



Yolo Habitat Conservancy

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

CEQA NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS and NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) for the DRAFT YOLO HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN/NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN (Yolo HCP/NCCP) and related DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DRAFT EIS/R)

DATE: June 1, 2017
TO: Interested Agencies and Individuals
FROM: Yolo Habitat Conservancy

The Public Draft Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (Yolo HCP/NCCP) and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/R) (SCH #2011102043) are now available for review and comment. Public comment on these documents is invited for a 90-day period extending from June 1, 2017 through August 30, 2017. More information is provided below.

The Yolo HCP/NCCP is a comprehensive, county-wide plan to provide for the conservation of 12 sensitive species ("covered species") and the natural communities and agricultural land on which they depend. The Plan will provide a streamlined permitting process to address the effects of a range of future anticipated public and private activities ("covered activities") on these 12 species. The Plan area encompasses the entire area of Yolo County, approximately 653,549 acres, and includes conservation activities outside of Yolo County within an additional 1,174 acres along Putah Creek in Solano County.

The Yolo HCP/NCCP was prepared by the Yolo Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy), a joint powers agency created by Yolo County and the incorporated cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland. The Yolo HCP/NCCP will provide the basis for issuance of long-term (50-year) permits under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA) for covered activities. The Yolo HCP/NCCP will provide the Permittees (Yolo County, the four incorporated cities, and the Conservancy) with incidental take permits from both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the 12 covered species. This action is allowed under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the FESA and Section 2835 of the NCCPA chapter of the California Fish and Game Code. The Yolo HCP/NCCP ensures compliance with the FESA, NCCPA, and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) for covered activities that may affect the covered species. In addition to the Permittees, the Yolo HCP/NCCP permits may be used other entities through certificates of inclusion, as described further in Chapter 3, Covered Activities, and Chapter 7, Plan Implementation in the Yolo HCP/NCCP.

The Draft EIS component of the Draft EIS/R was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) under the oversight of the Service serving as the NEPA Lead Agency. In accordance with NEPA, the Service is publishing a separate NEPA Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. Information about the Federal Register Notice is available at the following Service website: <https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/>. The Draft EIR component of the Draft EIS/R was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the oversight of the Conservancy serving as the CEQA Lead Agency and CDFW serving as a CEQA Responsible Agency. In accordance with CEQA, this CEQA NOA was filed with the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse. This NOA also serves to notify the public of meetings and hearings on the Draft Plan and Draft EIS/R.

The Draft EIS/R analyzes and discloses the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the Yolo HCP/NCCP as proposed, and three project alternatives. The Draft EIS/R identifies the potential for significant effects under CEQA in the impact areas of Land Use and Agriculture and Forestry Resources. Other areas of potential impact under CEQA are identified as less-than-significant.

A Final EIS/R will be prepared following public review and comment on the Draft EIS/R. Responses to comments on the Draft EIS/R will be provided in the Final EIS/R. The Service, CDFW, Conservancy, and Conservancy member agencies will consider this information during their deliberations on Plan approval and related permitting actions described above. Following certification of the Final EIS/EIR, the Conservancy and member agencies may adopt the Yolo HCP/NCCP and the state and federal agencies may issue incidental take permits.

The Yolo HCP/NCCP and the Draft EIS/R (including all documents referenced in the EIS/R pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(c)(5)) are now available for public review online at the web link provided below. Interested parties may review and/or purchase printed copies and electronic copies (USB flash drive) from the Conservancy by inquiring at the contact information provided below. The documents are also available for public review at the Woodland Public Library, 250 First Street, Woodland, the Mary L. Stephens Davis Library, 315 E 14th Street, Davis, the Arthur F. Turner Community Library, 1212 Merkley Ave., West Sacramento, the Winters Community Library, 708 Railroad Ave., Winters, and the Yolo Branch Library, 37750 Sacramento Street, Yolo.

<http://www.yolohabitatconservancy.org/documents>

You may submit comments on the Yolo HCP/NCCP and/or the Draft EIS/R during the 90-day review period, which begins June 1, 2017 and ends August 30, 2017. All comments received by 5:00 pm on August 30, 2017 will be accepted as timely. Please clearly distinguish between comments on the Yolo HCP/NCCP and comments on the Draft EIS/R. Please include "Yolo HCP/NCCP comments" and/or "Draft EIS/R comments" in the subject heading when submitting comments.

Please direct written comments to:

Shawna Stevens, Assistant to the Director
Yolo Habitat Conservancy
611 North Street, Woodland, CA 95695
info@yolohabitatconservancy.org

The Yolo Habitat Conservancy and United States Fish and Wildlife Service will provide a presentation and the public will be given the opportunity to provide both written and oral comments on the Yolo HCP/NCCP and Draft EIS/R during the following public meetings:

June 27, 2017 – The Yolo County Board of Supervisors meeting in the Board of Supervisors Chambers (Room 206, 625 Court Street, Woodland) at 1:00pm.

June 29, 2017 – The City of Davis Public Meeting in the Davis Senior Center (646 A Street, Davis) at 6:30pm.

Oral comments provided during the two meetings listed above will be recorded by a court reporter. Additional public meetings and hearings will be announced as they are scheduled and will be listed on the Yolo Habitat Conservancy's website: <http://www.yolohabitatconservancy.org>. Members of the public may also contact the Conservancy at (530) 723-5504 to request the meeting schedule. It is anticipated that the member agencies of the Conservancy will each schedule a minimum of one local meeting/hearing on the Draft Yolo HCP/NCCP and Draft EIS/R.

The following statement is required to be included in this notice: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(c)(6), Yolo County contains hazardous waste sites as enumerated under California Government Code Section 65962.5.

