201 S Street, MS B203	Sacramento	CA	95817
Sonic Cable	Jeff Hall	1031 Triangle Court	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Southern Pacific Railroad - Transportatin Dept	Regional Engineer	13181 Crossroads Parkway N., Suite 500	City of Industry	CA	91746
Taylor & Wiley	John Taylor	2870 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200	Sacramento	CA	95833
The California Central Valley Flood Control Association		910 K Street, Suite 310	Sacramento	CA	95814
The Natomas Basin Conservancy	John Roberts	2150 River Plaza Dr., Suite 460	Sacramento	CA	95833
The Nature Conservancy		555 Capitol Mall, Suite 1290	Sacramento	CA	95814
The Northern California Water Association		455 Capitol Mall # 335	Sacramento	CA	95814
The Trust for Public Land	Eric Vink	1107 9th Street, Suite 1050	Sacramento	CA	95814
Tuleyome	Andrew Fulks	607 North Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Union Pacific Railroad		915 L Street, Suite 1180	Sacramento	CA	95814

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Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
University of California at Davis, Department of Environmental Policy		One Shields Avenue, 1023 Wickson Hall	Davis	CA	95616
University of California at Davis	Dr. Sid England, Director of Environmental Planning	One Shields Avenue, 3200 Dutton Hall	Davis	CA	95616
University of California at Davis	Dr. Steve Greco, Geography Graduate Group	One Shields Avenue, 133 Hunt Hall	Davis	CA	95616
University of California at Davis	Marjorie Dickinson, Assistant Vice Chancellor	One Shields Avenue	Davis	CA	95616
University of California at Davis	Fraser Schilling, Road Ecology Center	The Barn, One Shields Avenue	Davis	CA	95616
University of California at Davis, Dept. of Environmental Science and Policy	James F. Quinn, Information Center for the Environment	One Shields Avenue	Davis	CA	95616
W.A.V.E. Broadband		1031 Triangle Court	West Sacramento	CA	95605
Washington Unified School District	Clifford Jones	930 Westacre Road	Sacramento	CA	95691
Waste Management of Woodland		1324 Paddock Place	Woodland	CA	95776
Watts Woodland Airport	Airport Manager	17992 County Road 94B	Woodland	CA	95695
West Sacramento Branch Library		1212 Merkley Avenue	West Sacramento	CA	95691
West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce		1414 Merkley Avenue, Suite 1	West Sacramento	CA	95691
Westervelt		600 North Market Blvd, Suite 3	Sacramento	CA	95834
Wildhorse Golf Course		2323 Rockwell Drive	Davis	CA	95616
Wildlands, Inc.	Mark Heintz	3855 Atherton Road	Rocklin	CA	95765
William D. Kopper		417 E Street	Davis	CA	95616
Winters Branch Library		201 1st Street	Winters	CA	95694
Winters District Chamber of Commerce		11 Main Street	Winters	CA	95694
Winters Joint Unified School District		909 W. Grant Avenue	Winters	CA	95694
Woodland Chamber of Commerce		307 First Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Woodland Community College		2300 E. Gibson Road	Woodland	CA	95776
Woodland Community College		41605 Gibson Road	Woodland	CA	95776
Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency	c/o Davis Public Works	1717 5 th Street	Davis	CA	95616
Woodland Joint Unified School District		435 Sixth Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Woodland Joint Unified School District		630 Cottonwood Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Woodland Public Library		250 First Street	Woodland	CA	95695
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation		PO Box 18	Brooks	CA	95606
Yolo Audubon Society	Chad Roberts, Conservation Chairman	P.O. Box 886	Davis	CA	95617
Yolo Basin Foundation	Robin Kulakow, Executive Director	P.O. Box 943	Davis	CA	95617
Yolo Bowmen		30475 County Road 104	Dixon	CA	95620
Yolo Branch Library		PO Box 447	Yolo	CA	95697
Yolo County Archives/Records Center		226 Buckeye Street	Woodland	CA	95695

Non-Governmental Organization Mailing List for Distribution of NOP Dated October 21, 2011

Name	Company	Address	City	State	Zip
Yolo County Cattlemen and Wool Growers Association		PO Box 8791	Woodland	CA	95776
Yolo County Farm Bureau	Denise Sagara, Executive Director	PO Box 1556	Woodland	CA	95776
Yolo County Resource Conservation District	Jeanette Wrynski, Executive Director	221 West Court Street, Suite 1	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo Land Trust	Michele Clark, Executive Director	1059 Court Street, Suite 117	Woodland	CA	95695
Yolo Shortline Railway Company	CEQA/NEPA Compliance division	341 Industrial Way	Woodland	CA	95776
Yuba-Sutter HCP	Leanne Mueller, Sutter County Planning Dept	1130 Civic Center Blvd.	Yuba City	CA	95993

Public Availability of Comments

All comments and materials we receive in response to this request will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address listed in the

ADDRESSES section of this notice.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Background

Ballville Dam was built in 1913 for hydroelectric power generation. The City of Fremont purchased the dam in 1959 from the Ohio Power Company, which no longer used the dam for generating electricity, for the purpose of supplying raw water to the city. With the construction of a raw water reservoir, completion expected by the end of 2011, the dam will no longer be required for this purpose. In 2007, the ODNR issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the City, stating that the dam was being operated in violation of the law as a result of its deteriorated condition. The Ballville Dam cannot be rendered safe without expenditure of large sums of money. Removal of the dam will achieve the objective of opening approximately 22 miles of riverine habitat, including an estimated 300 acres of suitable walleye spawning habitat, that is currently inaccessible, thereby increasing walleye populations and stimulating the sport fishing and tourism industries. It will also help to restore impaired water quality in the project area.

Environmental Review

The Service will conduct an environmental review to analyze alternatives for implementing the proposed action and the associated impacts of each. The draft EIS will evaluate alternatives that are developed and the impact of each of those alternatives, including a no action alternative. Following completion of the environmental review, the Service will publish a notice of availability and a request for comments on the draft EIS.

Authority

This notice is being furnished as provided for by NEPA and its implementing Regulations (40 CFR1501.7 and 1508.22). The intent of

the notice is to obtain suggestions and additional information from other agencies and the public on the scope of issues to be considered. Comments and participation in this scoping process are solicited.

Mike Weimer,

Assistant Regional Director, Fisheries, Midwest Region.

[FR Doc. 2011-27244 Filed 10-20-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2011-N144; 80221-1112-81420-F2]

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan for Yolo County, CA: Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent and notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, advise the public that we intend to gather information necessary to prepare, in coordination with the Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (Joint Powers Agency), a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Yolo County Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (Plan). This document is being prepared under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. The Joint Powers Agency and the local partners intend to apply for a 50-year incidental take permit from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This permit is needed to authorize the incidental take of threatened and endangered species that could result from activities covered under the Plan. We announce meetings and invite comments.

DATES: We must receive written comments on or before December 5th, 2011. Two public scoping meetings will be held on November 7th 2011, the first from 3 to 5 p.m., and the second from 6 to 8 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meetings will be held at the West Sacramento City Hall Galleria, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Submit written comments to Cori Mustin,

Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825. Comments may alternatively be sent by facsimile to (916) 414-6713. In addition, a traveling information kiosk will be available to the public throughout the 45-day comment period. The kiosk will include a computer station, on which maps and related information will be available for viewing and comments can be submitted. For kiosk locations, dates, and times, see <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org/kiosk/schedule>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cori Mustin, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Mike Thomas, Chief, Habitat Conservation Planning Division, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, by phone at (916) 414-6600 or by U.S. mail at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (Joint Powers Agency) is composed of members representing Yolo County; the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland; and the University of California at Davis (local partners).

The EIS will be a joint EIS/Environmental Impact Report (EIR), for which the Service, Joint Power Agency (JPA), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), intend to gather information necessary for preparation. The Plan will be prepared to meet the requirements of section 10 of the Act and the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act. The Service will serve as the administrative lead for all actions related to this **Federal Register** notice for the EIS component of the EIS/EIR. The JPA will serve as the State lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the EIR component.

The Joint Powers Agency, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, is publishing a similar notice.

The Joint Powers Agency and the local partners intend to apply for a 50-year incidental take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This permit is needed to authorize the incidental take of threatened and endangered species that could result from activities covered under the habitat conservation plan (Plan).

The Fish and Wildlife Service provides this notice to (1) describe the proposed action and potential alternatives; (2) advise other Federal and State agencies, affected Tribes, and

the public of our intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report; (3) announce the initiation of a public scoping period; and (4) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to be included in the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.

Background

The Plan is both a habitat conservation plan (HCP), intended to fulfill the requirements of the Act, and a natural community conservation plan, to fulfill the requirements of the NCCP Act. The Plan is being prepared under the combined efforts of Yolo County; the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland; and the University of California at Davis, in coordination with the Service and CDFG.

Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and Federal regulations prohibit the “take” of wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. The Act defines the term “take” as: To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed species, or to attempt to engage in such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1532). Harm includes significant habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures listed wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering [50 CFR 17.3(c)]. Pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, we may issue permits to authorize “incidental take” of listed species. “Incidental take” is defined by the Act as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Service regulations governing permits for threatened species and endangered species, respectively, are promulgated in 50 CFR sections 17.22 and 17.32.

Section 10 of the Act specifies the requirements for the issuance of incidental take permits to non-Federal entities. Any proposed take must be incidental to otherwise lawful activities and cannot appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild. The impacts of such take must also be minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. To obtain an incidental take permit, an applicant must prepare an HCP describing the impacts that will likely result from the proposed taking, measures for minimizing and mitigating the impacts of the take, funding available to implement such measures, alternatives to the taking, and reasons for not implementing the alternatives. Thus, the HCP sets forth a uniform and

systematic conservation strategy that ensures that impacts to Covered Species and their habitats from activities covered by the HCP (Covered Activities) are minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. If a section 10 permit is issued, the permittee(s) would receive assurances for all plant and animal species covered by the HCP on non-Federal land and included on the permit under the Service’s “No Surprises” regulation (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

Plan Area

The plan area covers approximately 653,817 acres, which encompasses the entire extent of Yolo County. The boundary of the plan area is based on political, ecological, and hydrologic factors.

Covered Activities

The proposed section 10 incidental take permit may allow take of wildlife Covered Species resulting from Covered Activities on non-Federal land in the proposed plan area. The purpose of the Plan is to contribute to the conservation of Covered Species while streamlining endangered species permitting. The Joint Powers Agency and local partners intend to request incidental take authorization for Covered Species that could be affected by the following three general categories of Covered Activities: (1) Permanent development; (2) operation, maintenance, and other ongoing activities; and (3) implementation of the Plan’s conservation strategy. Permanent development could include land conversion, public and private infrastructure, and new facilities associated with agricultural and livestock production. Examples of public infrastructure include, but are not limited to, roadways, bridges, utilities (*i.e.* natural gas), solar and wind power generation facilities, and water conveyance (including flood control). Operation, maintenance, and other ongoing activities could include operation and maintenance of permanent development described above as well as the operation and maintenance of recreational and mining facilities, and agricultural operations and processing. Implementation of the Plan’s conservation strategy could include preservation, restoration, creation, enhancement, management, and monitoring activities.

Covered Species

Covered Species are those species addressed in the proposed Plan for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the Joint

Powers Agency and local partners will seek incidental take authorizations for a period of up to 50 years. Proposed Covered Species are expected to include threatened and endangered species listed under the Act, species listed under the California Endangered Species Act, as well as currently unlisted species. Species proposed for coverage in the Plan are species that are currently listed as federally threatened or endangered or have the potential to become listed during the life of this Plan and have some likelihood to occur within the plan area. The Plan is currently expected to address 35 listed and nonlisted wildlife and plant species. The list of proposed Covered Species may change as the planning process progresses; species may be added or removed as more is learned about the nature of Covered Activities and their impact within the plan area.

The following federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife species are proposed to be covered by the Plan: The endangered conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), endangered vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), threatened California tiger salamander (Central California Distinct Population Segment) (*Ambystoma californiense*), threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), threatened giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), and endangered least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).

The following unlisted wildlife species are proposed to be covered by the Plan: Midvalley fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta mesovallensis*), California linderiella (*Linderiella occidentalis*), western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*), foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*), western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*), Swainson’s hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), purple martin (*Progne subis*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), and Townsend’s big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).

Take of federally listed plant species is not prohibited on non-Federal land under the Act, and authorization under

a section 10 permit is not required. Section 9 of the Act does, however, prohibit the removal or malicious destruction of federally listed plants from areas under Federal jurisdiction and the removal or destruction of such plants in knowing violation of State law. In addition, section 7(a)(2) of the Act prohibits Federal agencies from jeopardizing the continued existence of any listed plant or animal species or destroying or adversely modifying the critical habitat of such species. The following federally listed plant species are proposed to be included in the Plan in recognition of the conservation benefits provided for them under the Plan and the assurances permit holders would receive if they are included on a permit: The endangered palmate-bracted bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus palmatus*), threatened Colusa grass (*Neostapfia colusana*), and endangered Solano grass (*Tuctoria mucronata*). The following unlisted plant species are also proposed to be included in the Plan: alkali milkvetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *tener*), brittlescale (*Atriplex depressa*), San Joaquin spearscale (*Atriplex joaquiniana*), Heckard's pepper-grass (*Lepidium latipes* var. *heckardii*), and Baker's navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *bakeri*).

Environmental Impact Statement

Before deciding whether to issue the requested Federal incidental take permit, the Service will prepare a draft EIS as part of the EIS/EIR, in order to analyze the environmental impacts associated with issuance of the incidental take permit. In the EIS component of the EIS/EIR, the Service will consider the following alternatives: (1) The proposed action, which includes the issuance of take authorizations consistent with the proposed Plan under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act; (2) no action (no permit issuance); and (3) a reasonable range of additional alternatives. The EIS/EIR will include a detailed analysis of the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives. The range of alternatives could include variations in impacts, conservation, permit duration, Covered Species, Covered Activities, permit area, or a combination of these elements.

The EIS/EIR will identify and analyze potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of our authorization of incidental take (permit issuance) and the implementation of the proposed Plan on biological resources, land uses, utilities, air quality, water resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic and environmental justice, recreation, aesthetics, climate change and greenhouse gases, and other

environmental issues that could occur with implementation of each alternative. The Service will use all practicable means, consistent with NEPA and other essential considerations of national policy, to avoid or minimize significant effects of our actions on the quality of the human environment.

Reasonable Accommodation

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meetings should contact Cori Mustin at (916) 414-6600 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than one week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Public Comments

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Material the Service receives will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Service's Sacramento address (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Alexandra Pitts,

Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 2011-27266 Filed 10-20-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. Geological Survey

[GX12EB00A181000]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of an extension of a currently approved information collection (1028-0085).

SUMMARY: To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we are notifying the public that we (U.S. Geological Survey) will ask the

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. for the National Land Remote Sensing Education, Outreach and Research Activity (NLRSEORA). As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), and as a part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. As a federal agency, we may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. This ICR is scheduled to expire on February 29, 2012.

DATES: Submit written comments by December 20, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Please send your comments concerning the IC to the USGS Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 807, Reston, VA 20192 (mail); 703-648-7199 (fax); or smbaloch@usgs.gov (e-mail). Please reference Information Collection 1028-0085.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE

CONTACT: Thomas Cecere at 703-648-5551 (phone), tcecere@usgs.gov (e-mail), or 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 517, Reston, VA, 20192 (mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: National Land Remote Sensing Education, Outreach and Research Activity (NLRSEORA).

OMB Control Number: 1028-0085.

Form Number: Standard Form 424 Application for Federal Assistance, Standard Form 424A Budget Information Non-Construction Programs, and Standard Form 424B Assurances Non-Construction Programs, and Project narrative guidance posted on Grants.gov.

Abstract: Oversight for this effort is through the U.S. Geological Survey's Land Remote Sensing Program, therefore it is more appropriate to refer to this effort as an activity rather than as a program as was previously indicated. Respondents are submitting proposals to acquire funding for a National (U.S.) activity to promote the uses of space-based land remote sensing data and technologies through education and outreach at the State and local level and through university based and collaborative research projects. Technologies of interest include multispectral and hyper-spectral electro-optical, thermal, and radar. Although most activities are anticipated to occur at the State and local levels, a national coordination effort is necessary

Public Input Sought Regarding the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan

The Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (JPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) invite you to attend one of two public scoping meetings related to the preparation of an environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) on the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP or Plan).

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a systematic and holistic approach to the protection and enhancement of Yolo County's unique and important biodiversity and establish an efficient means by which various land uses take place in compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements.

The HCP/NCCP will provide for the long-term conservation and management of sensitive species and help resolve significant regulatory compliance issues for a range of land uses that occur in the county. The Plan also is designed to accommodate appropriate economic and development activity, support the County's vibrant agricultural economy, and enhance recreational opportunities.

Public Comment. A Notice of Preparation for the EIS/EIR is available for review online at <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org>. A Notice of Intent is also available for review online in the *Federal Register* at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-10-21/pdf/2011-27266.pdf>. The JPA and the Service request your input on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. All interested parties are invited to comment between Friday, October 21, 2011 and Monday, December 5, 2011. Comments must be postmarked or time stamped (email) by December 5, 2011. You may send your comments to:

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695
Fax: (530) 668-1801
Email: [yolonhp@yolocounty.org](mailto:volonhp@yolocounty.org)

Or

Cori Mustin, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825
Fax: (916) 414-6713

If commenting on behalf of a public agency or non-governmental organization, please include the name of a contact person.

Public Meetings. All interested parties are encouraged to attend one of two public scoping meetings on Monday, November 7, 2011 at the City of West Sacramento City Hall, Galleria room, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, CA 95691. The first meeting will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the second from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Learn More. A traveling information kiosk will be available to the public throughout the comment period. The kiosk includes a computer station where maps and related information can be viewed and comments can be submitted. A schedule showing locations, dates, and times to view the kiosk can be found at <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org/kiosk>.

For additional information regarding the Yolo Natural Heritage Program, please visit the following Web site: <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org>.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Maria Wong
EMAIL: Maria.Wong@yolocounty.org
PHONE: (530) 406-4885

Public Input Sought Regarding the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan

The Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (JPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) are preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP or Plan).

A Notice of Preparation for the EIS/EIR was released October 21, 2011 and is available for review online at <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org>. A Notice of Intent was published on the same date by the Service and is available for viewing in the *Federal Register* at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-10-21/pdf/2011-27266.pdf>.

The HCP/NCCP is a comprehensive, county-wide plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. The EIS/EIR will analyze the adoption and implementation of the HCP/NCCP, including the issuance of incidental take permits.

The JPA and Service request your input on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. All interested parties are invited to comment beginning Friday, October 21, 2011 and ending Monday, December 5, 2011. Comments must be postmarked or time stamped (email) by December 5, 2011. If commenting on behalf of a public agency or non-governmental organization, please include the name of a contact person.

You may send your comments to:

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695
Fax: (530) 668-1801
Email: yolonhp@yolocounty.org

Or Cori Mustin, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825
Fax: (916) 414-6713

Two scoping meetings will be held November 7, 2011 for the public to provide input on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. All interested parties are encouraged to attend one of two public scoping meetings on Monday, November 7, 2011 at the City of West Sacramento City Hall, Galleria Room, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, CA 95691. The afternoon session will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the evening session from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. These meetings will be identical in format and content.

Notice of Availability of the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings
for an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
for the Yolo County Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

The Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (JPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) plan to prepare an environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) on the Yolo County Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP or Plan) for Yolo County. This is a comprehensive, county-wide plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. The EIS/EIR will analyze the adoption and implementation of the Plan, including the issuance of take permits. The JPA is composed of members representing Yolo County; the Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland; and the University of California at Davis (local partners).

The Plan area encompasses the entire area of Yolo County—approximately 653,817 acres. Covered species are those species addressed in the Plan for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the JPA and Local Partners will seek incidental take authorizations for a period of up to 50 years. Species proposed for coverage in the Plan are species that currently are federally listed as threatened or endangered, or have the potential to become listed during the life of the Plan, and have some likelihood to occur in the Plan area.

The EIS/EIR will be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The JPA, acting as the lead agency under CEQA, and the USFWS, acting as the lead agency under the NEPA, have determined that an EIS/EIR should be prepared for the Plan. In accordance with NEPA, the USFWS is publishing a notice of intent in the *Federal Register*. The California Department of Fish and Game is a Responsible Agency and a Trustee Agency for purposes of CEQA.

Input solicited. As detailed in the CEQA Notice of Preparation that is available for review online at <http://www.yoloconservationplan.org>, the JPA and USFWS request your input on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. All interested parties are invited to comment for a period of 45 days, beginning Friday, October 21, 2011 and ending Monday, December 5, 2011. Comments must be postmarked or time stamped (email) by December 5, 2011. You may send your comments to:

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695
Fax: (530) 668-1801
Email: yolonhp@yolocounty.org

Or

Cori Mustin, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825
Fax: (916) 414-6713

If commenting on behalf of a public agency or non-governmental organization, please include the name of a contact person.

Public scoping meetings to be held. Members of the public may meet with lead agency representatives and provide written comments by attending one of two public scoping meetings on Monday, November 7, 2011 at the City of West Sacramento City Hall, Galleria room, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, CA 95691. The first meeting will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the second from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Appendix B

Public Scoping Meeting Materials

- Display boards
- PowerPoint presentation
- Two-sided comment card



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Background of the Yolo Natural Heritage Program HCP/NCCP

In 2004 the Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) entered into a planning agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to collaboratively develop an HCP/NCCP.

The Yolo Natural Heritage Program HCP/NCCP is a county-wide conservation plan for all of Yolo County. It will outline how conservation of the natural open space and agricultural landscapes that provide habitat for many special-status and at-risk species found within the habitats and natural communities in the County will be implemented.



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

What Is an HCP/NCCP and Why Is It Needed?

A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is pursuant to Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act. An HCP seeks to balance endangered and/or threatened species and their habitats with the needs of non-federal landowners. An HCP is required when a non-federal entity requests an incidental take permit. *Incidental take* refers to unintentional harm done to a listed species in the course of completing a project. In exchange for a permit, the non-federal entity agrees to minimize and mitigate its effects.

An NCCP is developed in compliance with California's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act of 1991. The NCCP Act is intended to help the California Department of Fish and Game voluntarily collaborate with other government wildlife agencies, local governments, and private development interests to protect species and ecosystems, while providing a streamlined and effective process for the development efforts.

Yolo County contains valuable biological resources, including native species and their respective habitats. Development and implementation of this HCP/NCCP will enable the conservation of species, while accommodating planned development and growth in Yolo County.



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Agency Roles and Relationships

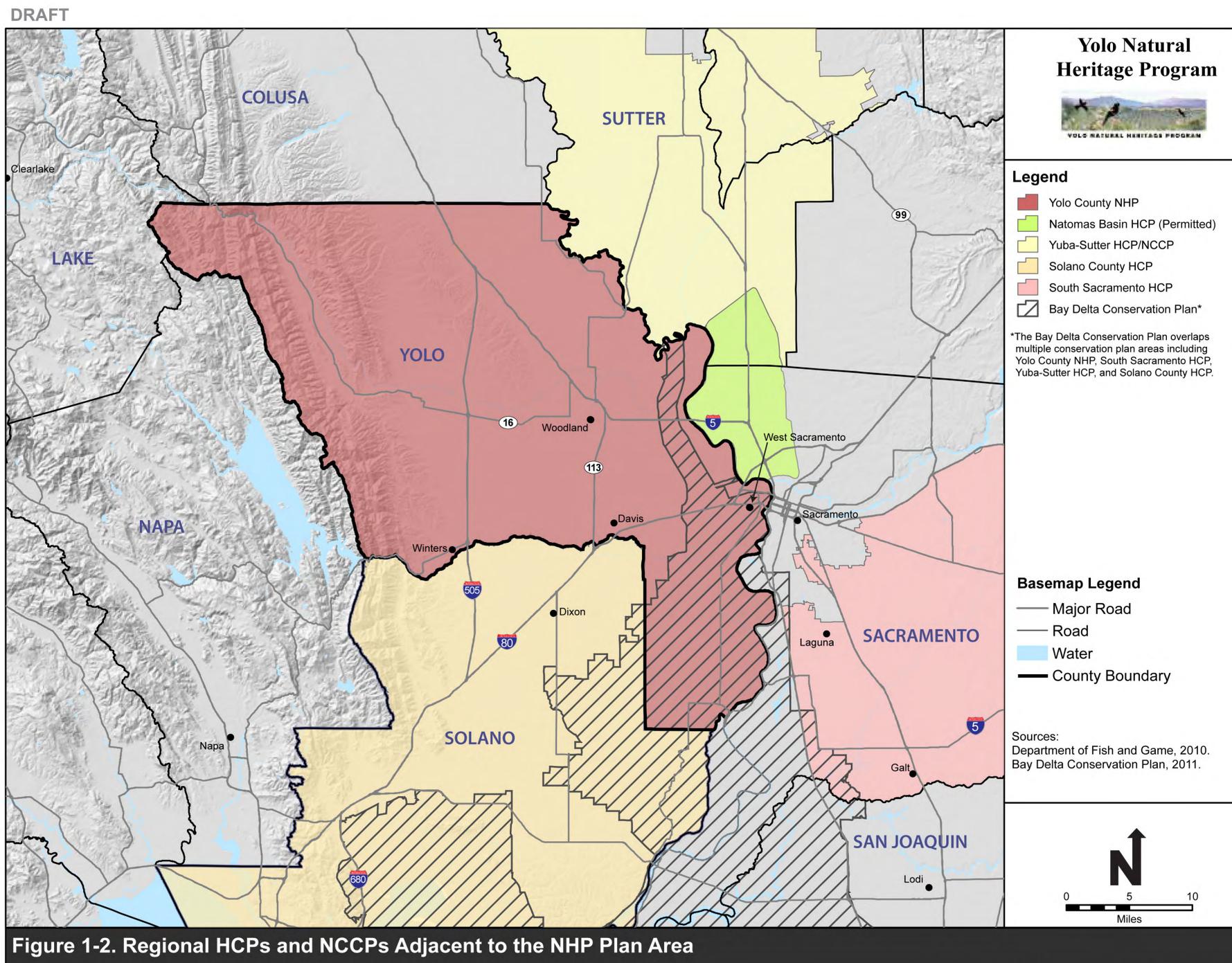
- The Yolo County HCP/NCCCP JPA was formed in 2002 for purposes of acquiring Swainson's hawk habitat conservation easements and to lead the preparation of a county-wide HCP/NCCCP
- The JPA is composed of members representing Yolo County; Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland; and U.C. Davis, also known as the *Local Partners*.
- The JPA is the State Lead Agency for the HCP/NCCCP for the environmental review process in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the Federal Lead Agency for the environmental review process in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) serves as a Responsible and Trustee Agency for the purposes of the environmental review process under CEQA.



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

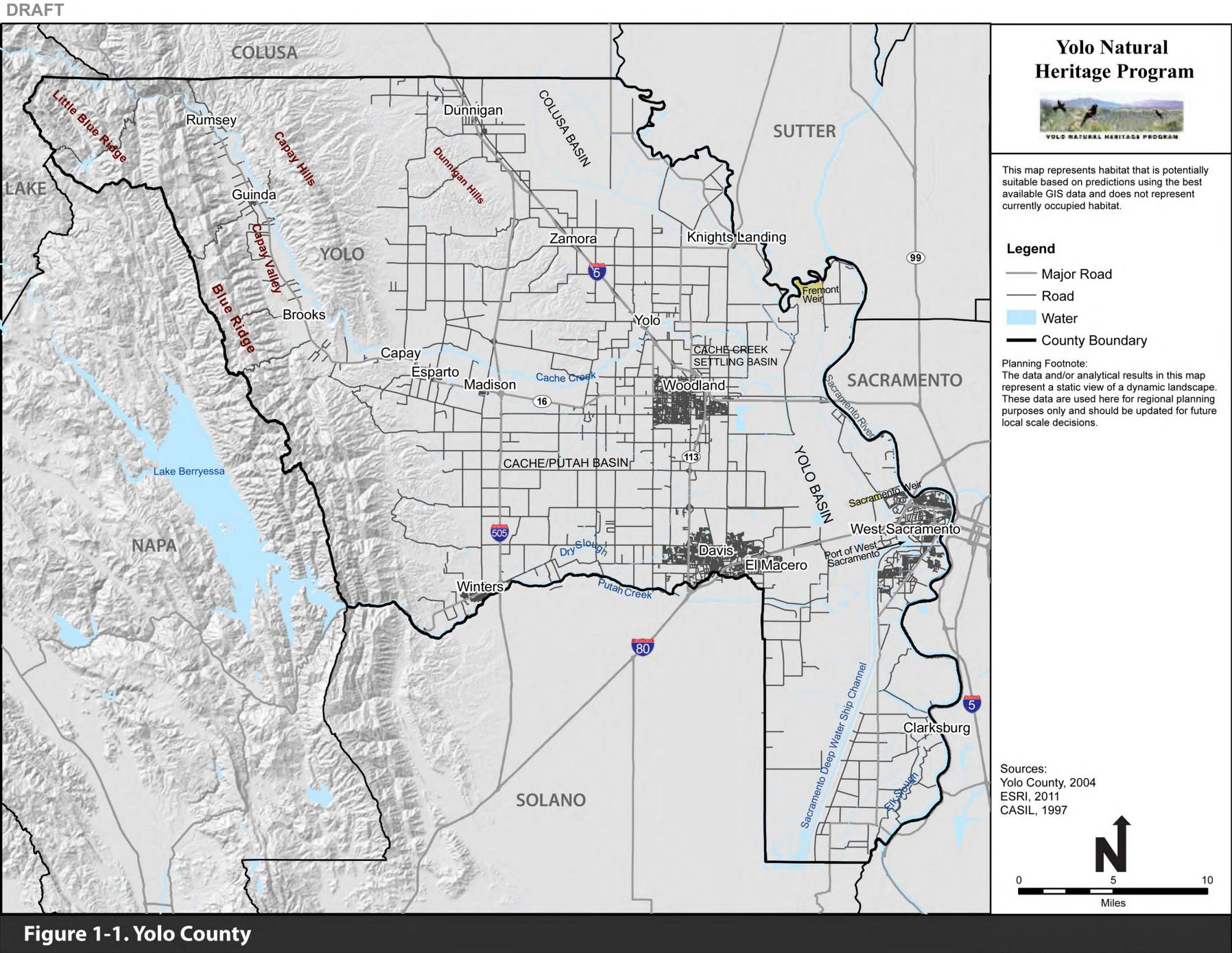
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Regional HCP/NCCPs Adjacent to the Plan Area



05/11/11 S:\GRAPHICS-WORKING FILES\YOLO - Figures\Yolo_Chap_1

Yolo Natural Heritage Program Plan Area



05/11/11 S:\GRAPHICS-WORKING FILES\YOLO - Figures



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Plan Overview

- Comprehensive, county-wide plan, encompassing approximately 653,817 acres
 - ▶ Provides long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend
 - ▶ Accommodates appropriate economic and development activity, supports the County's vibrant agricultural economy, and enhances recreational opportunities
 - ▶ Addresses 35 federally and/or state-listed and non-listed wildlife and plant species, and an additional 31 species of local concern that also will benefit from Plan implementation (*Covered Species*)
- Local Partners will seek permits from the Service for a period of up to 50 years to authorize take of listed species that could occur from implementation activities under the Plan (*Covered Activities*)



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Covered Species



Western Burrowing Owl

Birds

- Swainson's hawk
- Northern harrier
- White-tailed kite
- Mountain plover
- Black tern
- Western yellow-billed cuckoo
- Western burrowing owl
- Loggerhead shrike
- Least Bell's vireo
- Purple martin
- Bank swallow
- Yellow-breasted chat
- Grasshopper sparrow
- Tricolored blackbird



Brittle scale

Plants

- Alkali milkvetch
- Brittle scale
- San Joaquin spearscale
- Palmate-bracted bird's-beak
- Heckard's pepper-grass
- Baker's navarretia
- Colusa grass
- Solano grass



Conservancy Fairy Shrimp

Invertebrates

- Conservancy fairy shrimp
- Vernal pool fairy shrimp
- Midvalley fairy shrimp
- California linderiella
- Vernal pool tadpole shrimp
- Valley elderberry longhorn beetle



Western Pond Turtle

Reptiles

- Western pond turtle
- Giant garter snake



Western Spadefoot Toad

Amphibians

- California tiger salamander
- Western spadefoot toad
- California red-legged frog
- Foothill yellow-legged frog



Townsend's Big-Eared Bat

Mammal

- Townsend's big-eared bat



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Covered Activities

Permanent Development

- Residential, Industrial, and Commercial Development (consistent with the General Plans of the participating jurisdictions)
- Public and Private Infrastructure (transportation projects; utility projects; energy development projects, including solar and wind; and other infrastructure projects)
- Land Conversion and New Facilities Used in Agricultural and Livestock Operations
- Recreational Facilities and Use
- Aggregate Mining

Operations, Maintenance, and Ongoing Activities

- Residential, Industrial, and Commercial Operations and Maintenance
- Public and Private Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance
- Agricultural and Livestock Operations and Maintenance
- Recreational Facilities Operations and Maintenance
- Mining Site Operations and Maintenance

Implementation of Natural Heritage Program Conservation Measures

- Habitat assessments and population surveys
- Habitat management activities to maintain suitable habitat conditions
- Establishing and maintaining fuel management zones at the wildland/urban interface; restoration, enhancement, and creation of habitats
- Construction and maintenance of facilities necessary for the protection of NHP habitat conservation lands (e.g., fences, access roads, and outbuildings)
- Control of invasive nonnative species by mechanical means or other means excluding use of pesticides
- Scientific field investigation into species' biological characteristics
- All other management and monitoring activities prescribed in the Plan

Activities Not Covered by the Plan

- Operation of existing water diversion facilities on the Sacramento River or in the Delta
- In-channel construction and operation of new water diversion facilities on the Sacramento River or in the Delta
- Construction of in-water portions of new facilities at the Port of West Sacramento
- Fallowing land for sale of water
- Pesticide and herbicide application
- In-water activities that could affect federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act listed fish species



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

About NEPA and CEQA

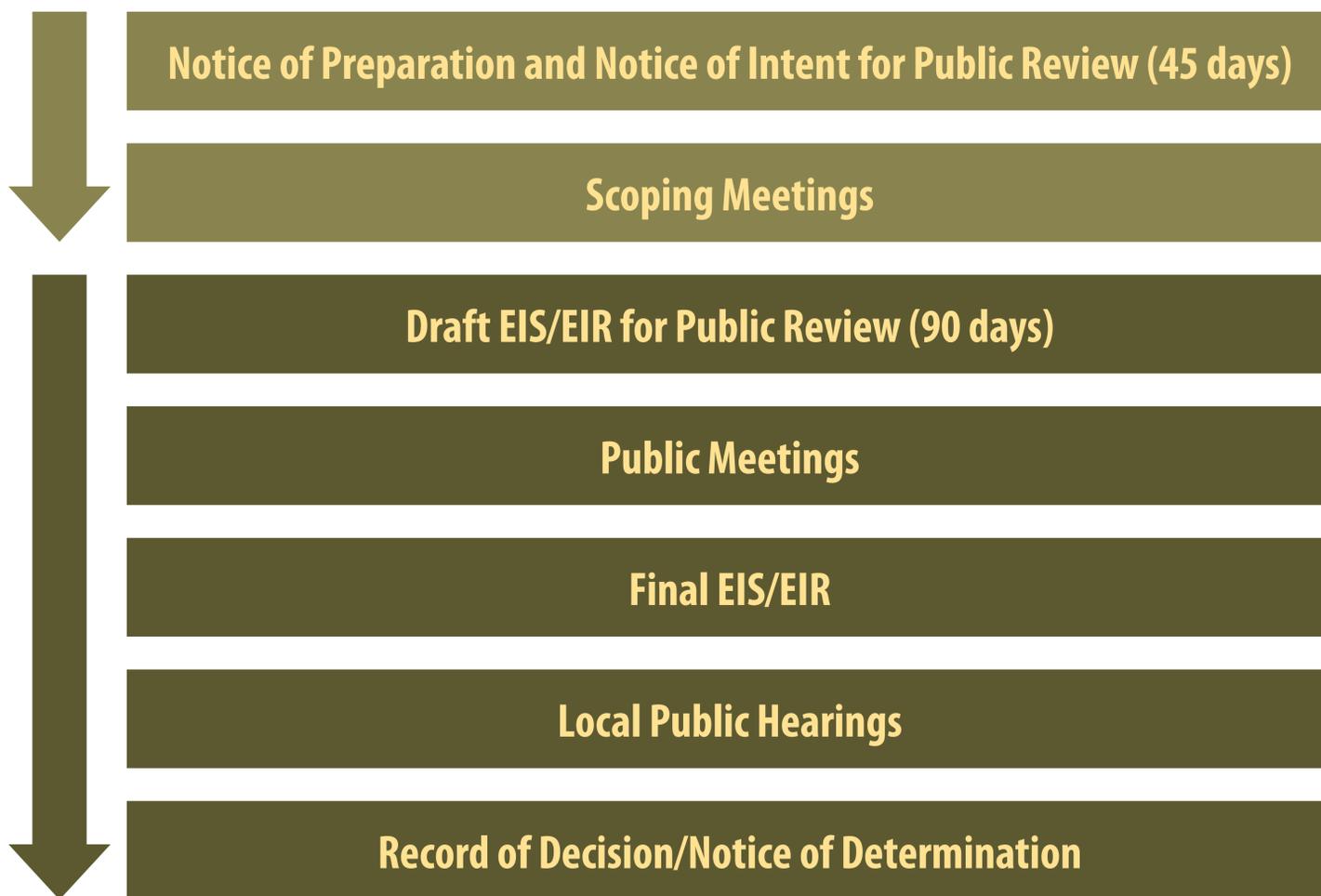
The **National Environmental Policy Act** is a federal law that requires federal agencies to disclose potential impacts on the human environment and contains action-forcing procedures to ensure federal agency decision makers take environmental factors into account.

California Environmental Quality Act requires state and local agencies to evaluate the environmental implications of their actions and aims to prevent adverse environmental impacts of those actions by requiring, when feasible, avoidance or reduction of significant environmental impacts.

The Yolo County HCP/NCCP is subject to review under both NEPA and CEQA. The JPA and the Service, as the Lead Agencies, plan to prepare a joint environmental document—an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR).

Scoping is a process used to inform the public of a proposed activity and provide an opportunity to give comment, insight, and local information related to the range of alternatives, environmental effects, and/or issues of concern related to the proposed activity.

EIS/EIR Scoping Process





YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Potential Environmental Issues Evaluated In the EIS/EIR

The effects the implementation of the HCP/NCCP would have on the natural and built environment will be evaluated and disclosed in the EIS/EIR. Resources analyzed in the EIS/EIR will include, but are not limited to:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Environmental Justice
- Geology/Soils
- Hazards/Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services/Utilities
- Recreation/Open Space
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation/Traffic



Welcome

EIS/EIR Scoping Sessions
Yolo Natural Heritage Program

November 7, 2011



Why are we here?

To obtain feedback on the scope of the EIS/EIR.

- Describe environmental review process
- Explain roles of Applicants and Permitting Agencies
- Explain Endangered Species Acts
- Provide overview of Yolo Natural Heritage Program (Yolo NHP)



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Who Are We?

- **Permit Applicants**
 - Yolo Habitat JPA (Yolo County, cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland, and UC Davis)
- **Permitting Agencies**
 - US Fish and Wildlife
 - California Department of Fish and Game
- **Consultants**
 - Conservation Plan: SAIC; Ebbin Moser + Skaggs; L Studio; Berkeley Economic Consulting
 - EIS/EIR: Tschudin Consulting Group; ICF International



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Relationship Between ESA and NEPA

- Mechanisms to authorize incidental take
- Trigger for NEPA
- Differences between ESA and NEPA
- Focus of scoping meeting



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

EIS Process

- Trigger for EIS
- NOI/Scoping
- Prepare Draft EIS
- Prepare Final EIS
- Agency Decision



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Relationship Between CESA and CEQA

- Two ways to authorize incidental take under California law
- Incidental Take Permit (Section 2081 Fish and Game Code, under Section 2050 et seq. of CESA)
- Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) (Section 2800 et seq. Fish and Game Code)
- All NCCPs subject to CEQA, but, unlike federal process, CDFG is not the lead agency for the EIS/EIR.



EIR Process

- Initial Study by Lead Agency (Yolo JPA)
- Notice of Preparation (NOP) to Trustee Agencies (CDFG is one)
- Draft EIR Preparation
- Written Comments Received
- Responses to Comments Sent
- Lead Agency Decision Made
- Notice of Determination Filed on Project



Overview of the Yolo NHP

- History
- Geographic Scope
- Species Lists
- Status of Plan Document



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Purpose of Scoping

- Inform public about the project
- Identify interested parties
- Identify environmental factors to be considered
- Identify significant issues
- Identify potential alternatives



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Environmental Factors Considered

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetics • Agriculture/Forestry • Air Quality • Biological Resources • Cultural Resources • Geology/Soils/Mineral Resources • Greenhouse Gas Emissions • Hazards/Hazardous Materials • Hydrology/Water Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use/Planning • Noise • Population/Housing • Public Services/Recreation • Utilities/Service Systems • Transportation/Traffic • Growth Inducement • Cumulative Effects • Socio-Economics • Environmental Justice
--	--



Identify Significant Issues

- Overlap with BDCP
- Covering Renewable Energy Projects
- Analyzing the Effects of Climate Change
- Covering Ongoing Agricultural Activities



Identify Potential Alternatives

- Proposed Action -- issuance of permits
- No Action -- no issuance of permits (project-by-project permitting)
- Variations of Action Alternatives



Variations of Action Alternatives

- Reduction in Scope of Permits (Reduced Impacts)
- Variations in Conservation Strategy
- Reduction in Permit Duration
- Variations in Covered Species
- Variations in Covered Activities
- Reduction in Permit Area
- Some combination of these elements



Public Comments Encouraged

- All Comments Must Be Received By
December 5, 2011
- Written Comments are Encouraged
- Best Comments are Specific



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

How to Comment

- Comment Cards -- Available Today
- Faxed Comments -- (916) 414-6713 USFWS
(530) 668-1801 YNHP
- Emailed Comments -- yolonhp@yolocounty.org
- Written Comments – Yolo County JPA, 120 West Main Street, Suite C, Woodland, CA 95695
- Kiosk Comments --
www.yoloconservationplan.org/kiosk/schedule



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

For More Information

- Yolo NHP website:
www.yoloconservationplan.org
- USFWS website:
www.fws.gov
- CDFG website:
www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Questions and Comments

YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan



.....
PLEASE FOLD ALONG THIS LINE FOR MAILING

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County HCP/NCCP JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County HCP/NCCP JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695

Appendix C

Public Comments Received

- All comments received during scoping period

RECEIVED

NOV 23 2011

YOLO COUNTY PARKS & RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA. 94607-4052



FEMA

November 16, 2011

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, California 95695

Dear Ms. Wong:

This is in response to your request for comments on the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings for an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan.

Please review the current effective countywide Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the County of Yolo (Community Number 060423) and Cities of Davis (Community Number 060424), West Sacramento (Community Number 060728), Winters (Community Number 060425), and Woodland (Community Number 060426), Maps revised June 18, 2010. Please note that the Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland, Yolo County, California are participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The minimum, basic NFIP floodplain management building requirements are described in Vol. 44 Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR), Sections 59 through 65.

A summary of these NFIP floodplain management building requirements are as follows:

- All buildings constructed within a riverine floodplain, (i.e., Flood Zones A, AO, AH, AE, and A1 through A30 as delineated on the FIRM), must be elevated so that the lowest floor is at or above the Base Flood Elevation level in accordance with the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- If the area of construction is located within a Regulatory Floodway as delineated on the FIRM, any *development* must not increase base flood elevation levels. **The term *development* means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings, other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, and storage of equipment or materials.** A hydrologic and hydraulic analysis must be performed *prior* to the start of development, and must demonstrate that the development would not cause any rise in base flood levels. No rise is permitted within regulatory floodways.

Maria Wong, Executive Director

Page 2

November 16, 2011

- All buildings constructed within a coastal high hazard area, (any of the “V” Flood Zones as delineated on the FIRM), must be elevated on pilings and columns, so that the lowest horizontal structural member, (excluding the pilings and columns), is elevated to or above the base flood elevation level. In addition, the posts and pilings foundation and the structure attached thereto, is anchored to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components.
- Upon completion of any development that changes existing Special Flood Hazard Areas, the NFIP directs all participating communities to submit the appropriate hydrologic and hydraulic data to FEMA for a FIRM revision. In accordance with 44 CFR, Section 65.3, as soon as practicable, but not later than six months after such data becomes available, a community shall notify FEMA of the changes by submitting technical data for a flood map revision. To obtain copies of FEMA’s Flood Map Revision Application Packages, please refer to the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/forms.shtm>.

Please Note:

Many NFIP participating communities have adopted floodplain management building requirements which are more restrictive than the minimum federal standards described in 44 CFR. Please contact the local community’s floodplain manager for more information on local floodplain management building requirements. The Yolo County floodplain manager can be reached by calling Lonell Butler, Building Official, at (530) 666-8803. The Davis floodplain manager can be reached by calling Mark Wood, Building Official, at (530) 757-5610. The West Sacramento floodplain manager can be reached by calling Stephen Patek, Community Development, at (916) 373-5854. The City of Winters floodplain manager can be reached by calling Director, Public Works, at (530)-795-4910. The Woodland floodplain manager can be reached by calling Paul Siegel, Chief Building Official, at (530) 661-5850.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Robert Durrin of the Mitigation staff at (510) 627-7057.

Sincerely,



Gregor Blackburn, CFM, Branch Chief
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch

Maria Wong, Executive Director

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November 16, 2011

cc:

Lonell Butler, Building Official, Yolo County

Mark Wood, Building Official, City of Davis

Stephen Patek, Community Development Center, City of West Sacramento

Director, Department of Public Works, City of Winters

Paul Siegel, Chief Building Official, City of Woodland

Ray Lee, WREA, State of California, Department of Water Resources, North Central Region
Office

Robert Durrin, Floodplanner, CFM, DHS/FEMA Region IX

Alessandro Amaglio, Environmental Officer, DHS/FEMA Region IX



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3293 · PHONE (916) 561-5665 · FAX (916) 561-5691

December 5, 2011

Sent via e-mail

cori_mustino@fws.gov

Yolonhp@yolocounty.org

Cori Mustin
Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695

Re: CEQA/NEPA Scoping Comments
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community
Conservation Plan for Yolo County, CA

Dear Ms. Mustin and Ms. Wong:

The California Farm Bureau Federation is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership California corporation whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the state of California and to find solutions to the problems of the farm, the farm home and the rural community. Farm Bureau is California's largest farm organization, comprised of 53 county Farm Bureaus currently representing approximately 74,000 agricultural, associate and collegiate members in 56 counties. Farm Bureau strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California's resources.

Farm Bureau has significant interest in the EIR/EIS process that the Yolo Natural Heritage Program ("YNHP") is embarking upon. More importantly, however, we are interested in the general direction of the YNHP itself. Accordingly, while aspects of these comments relate both directly and indirectly to the immediate CEQA/NEPA scoping phase of the program, we would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to provide some general feedback on the YNHP itself.

NANCY N. McDONOUGH, GENERAL COUNSEL

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL:

CARL G. BORDEN · KAREN NORENE MILLS · CHRISTIAN C. SCHEURING · KARI E. FISHER · JACK L. RICE

In many respects, we see the YNHP as a different model than what we have observed in various existing or proposed HCP/NCCPs, a number of which we are currently following, or have followed in the past. HCP/NCCPs and how they are done is a significant question for agriculture in many areas of California—particularly as more and more jurisdictions look, increasingly, to this regulatory mechanism as an alternative to traditional Section 7 and Section 9 processes and their state equivalents, under the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts (hereinafter, “FESA” and “CESA,” respectively).

Regrettably, our general experience with various existing or proposed HCP/NCCPs is that such plans typically offer little to agriculture in the way of any direct benefits, while at same time creating various liabilities and frequently placing various undesirable constraints on agriculture—and in some cases even seriously threatening the long-term viability of agriculture in certain regions. In addition to such adverse effects on agriculture, we are also skeptical that many existing or proposed HCP/NCCPs will in fact produce the meaningful conservation benefits they promise.

One of the major causes of these shortcomings is a problem that we see more generally pervading the existing structure, administration, and implementation of FESA and CESA, particularly in terms of the current approach to private property owners and agriculture as a major feature of the existing landscape. Regrettably, we feel that the current approach leads to a paradigm in which doing good things for species and their habitats has become very negatively associated, not with rewards or benefits to the agriculturists who might otherwise encourage and support such activities, but rather with prohibitive costs, significant liabilities, and un-reconciled conflicts.

It is very unfortunate for both farmers and species that, as the laws and their implementation currently stand, the two are set up as foes and not as natural allies. Until this dynamic is changed, we fear existing laws for the protection of species will remain a source of conflict and resistance in many cases, with limited progress toward the realization of more widespread and self-sustaining benefits to species that, at the same time, recognize and sustain agriculture as a human endeavor which can potentially thrive alongside species and their habitats, just as species and habitats can likewise thrive alongside agriculture.

We are encouraged by many aspects of the YNCP unique approach when compared to other HCP/NCCPs—and yet we have reservations about other aspects of the plan and believe, overall, that the current plan currently lacks many specifics. Moreover, while we feel that some elements of the YNCP take significant steps in the direction of a more positive natural partnership between agriculture and species conservation, we also believe the plan currently lacks certain other elements that would be needed to complete this relationship.

Having generally described our interest in the YNCP as a potential new type of the HCP/NCCP, the remainder of these comments are limited to a generally cataloguing of what we see as both some of relative strengths and weaknesses of the current plan. We

hope that some of the feedback will be useful, not only in the agencies' preparation of an EIR/EIS, but also in the development of the YNCP itself.

We begin with “the positives”: First, the YNCP's express recognition of the existing agricultural landscape as the base of the plan's conservation plan is something that we view as an extremely positive aspect of the program. Embedded within this feature, we likewise find the YNHP's proposed agricultural “habitat values” and agricultural land use “forecasting” mechanisms to be extremely interesting, creative, and potentially useful. We also view as a positive feature the detailed lists of crop-specific “agricultural practices” within Yolo County—and we appreciate the YNCP's close collaboration to date with the local agricultural community in the development of this portion of the program. In addition, we see the pollinator conservation plan as another innovative and generally positive feature of the plan, as well as a prime example of how species and habitat conservation goals can be integrated with agriculture, to the mutual benefit of both.

Another positive feature of the plan is its restraint in not relying on extensive land acquisition and curtailment of productive agriculture as a mechanism to achieve its goals. Although it is too early to say what this will look like in the end, we believe generally that this translates into greater respect in the YNHP for agriculture and private property rights than what we have observed in other HCP/NCCPs. Beyond this, we appreciate in the YNHP the plan's implicit acknowledgement of the important role of private landowners as natural stewards of the land, capable not only of producing food and fiber safely and efficiently, but also of producing significant benefits to species, their habitats, and the environment in general. While there are again many specifics still to be worked out, we also take a cautiously positive view of the concept of a regulatory structure that could provide potential incidental take authorization for on-going agricultural activities within county, provided that the extension of such assurances does not result in the imposition of additional restrictions on existing agricultural operation or increased liabilities without any benefit in return, or any compelling reason to adopt such a program under the current regulatory regime.

Now “the negatives”: First, we feel that the first three Working Draft HCP/NCCP Chapters lack many necessary specifics. In addition, we are somewhat concerned that the threat of Section 9 take liability currently figures too prominently in the YNCP's strategy to obtain landowner participation. Unfortunately, we fear that this aspect of the Working Draft documents places the YNHP at risk of proceeding too much on the same negative or punitive trajectory that has largely spoiled other HCP/NCCPs as opportunities for private-public partnerships to further mutually beneficial goals, and instead made them a source of basic distrust and reticence.

Instead of punitive measures, such as the threat of prosecution and regulation, we would hope that the YNHP can redirect itself in more positive direction by focusing on more potential incentives and voluntary market mechanisms, such as the incentives described in portions of the June 7, 2010 YNHP “Summary of Issues Related to Agriculture” document on the YNHP's website (a product of the YNHP's “Agriculture-

Habitat Interface Workgroup”). To make these things real, however, the specific behavior-triggering mechanisms that are needed to make them viable tools must be fleshed in much greater specificity. Towards this end, in addition to continued dialogue with local agricultural interests, we believe that there may be potential value in possible additional work building on the extremely creative work of the economist David Sunding for the YNHP, in the areas the agricultural forecasting and habitat crediting. In particular, we would recommend additional research focused on the development of potential economic incentives, crediting mechanisms, and the like, to encourage desired benefits much more broadly, efficiently, and positively than one would expect to be the case under an approach based solely or primarily on negative regulatory or punitive mechanisms alone.

The latter suggestion is based in large part on the very significant degree to which agricultural producers, more so perhaps than other economic actors, have been shown to respond very precisely to subtle market signals. What this means for the YNHP is that, where the YNHP can create actual economic value to encourage specific behaviors or activities among farmers, these desired behaviors and activities are likely to follow naturally and very quickly. By the same token, however, and for the same reasons, it also follows that where positive incentives (economic, regulatory, or some combination of two) are *not* present—or where the adopted mechanisms send even *reverse* signals—farmers will predictably adopt targeted behaviors very reluctantly, if at all, and practices will follow in limited fashion, and then only with great difficulty.

Beyond any pure economic signal alone, we believe that, for more positive incentive- and market-based mechanisms to be truly effective, such mechanisms must be allowed to function free from the potential stifling effect of conflicting regulatory interference. Thus, to provide a specific example, if farmers are to willingly respond to potential incentives or positive market signals, the underlying regulatory structure must remove any potential risks or liabilities that might otherwise outweigh the economic benefits alone. To achieve significant net benefits, this may require some relaxation of the regulatory framework—and, while we realize this is perhaps an uncomfortable place for the regulators, we also firmly believe the “agriculture-habitat interface” is a place where some intelligent loosening of absolute regulatory control could quickly produce net benefits far exceeding the adverse effects. In fact, such a targeted relaxation of the existing rigid structures is very likely an absolute requirement, if the current hard edge between conventional agricultural and species and habitat conservation is ever to be broken down and transformed into a positive.

For a farmer to incorporate species or habitat-related practices or physical features that may compromise the efficiency of his operation, or otherwise increase the cost and complexity of his farm operations, there must be some proportionate increment in the economic benefit of that endeavor that the farmer can expect to receive in return (whether that occurs in the form of some direct payment, a marketable credit, or some other economic incentive); to make the incorporation of such species- or habitat-related activities in the farmer’s operation worth the farmer’s while, the farmer must have some sufficient assurance that, in so doing, he will not incur additional liabilities that would

outweigh his motivation to participate. Against this backdrop, it should be a self-evident proposition that, to motivate positive behavior, a threat of potential or additional liability alone is poor motivation indeed.

In closing, Farm Bureau appreciates the opportunity to comment on the YNHP. The comments and suggestions offered herein are, obviously, very general in nature. Nonetheless, we believe they touch on some of basic underlying issues and concerns with the current plan, from an agricultural perspective. We encourage the YNHP to continue to work closely and actively with local agricultural stakeholders on a plan that is not only beneficial to species, but also to Yolo County agriculture.

We hope that some of the comments offered herein can inform the YNHP's framing of agricultural issues in the context of the YNHP EIR/EIS, as well as the YNHP itself. Of particular significance, it seems likely that the different possible mixes of incentives and disincentives that the YNHP considers in developing its plan can significantly affect the level landowner participation and enrollment that the program can realistically expect. This can in turn influence both the level of conservation benefits the YNHP can expect and the relative severity of the impacts of the plan's proposed covered activities. In this regard, a range of differing proposals to achieve different levels of landowner participation and enrollment should be carefully considered in the YNHP and also made an express part of the YNHP's alternatives analysis in its EIR/EIS.

Along with the Yolo County Farm Bureau and other affected agricultural stakeholders, we look forward to the opportunity to review future iterations and to otherwise participate in the process' on-going development of the YNHP.

Very truly yours,



Justin E. Fredrickson

JEF/dkc

cc: Yolo County Farm Bureau

November 7, 2011

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT FOR THE YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM HABITAT
CONSERVATION PLAN/NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN**

For the purposes of the Public Scoping Meeting for the above mentioned project, the following public comments are on behalf of the Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Although the CHP Academy is located in the city of West Sacramento in Yolo County, the City of West Sacramento does not review/approve its plans. The Academy is State property and falls under the jurisdiction of the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for building structure projects. The State complies with CEQA, AQMD's and other regulatory requirements.

The Academy is the primary training facility for the California Highway Patrol and is also used by other enforcement agencies. The Academy is critical in the proper training of law enforcement personnel not only for their own safety but also for the safety of the public on highways and in Homeland Security.

Along with the existing structures and developments at the CHP Academy, on-going activities include high speed vehicle training, a gun range, and two airstrips. The CHP Academy has future plans for additional structures, additional parking areas, and artificial turf on training areas.

The CHP respectfully requests that the Academy be named as specifically exempt from the requirement of this document and any regulation propagated from it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Shirley Bramham
Associate Architect
DGS/RELPS/CHP Facilities

cc: Maria Wong, Executive Director, Yolo County JPA
Erik Knudsen, Assistant Chief, CHP
Mitch Mueller, Captain, CHP Academy
Mike Cardoza, Lieutenant, CHP Academy
David Brunolli, Chief of Plant Operations, CHP Academy
Alyson Cooney, Commander of Facilities, CHP
Lisa Rojo, SSMI, CHP Facilities
John Bailey, Regional Portfolio Manager, DGS/RES/AMB
Diem Nguyen, SSMI, DGS/RELPS

Kate Montieth

From: Arthur Murray [arthur_murray@dot.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2011 9:00 AM
To: Yolonhp
Cc: Eric Fredericks
Subject: Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Comments

0311YOL0032
0311-Yolo County (Various Locations)
Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan
Notice of Preparation - Draft Environmental Impact Report

Ms. Maria Wong
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695

Dear Ms. Wong,

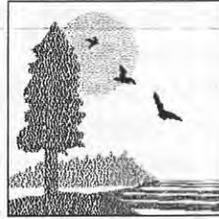
Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Preparation - Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan. The proposed project is a comprehensive, county-wide plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. With the exception of federal lands, the project area encompasses the entire Yolo County, approximately 653,817 acres.

At this time Caltrans has no further comments. However, the Department would appreciate being kept apprised of any changes to the above mentioned project. Caltrans looks forward to working with the County on this and future developments. If you have any inquiries, please contact me at (916) 274-0616.

ARTHUR MURRAY
Desk: (916) 274-0616
Fax: (916) 274-0602

Caltrans - District 3
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
Office of Transportation Planning-South
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive Ste. 150
Sacramento, CA 95833

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202



CURTIS L. FOSSUM, Executive Officer
(916) 574-1800 FAX (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service From TDD Phone 1-800-735-2929
from Voice Phone 1-800-735-2922

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YOLO COUNTY PARKS & RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

November 17, 2011

Contact Phone: (916) 574-1900
Contact FAX: (916) 574-1885

File Ref: SCH # 2011102048

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695

**Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Statement/
Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Yolo Natural Heritage
Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation
Plan (HCP/NCCP), Yolo County**

Dear Ms. Wong,

The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) staff has reviewed the subject NOP for an EIS/EIR for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program HCP/NCCP (Project or Plan), which is being prepared by the Yolo County HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Agency (JPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The JPA (which is composed of members representing Yolo County; the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland; and University of California at Davis) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.). The CSLC will act as a trustee agency because of its trust responsibility for projects that could directly or indirectly affect sovereign lands, their accompanying Public Trust resources or uses, and the public easement in navigable waters. Additionally, because the Project could involve sovereign lands, the CSLC may act as a responsible agency.

CSLC Jurisdiction and Public Trust Lands

The CSLC has jurisdiction and management authority over all ungranted tidelands, submerged lands, and the beds of navigable lakes and waterways. The CSLC also has certain residual and review authority for tidelands and submerged lands legislatively granted in trust to local jurisdictions (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 6301, 6306). All tidelands and submerged lands, granted or ungranted, as well as navigable lakes and waterways, are subject to the protections of the Common Law Public Trust.

As general background, the State of California acquired sovereign ownership of all tidelands and submerged lands and beds of navigable lakes and waterways upon its admission to the United States in 1850. The State holds these lands for the benefit of all people of the State for statewide Public Trust purposes, which include but are not limited to waterborne commerce, navigation, fisheries, water-related recreation, habitat

preservation, and open space. On tidal waterways, the State's sovereign fee ownership extends landward to the mean high tide line (MHTL), except for areas of fill or artificial accretion or where the boundary has been fixed by agreement or a court. On navigable non-tidal waterways, including lakes, the State holds fee ownership of the bed of the waterway landward to the ordinary low water mark and a Public Trust easement landward to the ordinary high water mark, except where the boundary has been fixed by agreement or a court. Such boundaries may not be readily apparent from present day site inspections.

After preliminary review of the information and maps provided in the NOP, CSLC staff finds that the proposed Project may involve sovereign lands under the jurisdiction of the CSLC. However, CSLC staff is currently unable to determine the extent of sovereign ownership interests of the State in the Project area. We request that as the Project proceeds, the JPA submit additional information (e.g., detailed maps) to enable CLSC staff to determine if any components of the Project will require a lease or permit. We additionally request to be placed on any future distribution mailing list for the Project.

This conclusion is without prejudice to any future assertion of State ownership or public rights, should circumstances change, or should additional information become available. This letter is not intended, nor should it be construed as a waiver or limitation of any right, title, or interest of the State of California in any lands under its jurisdiction.

Project Location and Description

The Project area encompasses the entire area of Yolo County – approximately 653,817 acres. The NOP indicates that the Project is a comprehensive, county-wide plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. Species proposed for coverage in the Plan are species that currently are federally- and /or state-listed as threatened or endangered, or have the potential to become listed during the life of the Plan. Covered species (approximately 35 wildlife and plant species) are those species addressed in the Plan for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the JPA will seek incidental take authorizations (permits) for a period of up to 50 years. The permits are needed to authorize take of listed species that could occur as a result of implementation activities covered under the Plan. The three general categories of covered activities include:

- permanent development (e.g., land conversion, public and private infrastructure, new facilities associated with agricultural and livestock production);
- operation, maintenance and other ongoing activities (e.g., permanent development, recreational and mining facilities, agricultural operations and processing); and
- implementation of the Plan's conservation strategy (e.g., preservation, restoration, creation, enhancement, management and monitoring activities).

Environmental Review

CSLC staff offers the following suggestions on the scope of the draft EIS/EIR.

Project Description/Range of Activities

Because the Plan is intended to be a comprehensive planning tool that provides a framework for review and approval of subsequent development and related operation, maintenance and other ongoing activities, the draft EIS/EIR should strive to be as specific and comprehensive as possible in regard to the range of activities that are being considered in order to 1) facilitate meaningful environmental review of potential impacts, mitigation measures, and alternatives for all of the methods under consideration, and 2) minimize the need for subsequent environmental review. The Project Description should be as precise as possible in describing the details, for example, of the types of equipment or methods that may be used, maximum area of impact or disturbance, seasonal work windows, locations for material disposal, etc., as well as the details of the timing and length of activities. To the extent specific activities or methods are unknown at the program level, the draft EIS/EIR should clearly explain all that is feasible, and identify what activities or impacts can be analyzed and mitigated for in the draft EIS/EIR and which will require additional analysis or environmental review at the project level. A comprehensive analysis of the range of actions and their potential effect on the environment will also facilitate a more robust analysis of the potential cumulative impacts.

Effects to be Analyzed and Mitigation Measures

1. Significance Criteria: While the NOP recognizes the importance of identifying an accurate environmental baseline as the existing conditions against which the Project implementation and its associated physical changes will be measured, the NOP does not provide information related to how significance criteria will be established. As stated above, a necessary consideration for environmental documents prepared for plans rather than projects is that the documents provide the logical connection between the covered activities, the significance of effects caused by implementation of those activities, and how implementation of the conservation strategy will, in fact, avoid or reduce those impacts. While CEQA provides lead agencies broad discretion to define significance thresholds, because CEQA's "substantive mandate" applies to significant project-related impacts, a clearly defined threshold against which the impacts are gauged is necessary. Therefore, the draft EIS/EIR should present clearly identified and well justified thresholds of significance to assist readers and reviewing agencies in understanding the JPA's analyses and conclusions.
2. Mitigation Measures: While CSLC staff recognizes that the Plan is intended to include as a primary component a comprehensive conservation strategy that provides for the conservation of species and habitats at the landscape level, the draft EIS/EIR should attempt to repackage the measures described into a format in the draft EIS/EIR that makes clear the connection of any given measure to a specific

impact, and should describe exactly how the measure will be monitored and enforced. Additionally, the draft EIS/EIR should identify feasible mitigation measures for impacts to resources that may not be included specifically in the biological conservation strategy. These mitigation measures should either be presented as specific, feasible, enforceable obligations, or should be presented as formulas containing “performance standards which would mitigate the significant effect of the project and which may be accomplished in more than one specified way” (State CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4, subd. (b)). Although for CEQA purposes the mitigation measures identified in an EIS/EIR need not include all specific details when such specificity is “truly infeasible or impractical” at the time of preparation, the EIR does need to at least:

- (i) specify performance standards which would ensure the mitigation of the significant effect, and
 - (ii) disallow the occurrence of physical changes to the environment unless the performance standard is or will be satisfied. (See State CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4.)
3. Sensitive Species: The draft EIS/EIR should avoid the mistake of stating that because the Plan contains a conservation strategy “built in” as part of the plan that no significant impacts to sensitive species would occur. Instead, the draft EIS/EIR should provide a thorough analysis of the potential impacts of the *underlying physical changes* to the environment on sensitive species and habitats contemplated by the Project, and identify feasible mitigation measures to lessen or avoid such effects. These feasible mitigation measures would reasonably include the identified conservation strategy measures, but may also include additional measures deemed feasible by the lead agency. In short, the draft EIS/EIR should serve as the vehicle by which the public is shown the deliberate connection between the covered activities’ impacts and the measures proposed to offset those impacts.
 4. Climate Change: A greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions analysis consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) and required by section 15064.4 of the State CEQA Guidelines should be included in the draft EIS/EIR. This analysis should identify a threshold for significance for GHG emissions, calculate the level of GHGs that will be emitted as a result of construction and ultimate full implementation of the Project, determine the significance of the impacts of those emissions, and, if impacts are significant, identify mitigation measures that would reduce or minimize them. The analysis should pay particular attention to the possibility of cumulative impacts of GHG emissions. It is likely that at the Plan, rather than project-specific level, quantitative emissions calculations may be speculative; however, a reasoned qualitative characterization that takes into account not only the direct construction related emissions but also the potential lost carbon sequestration potential of undeveloped habitat is encouraged.
 5. Cultural Resources: The draft EIS/EIR should mention that the title to all abandoned shipwrecks, archaeological sites, and historic or cultural resources on or in the sovereign lands of California is vested in the State and under the jurisdiction of the

CSLC. Mitigation measures should be developed to address any cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed Project and any unanticipated discoveries during the Project's construction activities. CSLC staff requests that the JPA consult with CSLC staff, should any cultural resources be discovered on sovereign lands during Project construction activities. The draft EIS/EIR should also include a summary of the provisions concerning Mitigation Measures Related to Impacts on Historical Resources contained in State CEQA Guideline section 15126.4, subdivision (b)(1-3). This section specifies the appropriate type of mitigation for archaeological sites that are determined to be historical resources. If any historical resources on State lands under the jurisdiction of the CSLC will be affected by the proposed project, the JPA, as the state lead agency, must consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer as described in State CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, subdivision (b)(5). Generally, the state lead agency should request this consultation concurrently with the Section 106 review required of federal agencies under the National Historic Preservation Act to avoid duplication of effort. If human remains are discovered on State-owned lands, then the proper procedure is to follow the steps in the State CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, subdivision (e). The draft EIS/EIR should include a requirement that CSLC staff be notified within 24 hours of the discovery of Native American human remains on State-owned lands under its jurisdiction.

6. Recreation and Public Access: It is possible that implementation of the Project will result in restricted or diminished use and enjoyment of sovereign lands that may presently be valuable for recreational purposes. The draft EIS/EIR should analyze the Project's short-term and long-term impacts on recreation resources, both during construction of individual projects and over the long term as built facilities may adversely affect the recreation experience. A significance threshold should be identified and the Plan should be compared to this threshold at full build out of facilities; any significant impacts should be associated with mitigation measures that either minimize or reduce the impacts, or otherwise compensate residents and visitors.
7. Environmental Justice: The draft EIS/EIR should include a discussion of environmental justice relative to the siting of new development under the Plan. The CSLC has developed and adopted an Environmental Justice Policy to ensure equity and fairness in its own processes and procedures. The CSLC adopted an amended Environmental Justice Policy on October 1, 2002, to ensure "Environmental Justice is an essential consideration in the Commission's processes, decisions and programs and that all people who live in California have a meaningful way to participate in these activities." The policy stresses equitable treatment of all members of the public and commits to consider environmental justice in its processes, decision making, and regulatory affairs, and the policy is implemented, in part, through identification of, and communication with, relevant populations that could be adversely and disproportionately impacted by CSLC projects or programs, and by ensuring that a range of reasonable alternatives is identified that would minimize or eliminate environmental impacts affecting such populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NOP for the Project. As a trustee and, potentially, responsible agency, the CSLC may need to rely on the final EIS/EIR for the issuance of any new lease as specified above and, therefore, we request that you consider our comments prior to adoption of the EIS/EIR.

Please send copies of future Project-related documents or refer questions concerning environmental review to Joan Walter, Environmental Scientist, at (916) 574-1310 or via e-mail at Joan.Walter@slc.ca.gov. For questions concerning archaeological or historic resources under CSLC jurisdiction, please contact Senior Staff Counsel Pam Griggs at (916) 574-1854 or via email at Pamela.Griggs@slc.ca.gov. For questions concerning CSLC leasing jurisdiction, please contact Ninette Lee, Public Land Management Specialist, at (916) 574-1869, or via email at Ninette.Lee@slc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Cy R. Oggins, Chief
Division of Environmental Planning
and Management

cc: Office of Planning and Research
N. Lee, LMD, CSLC
J. Walter, DEPM, CSLC
P. Griggs, Legal, CSLC

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

3310 El Camino Ave., Rm. 151
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
(916) 574-0609 FAX: (916) 574-0682
PERMITS: (916) 574-2380 FAX: (916) 574-0682

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NOV 17 2011



November 16, 2011

Ms. Maria Wong
Yolo County
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, California 95695

YOLO COUNTY PARKS & RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Subject: Response to the Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report
Yolo County Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural
Community Conservation Plan SCH Number: 2011102043

Dear Ms. Wong:

Staff of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board has reviewed the subject document and provides the following comments:

The proposed project is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. The Board is required to enforce standards for the construction, maintenance and protection of adopted flood control plans that will protect public lands from floods. The jurisdiction of the Board includes the Central Valley, including all tributaries and distributaries of the Sacramento River, the San Joaquin River, and designated floodways (Title 23 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 2).

A Board permit is required prior to starting the work within the Board's jurisdiction for the following:

- The placement, construction, reconstruction, removal, or abandonment of any landscaping, culvert, bridge, conduit, fence, projection, fill, embankment, building, structure, obstruction, encroachment, excavation, the planting, or removal of vegetation, and any repair or maintenance that involves cutting into the levee (CCR Section 6);
- Existing structures that predate permitting or where it is necessary to establish the conditions normally imposed by permitting. The circumstances include those where responsibility for the encroachment has not been clearly established or ownership and use have been revised (CCR Section 6);
- Vegetation plantings will require the submission of detailed design drawings; identification of vegetation type; plant and tree names (i.e. common name and scientific name); total number of each type of plant and tree; planting spacing and irrigation method that will be utilized within the project area; a complete vegetative management plan for maintenance to prevent the interference with flood control, levee maintenance, inspection and flood fight procedures (CCR Section 131).

Ms. Maria Wong
November 16, 2011
Page 2 of 2

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 "Discussion of Cumulative Impacts.
(a) An EIR shall discuss cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable, as defined in section 15065(a)(3). Where a lead agency is examining a project with an incremental effect that is not "cumulatively considerable," a lead agency need not consider that effect significant, but shall briefly describe its basis for concluding that the incremental effect is not cumulatively considerable."

Vegetation requirements in accordance with Title 23, Section 131 (c) states "Vegetation must not interfere with the integrity of the adopted plan of flood control, or interfere with maintenance, inspection, and flood fight procedures."

The accumulation and establishment of woody vegetation that is not managed has a negative impact on channel capacity and increases the potential for levee over-topping. When a channel develops vegetation that then becomes habitat for wildlife, maintenance to initial baseline conditions becomes more difficult as the removal of vegetative growth is subject to federal and State agency requirements for on-site mitigation within the floodway.

Hydraulic Impacts - Hydraulic impacts due to encroachments could impede flood flows, reroute flood flows, and/or increase sediment accumulation. The DEIR should include mitigation measures to prevent and/or reduce hydraulic impacts resulting from the proposed project. Off-site mitigation outside of the State Plan of Flood Control should be used when mitigating for vegetation removed within the project location.

The permit application and Title 23 CCR can be found on the Central Valley Flood Protection Board's website at <http://www.cvfpb.ca.gov/>. Contact your local, federal, and State agencies, as other permits may apply.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (916) 574-0651, or via email at jherota@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



James Herota
Staff Environmental Scientist
Flood Projects Improvement Branch

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, California 95814



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan
Comment Card - Scope of EIR/EIS

Name: GLEN HOLSTEN Date: 11-29-11

Telephone: (530) 758-6787 Email: holsteino cal.net

Affiliation: CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Title (if applicable): DR. - BOTANIST

Street Address: 1509 PACIFIC DR.

City: DAVU State: CA Zip: 95616

Thank you for your interest in this conservation effort. The Yolo County HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service value your input related to this HCP/NCCP. Please provide us with your comments regarding the scope of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) being prepared for this HCP/NCCP.

For your convenience, feel free to take this card with you, fill it out at your opportunity, and mail it. You may also send comments by email to Ms. Maria Wong at yolonhp@yolocounty.org or to Cori Mustin via fax at (916) 414-6713. **All comments must be received by Monday, December 5, 2011.**

I SUPPORT THE YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM AS PRESENTED AT THE NOV. 7, 2011, SCOPING SESSION IN WEST SACRAMENTO. I ALSO WELCOME THE PROGRAM'S COMPLETION IN A TIMELY MANNER.

Sincerely,
Dr H/M

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DEC 2 2011

YOLO COUNTY PARKS & RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-4082
(916) 657-5390 - Fax



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November 8, 2011

YOLO COUNTY PARKS & RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

NOV 10 2011

NOV 10 2011

Maria Wong
Yolo County
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695

YOLO COUNTY PARKS & RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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RE: SCH# 2011102043 Yolo County Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan; Yolo County

Dear Ms. Wong:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines 15064(b)). To comply with this provision the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on historical resources within the area of project effect (APE), and if so to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts to archaeological resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

- ✓ Contact the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center for a record search. The record search will determine:
 - If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- ✓ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measurers should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.
- ✓ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
 - A Sacred Lands File Check. **USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle name, township, range and section required.**
 - A list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures. **Native American Contacts List attached.**
- ✓ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely,
Katy Sanchez
Katy Sanchez
Program Analyst
(916) 653-4040

Native American Contact List

Yolo County

November 8, 2011

Wintun Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1839 Wintun (Patwin)
Williams, CA 95987
corwepa@hotmail.com
(530) 473-3318
(530) 473-3319
(530) 473-3320 - Fax

Kesner Flores
PO Box 1047 Wintun / Patwin
Wheatland, CA 95692
calnagpra@hotmail.com
925-586-8919

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Marshall McKay, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18 Wintun (Patwin)
Brooks, CA 95606
(530) 796-3400
(530) 796-2143 Fax

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Leland Kinter, Native Cultural Renewal Committee
P.O. Box 18 Wintun (Patwin)
Brooks, CA 95606
lkinter@yochadehe-nsn.gov
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(530) 796-3400 - office
(530) 796-2143 Fax

Cortina Band of Indians
Charlie Wright, Chairperson
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Williams, CA 95987
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(530) 473-3190 - Voice
(530) 473-3301 - Fax

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
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Cortina Band of Indians
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Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
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rfranklin@yochadehe-nsn.
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(530) 796-3400 - office
(530) 796-2143 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH# 2011102043 Yolo County Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan; Yolo County.

MAILING ADDRESS
SACRAMENTO COUNTY
8631 BOND ROAD
ELK GROVE, CA 95624

YOLO COUNTY
1234 FORTNA AVENUE
WOODLAND, CA 95695

1.800.429.1022
FIGHTtheBITE.net

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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DAVIS

Yolo County JPA
Maria Wong, Executive Director
120 West main St., Suite C
Woodland, Ca 95695

December 5, 2011

Re: Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan

The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the preparation of the EIS/EIR for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program's Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan (Plan). The District is responsible for protecting the public from mosquito and vector borne diseases within the Sacramento and Yolo Counties under authority from the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), beginning with Section §2000. The District has a long history of working with local landowners to address mosquito breeding in urban, rural, agricultural, and wetland settings and understands the complexity of managing such systems while protecting environmental concerns.

The District has reviewed the Plan and is providing comments and concerns relating to the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as well as general comments to be incorporated into the Plan.

To assist with land management, planning and long term mosquito control, the District has developed and adopted a Mosquito Reducing Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual which can be downloaded from the District's website at http://www.fightthebite.net/download/ecomagement/SYMVCD_BMP_Manual.pdf. The manual provides guidance information regarding construction and maintenance designed to prevent or reduce mosquito breeding in urban, agricultural, managed wetland and stormwater settings.

The District has provided comments, and the rationale for each specific comment below:

- Comment:** Chapter three of the HCCP/NCCP does not address managed wetland, tidal wetland, and riparian habitat allowable maintenance activities outside of a flood conveyance facility. While not necessarily a part of the EIS/EIR, the Plan needs to incorporate the routine maintenance activities associated with management of these properties that are not covered in other land use categories within the Plan.

Rationale: The HCP/NCCP covers a wide range of allowable activities within Yolo County designed to protect listed species while preserving

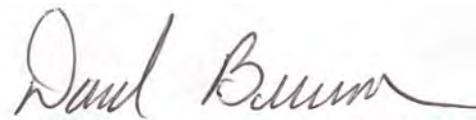
current land uses. Many wetland areas and habitats within Yolo County do not fall under any of the listed categories, and may require additional permitting for routine maintenance activities associated with that land use. Furthermore, the District requires annual implementation of Mosquito Reducing BMPs such as routine maintenance activities as part of the District's Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM).

- 2. Comment:** The EIS/EIR must address the affects the HCP/NCCP may have on Public Health, including Vector Control.

Rationale: Public Health may be adversely impacted if not properly mitigated. Mitigation measures should include the implementation of Mosquito Reducing BMPs to prevent or reduce mosquito production in areas where standing water may occur.

The District is facing new challenges with shrinking budgets coupled with the costs of environmental compliancy issues. To ensure protection of the public from vector borne diseases, and reduction of pesticide applications; it is crucial that all designed and managed, restored aquatic habitats, drainages and facilities be properly designed and maintained to prevent mosquito production. The District remains a resource and is available to assist with the additional BMP implementation language requirements discussed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Brown". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

David Brown
Manager,
Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District



December 5, 2011

CITY HALL

1110 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691

City Council
City Manager
City Clerk
Information Technology
(916) 617-4500

Community Development

Planning/
Development Engineering
(916) 617-4645
Building
(916) 617-4683
Redevelopment
(916) 617-4535
Housing & Community
Investment
(916) 617-4555
Economic Development
(916) 617-4880

Public Works

Operations
(916) 617-4850
Engineering
(916) 617-4645
Flood Protection
(916) 617-4645

Finance

Administration
(916) 617-4575
Refuse & Recycling
(916) 617-4590
Utility Billing
(916) 617-4589

Human Resources

(916) 617-4567

Parks & Recreation

(916) 617-4620

FIRE

2040 Lake Washington Blvd.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4600
Fax (916) 371-5017

POLICE

550 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(916) 617-4900

Code Enforcement

(916) 617-4925

PUBLIC WORKS

Operations
1951 South River Road
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4850

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo Habitat JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695

RE: Scoping Comments on the Notice of Preparation for the
Yolo Natural Heritage Program (YNHP) Draft Environmental
Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)

Dear Ms. Wong:

The City of West Sacramento would like to thank the Yolo Habitat Joint Powers Agency for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation for the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat EIR/EIS.

Since preparation of the YNHP will be based on the city's existing General Plan, it should be clearly noted that the existing General Plan includes all General Plan amendments that have been approved by the City Council as of the date of this letter. Preparation of the YNHP and the draft EIR/EIS will most likely coincide with the city's efforts to complete the major update of the General Plan. The city has initiated the process for updating its General Plan. Due to budgetary constraints and resources, that work was temporarily halted for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. The city expects to resume that work in 2011/2012. Thus there should be some discussion as to how the General Plan update will be addressed in the document.

The YNHP will seek incidental take authorization for a period of up to 50 years. This 50-year permit will allow existing land uses and future growth and development identified in the city's General Plan to proceed in a streamlined and efficient manner. The General Plan will undoubtedly undergo a series of minor and major updates within this 50-year period. The draft EIR/EIS should include discussion as to how future amendments and updates to the General Plan will impact the YNHP and vice versa.

The incidental take authorization will also allow construction, operation, routine maintenance and lifecycle repair/replacement of municipal infrastructure needed to implement the General Plan and comply with state and federal laws. This infrastructure includes levees and other flood protection facilities; stormwater collection, retention/detention, conveyance and pumping facilities; roadways and appurtenant structures/facilities; public transportation and appurtenant structures; potable water treatment and conveyance facilities; wastewater collection and conveyance facilities; municipal buildings; municipal/public



works/parks maintenance yards and facilities; Port of West Sacramento maritime, warehousing and Deep Water Ship Channel facilities; electrical power and natural gas conveyance and distribution facilities; cabled, wired, fiber-optical and wireless telecommunications facilities; parks, sport fields, trails, water access and other outdoor recreation facilities. The draft EIR/EIS should discuss infrastructure-related planning and actions, and describe the relationship between the YHNP and future amendments and updates to infrastructure master plans.

If you should have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me via email at sandraw@cityofwestsacramento.org or telephone at (916) 617-4645.

Sincerely,



Sandra J. White
Senior Planner

P. O. Box 173
Zamora, CA 95698

December 5, 2011

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County HCP/NCCP JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland CA 95695

RE: Comments on the Yolo County HCP/NCCP

Dear Ms. Wong:

I attended your presentation on the Yolo County HCP/NCCP on November 28 at the Zamora Advisory Committee meeting on November 28, 2011, and I'm more confused than ever about the scope of this plan. I thought that the purpose of the HCP/NCCP and content of the EIS/EIR was for protecting species in Yolo County, but now I'm not sure. I looked on your website for more information, but all that was there was a discussion of the plan, but not how it will be implemented or what it will do. The rest of the information isn't available yet.

It doesn't appear that you incorporated the advice of the science advisory committee, but there's not enough information in the plan to make a full assessment. For species preservation I keep trying to find out if it's better to have more or fewer species listed in your report? Are the ones listed on the fast tract for development to avoid environmental laws designed to protect these species? Before anyone can make a reasonable interpretation of your report more information needs to be available.

More information and transparency needs to be provided before you proceed with HCP/NCCP plan recommendations.

Sincerely,

Rachael Long
Ph: 530-681-7661
rachaellong@afes.com

RECEIVED

DEC 5 2011

YOLO COUNTY PARKS & RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Name: Mary Jo Hoes Date: 12/1/2011 Time: 9:30 AM
Telephone: 530-668-9202 Email: mary_jo_hoes@hoes-eng.com
Affiliation: Community member/past Yolo Zamora Advisory Committee Chair
Street Address: 8147 Co Rd 91 B, Zamora, Ca 95698 (PO Box 142)

Comments regarding the scope of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for Yolo Natural Heritage Program HCP/NCCP

Scope of the plan

Since rural Areas are included in this plan we have in place in Yolo County a system of Advisory Boards, the EIR/EIS needs to consider that the concerns of the community are brought to the county planning commission. The Advisory Committees allow for public input, the system of notification must be followed. This plan (The Yolo Natural Heritage Program) appears to be going around a system that is in place.

These committees worked very hard on the general plan and to make this proposed alteration to the general plan and then make it a 50 year plan is not in keeping with the system that is in place. No new plan should pre-empt the general plan.

Area 5 and area 10 in the Yolo Natural Heritage Program plan are important grasslands and bird habitat. This area is full of wildlife, including burrowing owls, migratory birds, bats, red and gray foxes, coyotes, deer, bear, eagles, hawks of many varieties including the Swainson's hawk , eagles etc. I can not list them all.

The area also supports pollinators for the many orchards and field crops. The area is undulating hills of unstable nature. Development in this area would not be good for the local water supply. The hills are very errodable. This is a very quiet area with nesting grounds and water sources adjacent.

According to CEQA the endangered species and habitat should not be disturbed if there is an alternative.

For example the planned introduction and development wind power should not be located in these hills. Wind power causes so many problems cost, health, environmental and there is an alternative.

Wind turbines are a poor choice for obtaining the nation's renewable energy requirements. Studies have shown that when a significant amount of grid energy is provided by variably energy sources large scale wind turbines provide little or no net electrical power and do not reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Studies by energy industry engineers and others have found that it can take as much traditional (fossil fuel) energy to operate the grid whether wind turbines are connected to it or not after the amount of variable power on the grid exceeds what it currently is in California.

In addition to not being effective at reducing our need for fossil fuels, large scale wind turbines have been shown to cause significant harm to wildlife, people, communities, and the environment. Large wind turbines can:

- Kill birds and bats ,

- Cause noise and low frequency “infrasound” pollution that can cause sleep disturbances and other health problems (the World Health Organization recommends a maximum noise level of not more than 5 dB above background noise and a maximum noise level of 30 dB(C) at the property boundaries) driving wildlife from the area.
- Create light pollution and shadow flicker extending for miles across the landscape can cause irritation and health problems to people and animals
- Cause soil erosion and disruption of surface and subsurface waterways,
- Cause a significant degradation of the visual effect of the landscape (new wind turbines have a tip height of from 500 to 650 feet high – as tall as the Space Needle in Seattle)
- Cause a decline in neighboring house and property values (declines in value of over 40% have been reported around the country for properties neighboring wind installations),
- Cause a negative impact on local tourism,
- Cause a deterioration of radio and radar signals (Homeland Security, the FAA, the weather bureau, and local agencies around the country have expressed concerns about radio and radar interference)
- Interfere with the safe operation of aircraft, especially crop dusters,
- Cause a degradation of the electrical signal on local electrical connections (wind turbines make an electrically “noisy” signal which can interfere with local electrical devices),
- Impact county roads and maintenance costs,
- Cause hard feelings and problems between those that host turbines and those who only get the negative impacts.

There are other choices for providing our nation’s renewable energy requirements that offset fossil fuel use without the negative environmental impacts noted above – and at a lower cost. Increased efficiency of appliances and buildings (“a penny saved is a penny earned”); along with roof-top solar can solve our energy problems at a vastly reduced cost to the grid, the utility customer, taxpayers and the environment. **WIND TURBINES WILL NOT SOLVE OUR ENERGY NEEDS OR REDUCE THE PRODUCTION OF GREEN HOUSE GASES.**

Do not set aside areas in Yolo County for large scale wind and large scale solar power plants. They do not produce a net increase in power or net reduction in green house gas. Put power sources next to communities so the grid does not need to be used. Save our wildlife, agricultural and open space areas.

Find your tax dollars some where else and keep our county available to feed our families in the future.

Mary Jo Hoes



YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

Comment Card - Scope of EIR/EIS

Name: Mary Jo Hoes Date: 11/25/11

Telephone: 530-668-9202 Email: mary-jo-hoes@hoes-eng.com
past Advisory Board member

Affiliation: Community member Title (if applicable): _____

Street Address: 8147 Co Rd 91B - P.O. Box 142

City: Zamora State: Ca Zip: 95698

Thank you for your interest in this conservation effort. The Yolo County HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service value your input related to this HCP/NCCP. Please provide us with your comments regarding the scope of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) being prepared for this HCP/NCCP.

For your convenience, feel free to take this card with you, fill it out at your opportunity, and mail it. You may also send comments by email to Ms. Maria Wong at yolonhp@yolocounty.org or to Cori Mustin via fax at (916) 414-6713. **All comments must be received by Monday, December 5, 2011.** *5pm*

See attached

Comment Card - Scope of EIR/EIS

Name: Charles Hoes

Date: December 1, 2011

Telephone: 530.668.9202

Email: charles_hoes@hoes-eng.com

Affiliation: Hoes Engineering, Inc.

Title: President/CEO; homeowner

Street Address: 8147 County Road 91B

City: Zamora

State: California

Zip: 95698

COMMENTS:

My first and foremost comment on the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (Plan) EIS/EIR scoping effort is that it is not possible to make reasoned and appropriate comments at this time because the nature of the comments depends critically upon the content of the NCP/NCCP, which has not yet been published even in a draft form. Not knowing what is covered by the Plan and specifically how the Plan is intended to be implemented makes it impossible to comment on the most important element of the EIS/EIR scoping effort, which is the identification of "reasonable alternatives" to be studied. As it stands, there are only two defined choices, either implementation of the Plan or not. I believe that there are several options between these two extremes which need to be considered in the performance of the EIS/EIR. For this reason, it is my position that the decisions concerning scoping of the EIS/EIR are premature and need to be postponed until such time as the Plan has been published with a reasonable period of time for public review and comment.

In addition to not having any information concerning the proposed Plan, there is no information concerning the proposed EIS/EIR scoping effort. I assume that work has already been performed on a draft document defining the scope of these analyses, otherwise it would not be up for approval at this time. Since that draft has not been made available to the public it is not possible to make any specific comments addressing the content of the draft. In order to make any comments we need to have an adequate chance to review it. That has not been made available (at least it is not available on the Yolo Natural Heritage Program's Plan Document and Environmental Portal). It might have been useful to have access to the minutes of the scoping meeting that were held on November 7, but these are also not available on the portal. In addition, the community should have been better notified, for example through the Yolo-Zamora Advisory Committee, prior to the November 7 public EIS/EIR scoping meetings so that we could have at least attended those meetings to get an idea of the scoping effort. However, since the advisory committee was not notified of those meetings until November 28, we were not aware of them and thus did not attend the meetings. This is another reason why it is premature to make decisions on the scope of the EIS/EIR effort.

Assuming that the scoping effort is going to be voted upon even though it is inappropriate to do so at this time, I have the following comments based upon the only materials that we have been provided on the subject, which is the Federal Register notice on this topic (FWS-R8-ES-2011-N144; 80221-1112-81420-F2) Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan for Yolo County, CA: Environmental Impact Statement.

- It is not clear how to interpret the list of covered species contained in the Federal Register because it is impossible to determine what is to be done with this list. It appears that if a species is on the list, then the Joint Powers Agency (JPA) {the Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland; and the University of California at Davis} is requesting that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grant "take" permits for the species covering a period of 50 years. It is not clear what action is taken for species that are not on this list. For example, the local Bald Eagle is not on this list. Does this mean that the JPA will not receive take permits for them and that any actions involving them will need to be processed as is currently the situation, or does it mean that there will be no efforts made toward conservation of that species? Without knowing the details of the Plan it is not possible to know the answer to this and similar questions. Therefore, it is not possible to know the scope of the proposed EIS/EIR.

- Given the brief nature of the Federal Register notice, the other area that can be commented upon is related to the choice of alternatives to be studied. There are currently three choices given; (1) The proposed action (which is currently unknown), (2) no action, and (3) a reasonable range of additional alternatives. I believe that the EIS/EIR scoping document needs to specifically define the reasonable alternatives. I offer the following as some reasonable alternatives (there are undoubtedly more which will become apparent once the contents of the Plan are made public):

a) The time of the Plan is far too long. It should never be longer than the term of the General Plan because it almost becomes an integral part of the General Plan. For this reason the permit duration should be much shorter than 50 years. Because of the rapid changes occurring in society, the economy and in Yolo County I recommend a maximum permit duration of ten years, at which point the Plan should be reviewed, modified in accordance with the changing needs of the County and re-approved. A 50 year duration makes absolutely no sense in this era of rapid change, including unknown influences of climate change and changing demographics.

b) The area covered by the Plan should not include the rural, unincorporated areas because there are many highly sensitive species and habitats in rural parts of the County that require special case-by-case assessments and therefore require their own EIS/EIR review processes and separate permitting by the USFWS.

c) The scope of the Plan should be limited to certain types of covered actions rather than open to any and all actions as it currently the case. If implemented, the Plan should be limited to residential developments and community services limited to schools, hospitals, small footprint municipal services,

small retail establishments and the like. It should specifically exclude roads and bridges, large scale retail (over some limit in size such as 100 acres or so), large industrial projects, heavy industry, large scale solar and wind installations, power plants, large lakes/reservoirs, and other similar actions that can be expected to have a significant and long term impact upon the species and habitat within the county.

d) The Plan should include provisions for members of the public to be notified in a timely manner and have an adequate opportunity to be involved in the permitting decisions for all Covered Activities, whether included within the scope of the Plan or not. The Plan should not prevent the ability of the public to be heard and have influence upon the permitting of Covered Activities, including decisions about whether or not "take" permits should be applied to the specific action.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Sandy Montero <tsmontero@yahoo.com>
To: "yolonhp@yolocounty.org" <yolonhp@yolocounty.org>
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2011 3:20 AM
Subject: Comment on Scope of EIR/EIS

Dear Ms. Wong,

I am concerned about the EIR/EIS not seeming to follow the recommendations of the Report of Independent Advisors of Yolo County. By acknowledging that such large facilities such as solar and wind power generation facilities could be covered by incidental take authorizations or mitigations, I don't feel that the Report's recommendations for conservation have much impact, or that they are being ignored by the HCP/NCCP.

I have questions still about there being no maps on the website or possibly in the plan about the Blue Ridge hills or the Capay Hills about raptor nest sites or habitat or habitat in the nearby grassland and agricultural areas. Is there a separate study available? It should be included in the public information.

As a resident of the Northwest section of the study area I know that there are more Red-tailed Hawks and Swainson's Hawks than indicated. This oversight could be very damaging. Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles are not indicated. Northern Harriers, White-tailed Kites and Burrowing Owls are in the area, as are Horned Owls and American Kestrels. Canadian Geese, Snow Geese and different species of migratory waterfowl and gamebirds come to the various ponds and large irrigation ditches. They feed on the different ground covers.

There is a process presently going on to construct a large wind power facility in Yolo County. Current leases are already over 33,000 acres. It will stretch from north to south county lines in a wide swath creating a fragmentation of habitat and a large killing field for bats and birds. Combined in a line with the Altamont Pass and the Montezuma Hills, the impact increases too greatly.

I have not received an answer elsewhere to my question about how the infrasound from wind turbines affects honeybees and native pollinators. It seems it hasn't been studied, but I still wonder if it couldn't create an impact. Many of the crops of Yolo County depend on pollinators. The Tiger Salamanders would be affected by the ground vibrations if the wind turbines were placed too close to their habitat.

A fifty year stream-lined permit procedure wouldn't be a responsible conservation measure. There are too many variables and they deserve a due consideration which does require a longer allotment of time and effort. If such a huge wind turbine project were to be considered in the future when the HCP/NCCP is in affect, there should be no consideration for such a large, noisy, destructive and invasive 30+ year utility project. There would be too many "Takes" and no amount of mitigation could be adequate.

Sincerely,

Sandra Montero

9410 County Road
Capay, CA 95607

Maria Wong, Executive Director

Yolo County HCP/NCCP JPA

120 W. Main Street, Suite c

Woodland, CA 95695

RECEIVED

December 2, 2011

DEC 5 2011

YOLO COUNTY PARKS & RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Dear Ms. Wong,

I was in attendance at the November 28th Zamora Advisory Committee meeting where you spoke about the Yolo Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). We were given the "Notice of Preparation and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings for an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Yolo County Natural Heritage Program Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan" dated October 21, 2011. Of concern is the fact that the handout was a notification concerning public scoping meetings held fourteen days prior to your presentation and delivery to us of the notice of the meetings.

Something extremely important for the future of Yolo County is being decided within the next couple of days; something that we should have been made aware of long before now. We were told that if we, as members of the public, are interested in making our comments and feelings known, now is the last chance to do so. How can we when very little of the necessary information needed for comment is actually available on that web site? Something this important to the future of our county should not be so vague, undefined, and difficult to access.

It appears that the plan consists of an eleven chapter document, three of which are accessible on the web site. The three that are accessible do not actually describe the plan but rather provide general background information concerning Yolo County. What is missing on the web site, and what was missing from the presentation is a description of what the plan is going to do, and how is it going to do it. The actual content of the HCP/NCCP is not available for review. How can this be?

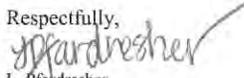
The overall goal appears to be to "fast track" development in the County for the next 50 years which means that the intent is to get as many environmental regulations as possible out of the way of the permitting process of new developments or projects having potential environmental impacts. A 50 year plan is one that extends far beyond the adopted General Plan for Yolo County and is not appropriate.

It seems that this plan will have the effect of eliminating the ability to require new EIS/EIR assessments for future development that might have impacts that are not currently envisioned, and it also means that the developments will, of necessity, reduce the available habitat and species diversity within the County. The advantages all go to the future developers with very few or no advantages to the species or habitats within the County. If what appears to be true is accurate, it is obvious that the proposed plan goes totally against the past fifty or more years efforts to protect species, increase species diversity and protect and enhance habitats and natural environments.

I am adamantly opposed to ANY reductions in the scope of the requirements for the EIS/EIR, CEQA requirements or any other environmental requirements promulgated by the County, the State or the United States Government. All environmental requirements must remain in full force until shown to be non-applicable on a case-by-case basis for developments within the scope of the Plan.

* "Covered Activities" include: (1) Permanent development; (2) operation, maintenance, and other ongoing activities; and (3) implementation of the Plan's conservation strategy.

Respectfully,


L. Pfardresher
lpf@ar@aol.com
Zamora, CA 95698

Maria Wong, Executive Director
Yolo County HCP/NCCP JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland CA 95695

Ms. Wong:

In Regard to the scope of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for the Yolo County HCP/NCCP:

I have reviewed the material the Joint Powers Authority has provided both in written form and on the website, and I strongly feel there is not enough information available for me to make a judgement!

I cannot figure out what your group is trying to accomplish, which species you are protecting or trying to eliminate with your "take" permits. It appears you are collecting mitigation money for "take" permits and being paid to allow the killing of endangered species! And all of this is being done to circumvent the environmental protection laws, and to "fast-track" development.

Putting a "one size fits all" blanket over future development in our beautiful county is the wrong approach: we need rural community involvement with individual projects because they are so varied.

If I am misreading the purpose of your JPA, please tell me what your goal/purpose/vision is, and then explain why you are proceeding without transparency and comprehensible information to the public.

Please provide more information before you proceed.

I will be faxing this in to Cori Mustin, and copying the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Jordi Grant
PO Box 473, Zamora CA 95698
P: 530-406-0672 F: 530-662-2865
jordigrant@aol.com

