

YOLO HABITAT NCCP/HCP

The Yolo County Habitat Conservation Joint Powers Agency (JPA) was formed in August 2002 for the purposes of acquiring habitat conservation easements and to serve as the lead agency for the preparation of a Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for all of Yolo County. The JPA governing Board is composed of representatives from member Agencies, which include two members of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, one member each from the City Councils of Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento and Winters, and one ex-officio member from UC Davis.

As a local government agency, the JPA has two primary roles:

- Facilitate mitigation for impacts to the foraging habitat of the Swainson's hawk by assisting in the acquisition of conservation easements. The Swainson's hawk forages in open areas, fallowed lands, and throughout various row crops and agricultural fields. Supported by the collection of impact fees by its member agencies, the JPA is responsible for identifying and acquiring conservation easements in partnership with the Yolo Land Trust. The Yolo Land Trust will hold the easements under a cooperative arrangement with the JPA.
- Assist in the planning, preparation and subsequent administration of a County-wide Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for the nearly 400,000 acre planning area that provides habitat for 28 species occurring within five dominant habitats/natural communities. The NCCP/HCP will describe the measures that local agencies will perform in order to conserve the biological resources, obtain permits for urban growth and public infrastructure projects, and continue to maintain the rich agricultural heritage and productivity of Yolo County.

The Yolo Habitat JPA has reached several important milestones, including executing a Planning Agreement with the Department of Fish and Game and retaining the consultant team of HT Harvey & Associates and Ebbin Moser + Skaggs to prepare the NCCP/HCP. Public outreach and input meetings are planned for late spring and summer, 2005.

There are many conservation efforts throughout Yolo County, both past and present, which have specific purposes. These conservation efforts cover a range of activities and organizations for the protection and preservation of farmland, creeks, watershed areas, riparian corridors, water quality, flood control, and habitat for various plant and animal specie. The Yolo Habitat NCCP/HCP will further contribute to these efforts.

Questions regarding the Yolo County Habitat NCCP/HCP should be directed to John Bencomo, Interim Executive Director, at (530) 666-8045.

Yolo County NCCP Planning Agreement

