



# Yolo Habitat Conservancy

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Yolo Habitat Conservancy releases model conservation plan and environmental review documents for 90-day public comment period**

Woodland, CA – On June 1, 2017, the Yolo Habitat Conservancy (“Conservancy”) and its partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, released the draft Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (Yolo Plan) for a 90-day public comment period. A draft environmental review document prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act accompanied the release of the draft plan. The Conservancy will accept comments on both documents from June 1, 2017 to August 30, 2017.

The Yolo Plan is a countywide conservation plan to provide Endangered Species Act permits and associated mitigation for infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges, and levees) and development activities (e.g. agricultural facilities, housing, and commercial buildings), identified for construction over the next 50 years in Yolo County. The plan will coordinate mitigation to maximize benefits to 12 identified sensitive species, as well as conserve additional habitat while supporting agricultural sustainability.

Species protection and mitigation is required by state and federal law. By establishing a county plan, Yolo County assumes local control of this process. In absence of a local plan state and federal agencies would make decisions regarding where and how habitat is protected. The Yolo Plan will be a model for other communities throughout California in its promotion of the conjunctive use of land for both agriculture and habitat. Habitat projects on working farmland are also a source of potential additional income for farmers struggling to maintain their agricultural operations. “We intend to demonstrate that protection of endangered species can be accomplished hand -in-hand with promotion of agriculture and a strong farm economy”, said Jim Provenza, chair of the Yolo Habitat Conservancy and a Yolo County supervisor.

“The Yolo Plan strikes a sensible balance between natural resource conservation, agricultural land protection, and economic growth in the region,” said Petrea Marchand, Executive Director of the Conservancy. “The Conservancy achieved this balance through a collaborative process that included not only the state and federal government, but dedicated members of the environmental, agricultural, and development communities in Yolo County.”

“The completion of the Yolo Plan will improve outcomes for endangered species through a science-based conservation strategy, as well as partnerships with local conservation organizations and city and county open space programs,” said Conservancy Vice-Chair Lucas Frerichs, also a member of the Davis City Council. “The Board of Directors is proud to bring this innovative approach to Endangered Species Act implementation to Yolo County. “

The Yolo Habitat Conservancy is a joint powers agency consisting of the City of Woodland, the City of Davis, the City of West Sacramento, the City of Winters, and Yolo County, with the University of California, Davis also participating as a non-voting member. For more information about the Yolo Habitat Conservancy or to review and comment on the Yolo HCP/NCCP or related environmental review documents, please visit [www.yolohabitatconservancy.org](http://www.yolohabitatconservancy.org).