

Notice of Public Availability

From: Tina Bartlett
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Subject: Notice of Public Availability of Proposed Planning Agreement Amendment for Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is considering the entry into an amendment to extend the term of the executed Planning Agreement under the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA) of 2003 that was signed on February 8, 2005 with Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan Joint Powers Agency (JPA), known generally as the Yolo Habitat Conservancy, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This notice announces the availability of the proposed amendment to the Planning Agreement for public review and comment for twenty-one (21) days, pursuant to Section 2810, subdivision (d) of the NCCPA. The NCCPA encourages broad-based planning to protect and conserve the state's wildlife heritage while allowing appropriate development and growth. CDFW is authorized to approve natural community conservation plans (NCCPs) pursuant to the NCCPA, and to enter into agreements with other public agencies or private entities for the conservation of species and habitats.

The JPA consists of five local public agencies formed to prepare a regional conservation plan for Yolo County and all incorporated areas. The plan will be both a NCCP and a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) pursuant Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act. The JPA desires to design and implement a NCCP/HCP that describes the measures that local agencies will perform in order to conserve biological resources while providing a permit for urban growth and public infrastructure projects.

The primary purpose of the Planning Agreement is to define the goals and obligations in the development of a NCCP/HCP for Yolo County and all incorporated areas. Among other things, it also provides a preliminary list of the natural communities, and the endangered, threatened, candidate, or other species that are found, or may be found, in those communities, to provide an initial focus of the NCCP/HCP. The execution of the Planning Agreement is not an approval of the NCCP/HCP, but rather an agreement among CDFW, FWS, and JPA to a process for the development of a proposed NCCP/HCP.

CDFW invites the public to review and comment on the proposed amendment to the Planning Agreement. The document can be viewed on the internet at CDFW's website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP/Plans> or the JPA website at <https://www.yolohabitatconservancy.org/>.

Upon request, a paper copy also can be sent by mail or facsimile by contacting Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, Stephanie Buss at (916) 358-1185 or picked up in person at the North Central Regional Office of CDFW at 1701 Nimbus Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

All comments should be sent to the address listed at the top of this Notice. The period for public review and comment will close twenty-one (21) days after the date of this Notice. Comments received on or before 21 days from date below will be reviewed.

Date: May 5, 2017

Signature 
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