

Yolo Habitat Conservancy

County of Yolo • City of Davis • City of Winters • City of West Sacramento
City of Woodland • University of California, Davis

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

YOLO HABITAT CONSERVANCY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TIME: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2018

PLACE: The Ranch House at The Cannery*
2000 Cannery Loop
Davis, California

INFORMATION: Contact Susan Garbini at 530-723-5909 or susan@yolohabitatconservancy.org

NOTICE: If requested, this agenda can be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Federal Rules and Regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Persons seeking an alternative format should contact Susan Garbini for further information. In addition, a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in a public meeting, should contact Susan Garbini at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

*Please review the map of THE CANNERY that shows parking areas and the meeting location.

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order and introductions
2. Approve agenda order
3. Approve February 12, 2018, draft meeting summary; review status of Outstanding Action Items.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Use proposed revised language for Section 3.4.3.1 as a starting place, everyone has a month (until March 12th) to provide suggested changes to this language. Conservancy staff will collate the edits and provide a recommendation for consideration at the April AC meeting. [see Agenda Item #4 below]

- Move the language referring to oak woodlands and riparian areas from Section 3.4.3.2 to the sections of Ch. 2 that discuss those communities and update Table 3-7.
- Remove last column (“Gap in Protection”) from Table 3-2, “Natural Community Gap Analysis”.

4. Update/Discussion: Regional Conservation Investment Strategy/Local Conservation Plan - Chris Alford/Ellen Berryman

- Review and approve revised language for Section 3.4.3.1
- Advisory Committee to determine ongoing representation on the RCIS/LCP Steering Committee

5. HCP/NCCP Update – Petrea Marchand

6. Review “New” Advisory Committee Appointment Process

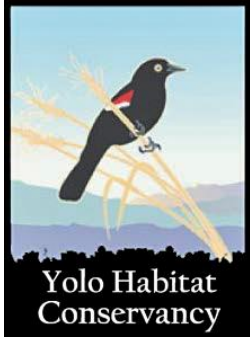
7. Announcements and updates

MEETING LOCATION --
THE CANNERY
RANCH HOUSE
2000 CANNERY LOOP
DAVIS, CA 95616

PARKING OPTIONS --
* PARALLEL PARKING ALONG
PARK IN CENTER
OF NEIGHBORHOOD (ON
HEIRLOOM ST. OR HARVEST ST)

* ANGLED PARKING
ON CANNERY LOOP
AT FRONT OF
NEIGHBORHOOD





Yolo Habitat Conservancy

*County of Yolo • City of Davis • City of Winters • City of West Sacramento
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YOLO HABITAT CONSERVANCY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft Meeting Summary

February 12, 2018

ACTION ITEMS:

- Use Chad's proposed revised language for Section 3.4.3.1 as a starting place, everyone has a month (until March 12th) to provide any suggested changes to this language to Chris. Conservancy staff will collate the edits and provide a recommendation for consideration before the April AC meeting.
- Ellen will move the language referring to oak woodlands and riparian areas from Section 3.4.3.2 to the sections of Ch. 2 that discuss those communities and update Table 3-7.
- Remove last column ("Gap in Protection") from Table 3-2, "Natural Community Gap Analysis".

1. Call meeting to order and introductions

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chair John Hopkins. All present introduced themselves.

Committee Members

John Hopkins
Steve Greco
Jeanette Wrynski
Glen Holstein
Chad Roberts
Steve Thompson

Guests

Michael Perrone (Yolo Audubon)
Carin Loy (CalTrans)
Megan Brooks (Delta Stewardship Council)
William vanWigren (Calif. Native Plant Society)

YHC Staff & Consultants

Petrea Marchand
Chris Alford
Susan Garbini
Ellen Berryman (ICF)

2. Approve agenda order

No changes made to the agenda.

3. Approve December 11, 2017, draft meeting summary (*tentative); review status of Outstanding Action Items.**

- *Clarify whether there are there more local plans that should be included.*

Chris: No additional plans were received. We have included an exhaustive list.

Jeanette Wrynski: I sent all the plans I knew of. This is a comprehensive and solid list.

- *Clarify whether funding sources for RCIS need to be known in advance.*

Chris: Miscommunication. It was, in fact, the implementing sponsor that needed to be identified.

- *Look for a model of how funding can be found for the RCIS/LCP.*

DISCUSSION

John Hopkins: Funding for the RCIS/LCP activities are not necessarily the same for each component. The RCIS has come out of the state; it is a 10-year plan. The LCP is a “grand design” for overall conservation in Yolo County, and will be there for the long term. We will be looking for grant funding, anything we can find, since it is non-regulatory and not funded through the HCP/NCCP. A model for funding each of these would be great. I would separate these two entities in terms of model and funding.

Chad Roberts: The RCIS does not require funding. Once it is approved it provides a conservation framework for planning public projects. It would be beneficial to have funding to periodically assess and evaluate it. The CDFW doesn't see it as changing over the 10-year period.

Jeanette: Other plans (e.g. Westside Sacramento Integrated Regional Water Management Plan) have a lot of projects. They need to track how the plan is being implemented. A lot of the projects get completed with funding from elsewhere. Our LCP will likely be implemented through other projects that will be funded outside the HCP/NCCP, e.g. RCD projects. Tracking will be important. There does need to be money for matching funds, legal fees, to hire consultants, etc.

Steve Greco: Would one of the functions of who will be implementing the RCIS/LCP be to apply for grant funds?

Petrea Marchand: It depends on what funding is available for grant applications. If there was money from MCA's it would be easier to ask for money from the members. Need regular funding that you can rely on.

Chad: Other sources of funding would be non-profits in the community. Some of their funding could come back to the YHC to pay for staff effort/assistance in writing grants.

Steve G: In the past, there was a group who persuaded the City of Davis to fund a position for an Open Space Coordinator. That's been going on for 30 years and has been very successful. We need some kind of mechanism at the staff level for coordinating, tracking.

Jeanette: In the Westside Sac IRWM implementation ends up focusing on areas where there is funding available. There is a lot of money through Prop 1 funding for water-related infrastructure. Education has no funding. We have annual member contributions that go towards administrative tasks and some of that has been used to fund small education projects.

4. Update/Discussion: Regional Conservation Investment Strategy/Local Conservation Plan - Chris Alford/Ellen Berryman

John H.: Clarification: This discussion is from the *LCP perspective* over a long period of time. We will operate under the HCP/NCCP Planning Principles, which require courtesy and respect for each other's opinions.

- *Schedule*

CDFW has a 30-day window to look at the admin draft and determine whether it meets RCIS guidelines and criteria. They will let us know if we are missing any required elements.

At that point, it will be made available for public review and comment. The current admin draft version is on the Conservancy's website for informational purposes. It will likely be updated based on CDFW feedback. We don't know how much back and forth it will take before CDFW deems the document complete in terms of fulfilling the requirements of and RCIS,

but anticipate it will be at couple months. At that point, the RCIS/LCP will be released for public review and comment.

- *LCP issues:*

These are items that came up in the final review of comments and edits received for the Admin Draft RCIS/LCP that the Core Team identified as being LCP-specific issues and therefore request that the Advisory Committee review and provide guidance.

- **Section 3.4.3.1 Additional LCP Conservation Guidelines:** A request was made to remove this section because it repeats information already presented elsewhere and unnecessarily prioritizes specific community types.
- **Section 3.4.3.4 Unique Areas:** A request was made to add Yolo County serpentine on Little Blue Ridge, alkaline prairie in the eastern county, Dunnigan Hills, California prairie, relict valley oak woodland near Woodland, riparian chaparral on Cache Creek's losing reach.

DISCUSSION

Glen Holstein: Oak woodlands are already protected. Valley oak woodlands in contrast are rare, threatened, and highly deserving of prioritization. The current approach described in the text sets the wrong priority for conservation efforts. Alternative language from Chad is a step forward to getting some better general guidelines for what needs to be conserved. As it is now, it prioritizes the wrong thing. Need to do gap analysis, in a systematic approach. The text and the gap analysis are not compatible.

Chad: Priorities imply a ranking. Better to call them guidelines, based upon standard conservation science. I'm basically opposed to the lead-in to this section. I propose we revise it to say this is how we want the LCP implemented. My proposed revision is a starting place (see "Revised Draft 3.4.3.1 from C. Roberts").

There will be future changes. We will need solutions to deal with the kinds of changes we know are coming. Connectivity was mentioned early on in the science background documents for the HCP/NCCP. It is a major element in the RCIS as well. That will allow us to adapt to changes that are widely predicted in the next century.

Desired community types, e.g. oak woodlands, and riparian zones, allow connectivity. The real significance for their conservation is that riparian areas are the connectivity element in the landscape. These constitute the basic framework.

Glen: I'm aware of changes that are likely to happen in the future, but there are other rare and threatened communities that are just as much subject to climate change and other likely changes as upland oak woodland. For example, California prairie community is being lost to urbanization. It's important to set aside different types of natural lands, not just the lands that have upland oak woodland. The current language diminishes other areas. I'm most concerned with where the threat to natural lands is happening most rapidly such as the California prairie lands.

Chad: My vision for the implementation of the RCIS/LCP is that the linkage network would incorporate lands with every plant community. This includes California prairie lands. The gap analysis table indicates needs and can be used to target minimum acreages for protection.

Petrea: Additional language from both Chad and Glen could be used to improve the section.

John H: Chad's version is an improvement. Glen's points are well taken. I think if we look at the words, we are getting there and are meeting the concerns.

Glen: I was glad to hear that we're not so far apart. I agree with most of the revisions by Chad.

Action: Use Chad's proposed revised language for Section 3.4.3.1 as a starting place, everyone has a month (until March 12th) to provide any suggested changes to this language to Chris, then Conservancy staff will collate the edits received and provide a recommendation to the AC members for consideration before the April AC meeting.

Michael Perrone: Were you still intending that 3.4.3.2 stay the same? It doesn't make sense anymore. Purely focused on oak woodlands and riparian.

Chad: It needs to be included somewhere for the RCIS section.

Ellen: The discussion of the value of oak woodlands and riparian habitat could be moved to Ch 2. We would change p. 360, Table 3-7; need to remove "site supports oak woodland etc." and replace with alternative language.

Action: Ellen will move the language referring to oak woodlands and riparian areas from Section 3.4.3.2 to the sections of Ch. 2 that discuss those communities and update Table 3-7.

Chad: When this section (unique areas) came up, it was decided anything here would be a priority. DWR likes this approach. We should add other important areas (areas not projects).

- Settling basin
- Improvements to Tule Canal
- Section of Putah Creek w/special habitat inside the levee

- Salt Creek/Chickahominy Slough area
- Willow Slough Restoration

Steve G.: Chad has presented an important new idea in his fourth bullet: "...the conservation of habitat areas within landscapes having fewer major stressors...over areas having high intensities of factors that adversely affect the conservation values of conserved lands." Note that this is complementary (not contradictory) with his third bullet referring to "...conservation of areas...with high degrees of threat to loss before areas of lower-degree threat...". The conservation principle is that we not only conserve places with the greatest threat, but also places that are the least disturbed, and which are still pristine and still functioning. These are also important.

Steve Thompson: Some of the largest blocks and least expensive habitat is in Yolo County. How do the numbers add up in Table 3-2 (p. 3-14, RCIS/LCP January 2018)? Will this allow private landowners to take money from outside Yolo County? Mostly Yolo County doesn't allow outsiders to acquire habitat in Yolo County. Most of the big money will come from bonds or outside Yolo County. Can we tell private landowners that they can get money from outside the County? If not, most landowners will be upset. This is a big issue. I encourage that we allow taking money from outside the county.

Chris: The RCIS is just a way to identify habitat. We are not talking about funding here.

Ellen: There are no acreage goals in the RCIS.

John H.: The issue of out-of-county money is a County Supervisor issue. We can't change it without them.

Steve T.: What are the goals of amount of land for conservation? How can you achieve them without out-of-county money? This implies taking from people. It seems like a punishment.

Petrea: The Supervisors allow outside mitigation with a special permit. If there are proposals to provide mitigation for outside development, the RCIS allows some local control and ability to evaluate proposals.

John H.: What about other money (non-mitigation)?

Steve T.: When I tried bringing in outside money before I found it was not possible.

Ellen: Are people looking at this 400,503 acres as targets? That isn't the intent. If they are, we need to clarify.

Michael: Problem is the "gap in protection" label. The private landowners will interpret this as a target.

Petrea: I don't think you need the last column. What matters is percent of area that is protected.

Ellen: David Zippin had suggested we add the column, but not absolutely necessary.

Action: Remove last column from gap analysis table

Ellen: Discussion of "Unique areas". Need to talk about projects or areas?

Glen: One is biological, the other is infrastructure.

Chad: Concentrate on areas of the county that have unique biological characteristics.

5. **HCP/NCCP Update** – Petrea Marchand

The Final Draft HCP/NCCP was submitted on January 22. It is completely done. It has been sent to the CDFW headquarters and to the national USFWS.

We expect release in the Federal Register (Notice of Availability) by March 23. They could still bring up an issue, but probably any new issues would be resolved relatively easily.

We are scheduling meetings with partner agencies to adopt the plan. We are engaged in monthly meeting with County and City planning directors to try to forecast mitigation fees for the future. There are no projects in 2018-2019, so we are seeking some prepayment of fees, and/or loans from the members.

We are looking for other sources of near-term funding to solve the 2018-2019 budget problem.

6. **Review Advisory Committee Appointment Process and Guiding Principles**

Review Draft document. No changes were recommended.

7. **Meeting Schedule for 2018**

No meeting in March; last meeting April 9; celebration

8. **Announcements and updates**

Jeanette: The Westside Sac IRWMP being updated. Many agencies around the County have projects in that Plan. Funding offering this summer is from DWR through Prop 1 and includes multiple projects in the 4-county area (Napa, Lake, Solano, Yolo). We are also completing the Yolo County Flood Resources Plan.

Is there a project from the HCP/NCCP that could be funded? Let Jeanette know. Priorities have not yet been determined.

- 9. Adjournment to next meeting date:** April 9, 4-6 pm with celebration of the Advisory Committee and the service of the members. Location TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm

Agenda Item 4(a): Review and approve revised language for RCIS/LSP Section 3.4.3.1

Background:

During the February 12th Advisory Committee meeting, the Advisory Committee discussed items that came up in the final review of comments and edits received for the Admin Draft RCIS/LCP that the Core Team identified as being LCP-specific issues and therefore request that the Advisory Committee review and provide guidance. The main section discussed was Section 3.4.3.1. During the February meeting, the Advisory Committee determined that they wanted to modify this section and agreed to use draft replacement language provided by Chad as a starting place while giving others a month to review the proposed language and provide any suggested changes to the language. Glen was the only one that submitted suggested changes. The proposed replacement text originally provided by Chad with Glen's suggested changes and comment are provided below for Advisory Committee review and consideration.

Suggested Revised Text for RCIS/LCP Section 3.4.3.1:

Main text provided by Chad Roberts

Comments provided by Glen Holstein

3.4.3.1 General Guidelines

- The highest priority for the RCIS/LCP is to implement the landscape framework described in the landscape-level goals and objectives in Table 3-4, to support and enable conservation of native species, natural habitats, and ecological processes at county-wide and regional scales. This guideline implements the most important conservation measure (landscape connectivity that allows species to adapt to changing conditions and increased environmental stressors, restores genetic diversity among local populations, and increases local population abundances that reduce extirpation likelihoods) identified in conservation science and practice (refs), particularly as climate change, increased human populations, and altered land use patterns affect natural landscapes during this century and thereafter (refs).

This guideline recognizes that landscape-scale conservation planning assigns higher value to habitat areas that consolidate "core" habitat areas and habitat that enables and supports landscape linkages than to equivalent habitat areas that do not achieve those results. As described elsewhere in this RCIS/LCP, general conservation guidance for landscape-scale conservation emphasizes protected areas that are as large as can be achieved, with minimized perimeter/area ratios, as this achieves increased protection for "core" habitat and increases the likelihood of occurrence of area-sensitive wildlife species (refs). In addition, landscape linkages among habitat areas function best when they are sufficiently large to provide "core" habitat conditions within the linkages (refs).

- A second priority for this RCIS/LCP is the conservation of communities that support multiple RCIS/LCP focal and conservation species over communities that support fewer species. This guideline recognizes the long-established conservation principle that protecting habitat areas supporting greater richness of sensitive species ("hotspots") in the short term in order to maintain their populations is an essential element in developing landscape-scale conservation plans that protect those species in the long-term (refs). If resources to achieve conservation objectives are limited, the RCIS/LCP places higher value on areas that currently support higher numbers of sensitive (i.e., focal and conservation) species.

Revised Draft

- The conservation of areas in the county with high degrees of threat to loss before areas of lower-degree threat constitutes a third guideline for this RCIS/LCP, assuming that resources for acquisitions, restorations, and other conservation actions are limited and prioritization is required. This guideline reflects a widely adopted practical goal in conservation planning (refs). [The Natural Community Gap Analysis in Table 3-2 is an important tool for providing guidance to accomplish this guideline.](#)
- This RCIS/LCP adopts as a fourth guideline the conservation of habitat areas within landscapes having fewer major stressors (e.g., major or high-volume roads or high-impact land uses such as development are absent near potential conservation areas) over areas having high intensities of factors that adversely affect the conservation values of conserved lands. Roads are a major source of mortality for wildlife, conduits for the introduction of exotic species into the landscape, and a source of vehicle-derived pollutants in their vicinities (refs). Development is directly associated with habitat loss, fragmentation, and the loss of landscape connectivity; typically results in the introduction of nonnative predators (e.g., free-ranging cats) as well as abundant nonnative vegetation; is often associated with alterations in hydrology and drainage patterns that affect areas outside the developed area; and is generally accompanied by an increased use of pesticides and herbicides that may affect adjacent undeveloped areas (refs). If alternative candidate habitat areas have similar values otherwise, this RCIS/LCP places higher value on areas that are less subject to major stress or degradation from adjacent land uses.
- A fifth guideline for the RCIS/LCP is the conservation of existing high-quality species' habitats before creating new habitat areas except in planning units that lack high quality habitat areas, and for natural communities that are limited in extent such as valley oak woodland. Existing high-quality habitat areas already provide the conditions that support many ecological functions and high species richness, conditions that are frequently difficult to establish/reestablish in areas that have been altered or that are naturally less ecologically complex (refs), and the RCIS/LCP emphasizes the importance of protecting such high-quality areas. However, when a planning area currently lacks high-quality habitat areas the RCIS/LCP recognizes that a better conservation outcome may sometimes result through the intentional creation or restoration of desired natural communities in areas where they are currently absent or poorly developed.
- The RCIS/LCP adopts as a sixth guideline the restoration/enhancement of areas within the county lacking sufficient representation of native prairie, freshwater emergent wetlands, and particularly complex areas of forest, woodland, and chaparral communities, where such communities are ecologically likely to occur. In restoring/enhancing these community types, attention to factors known to be associated with desired ecological functions and habitat values should be emphasized. For example, ~~terrestrial wildlife habitats like woodlands and forests invariably support greater species richness when the structures of those communities are more complex, such as with greater canopy heights, increased canopy cover, and the presence of multiple vegetation layers;~~ sometimes the species richness of the vegetation is itself a positive element in maintaining high ecological function and habitat values (refs).

Possible Alternative: Renumber as Section 3.1.1 and move to Chapter 3 Introduction.

Commented [GH1]: The deleted statement is not factually accurate since woodlands and forests do not "invariably support greater species richness". An example is the country of South Africa. It is only 12.4% the size of the United States and yet has significantly more plant and bird species despite a scarcity of forests and woodlands. These make up just 7.6% of its vegetation in contrast to providing 33.8% cover in the United States. This also may be interpreted as re-prioritizing oak woodlands, which was rejected at the February 12 Advisory Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 6: New Advisory Committee Appointment Process

Background:

During the February 12, 2018 Advisory Committee meeting staff provided the Advisory Committee with an update on the proposed structure and application process for Advisory Committee members during implementation of the Yolo HCP/NCCP. On February 26, 2018 staff presented this proposed structure and application process to the Conservancy's Board of Directors for review and approval. The Board approved the role of the Advisory Committee during Yolo HCP/NCCP implementation as described to the Advisory Committee at the February 12, 2018 Advisory Committee meeting; however, they approved a member composition that was different than what was initially recommended by staff. Below is a summary of the role, composition, and anticipated appointment process for the Advisory Committee once the Yolo HCP/NCCP begins implementation.

Advisory Committee Role:

During implementation of the Yolo HCP/NCCP, the role and mission of the Advisory Committee will be to act as a stakeholder group to advise Conservancy staff on the implementation of conservation strategies described in the HCP/NCCP and the RCIS/LCP.

Member Composition:

The composition of the Advisory Committee will include:

- One representative from each member agency jurisdiction (each board member is responsible for actively recruiting a representative from their respective jurisdiction to submit an application)
- 2 members representing conservation organizations
- 2 members representing wildlife-friendly agriculture organizations
- 3 members representing local funding partner organizations

Individuals on the Advisory Committee are acting on behalf of their respective organizations and are expected to consult with and follow their organization's process for receiving approval when weighing-in on important decisions related to Yolo HCP/NCCP implementation. The Conservancy recommends that Advisory Committee members representing organizations have alternates to insure ongoing, active participation. Membership terms of service are to be on a 2-year basis with opportunities for renewal or replacement as deemed appropriate by the Board. Membership will continue to be voluntary. For first year appointments (2018-2019), one-half of the members will serve for 1 year and one-half for 2 years in order to stagger future appointments.

The Advisory Committee will also include a liaison from each of the Permittees/Member Agencies (Yolo County, City of Davis, City of West Sacramento, City of Winters, and City of Woodland).

Membership Application and Selection Process:

- Vacancies for public membership will be announced in public media and through other public announcements and mailing lists.
- Candidates for specific categories of membership will be solicited through appropriate communications with appropriate organizations.
- Prospective applicants will complete an application form and submit to YHC staff.
- Applicants will be recommended by the Executive Director for approval by the YHC Board.
- The timeline is as follows:
 - Summer 2018: Advertise the new positions
 - Early Fall 2018: Executive Director will consult with the Management Committee regarding recommended candidates
 - Fall 2018: Executive Director will recommend candidates to the Board of Directors