Yolo

Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan

Yolo HCP/NCCP Annual Report

for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

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for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Yolo Habitat Conservancy
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Albert Vallecillo, City of Winters

Victoria Fernandez, City of Woodland

Mabel Salon, University of California, Davis

Yolo Habitat Conservancy
Executive Director during FY23/24

Elisa Sabatini

Contact:
Chris Alford, Interim Executive Director
chris@yolohabitatconservancy.org
(530) 848-6211

Prepared By:

Yolo Habitat Conservancy & Alford Environmental

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMM	Avoidance and Minimization Measure
PBBB	Palmate-bracted bird's beak
CCRMP	Cache Creek Resources Management Plan
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CE	Conservation Easement
Conservancy	Yolo Habitat Conservancy
CRA	Conservation Reserve Area
EDRR	early detection, rapid response
FY23/24	Fiscal Year 2023/2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
Permits	incidental take permits
Permittees	Yolo Habitat Conservancy, County of Yolo, and the Cities of Davis, Winters, West Sacramento, and Woodland
Plan Area	all lands within the boundary of Yolo County and an expanded area consisting of 1,174 acres for riparian conservation along Putah Creek in Solano County
Plan	Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan
RCD	Resource Conservation District
SPE	Special Participating Entity
STAC	Science and Technical Advisory Committee
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VELB	valley elderberry longhorn beetle

1. Introduction and Overview

This is the sixth Annual Report for the Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (Yolo HCP/NCCP or Plan). This Annual Report summarizes activities undertaken by the Yolo Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy) and its partners between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, which was the fifth full year of Yolo HCP/NCCP implementation. The content of this report provides information per the Plan, the Implementing Agreement, and permits. It also provides the Conservancy Board of Directors, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the general public the opportunity to review the Conservancy's actions and progress toward Yolo HCP/NCCP implementation.

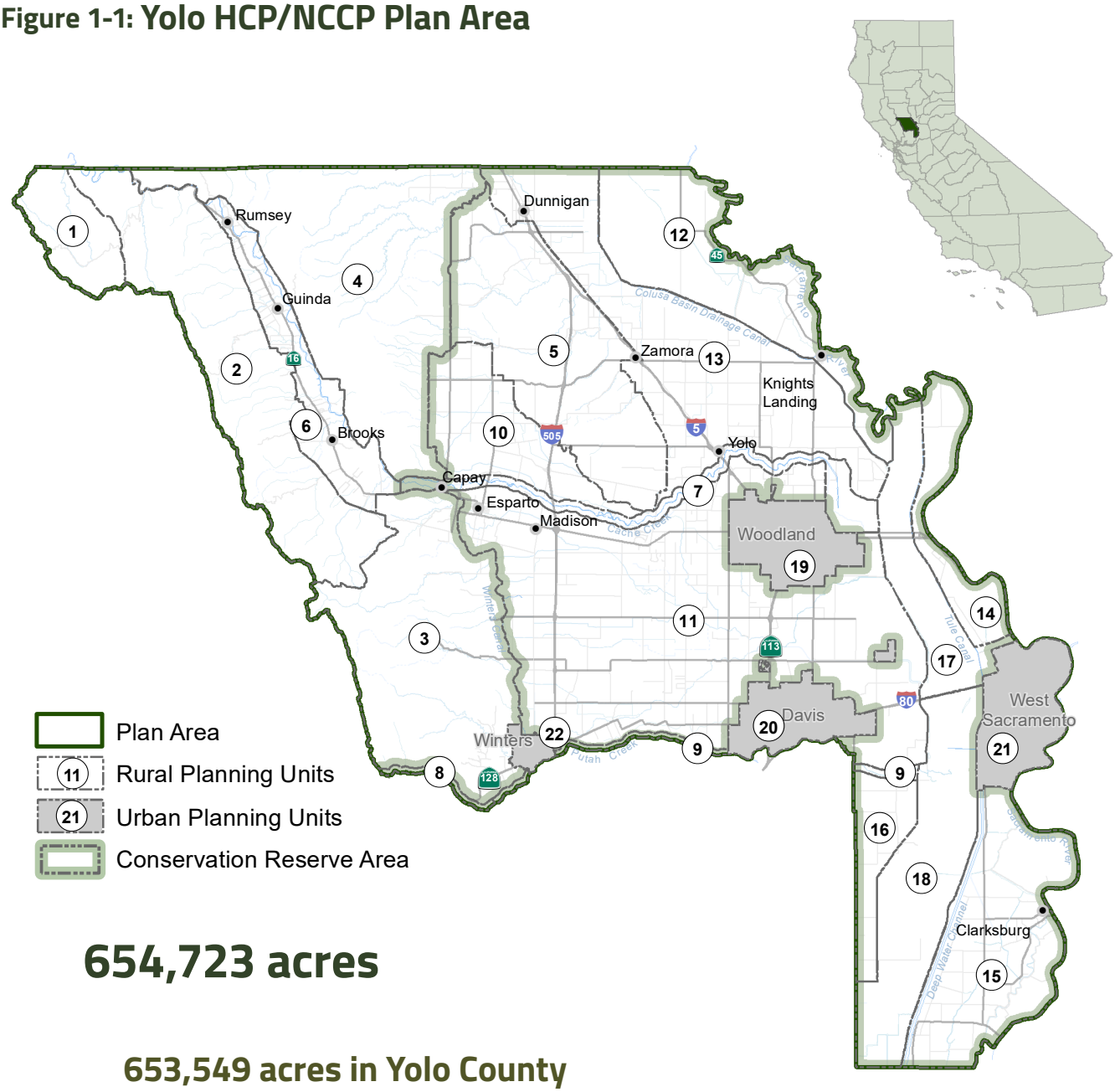
The components of this annual report include:

- Covered Activities and Impacts
- Acquisition and Restoration
- Reserve Management
- Enhancement, Monitoring, and Research
- Stay-Ahead Provisions
- Changed and Unforseen Circumstances
- Program Administration
- Finances

Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan

The Yolo HCP/NCCP is a locally developed plan that offers a streamlined permitting process for development activities while implementing a regional conservation strategy that protects, enhances, and restores valuable natural resources in Yolo County and contributes to the recovery of 12 covered plant and wildlife species. The Yolo HCP/NCCP strikes a sensible balance between natural resource conservation and economic growth in the region.

Figure 1-1: Yolo HCP/NCCP Plan Area



654,723 acres

653,549 acres in Yolo County

Primary Plan Area that encompasses Yolo County and defines the area where the Yolo HCP/NCCP can provide permit coverage for development and other covered activities.

1,174 acres in Solano County

Expanded Plan Area that encompasses the riparian habitat on the southern half of Putah Creek that is included in the Yolo HCP/NCCP conservation strategy.

Overview

The Yolo HCP/NCCP is a 50-year regional plan to protect endangered species and natural resources while allowing for orderly development in Yolo County consistent with local General Plans. The Yolo HCP/NCCP is both a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). This means that the Conservancy and the member agencies (County of Yolo, City of Davis, City of West Sacramento, City of Winters, and City of Woodland), known together as the Permittees, have obtained permits issued by USFWS and CDFW that allow the Permittees to comply with Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act and California's Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. The Permittees received permits from USFWS on September 26, 2018. The permits issued by CDFW were signed on January 10, 2019, which is the effective start date of the 50-year term of the Yolo HCP/NCCP.

Over the 50-year permit term of the Yolo HCP/NCCP, impacts from urban and rural projects, including operations and maintenance activities, will be offset by the creation of a reserve system managed for the benefit of 12 covered species (See Table 1-1), as well as the natural communities that they —and hundreds of other species — depend upon for habitat. Unlike individual site mitigation efforts, the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system takes a regional approach to species conservation that includes the protection of a network of habitat areas that support the life cycle and population needs of covered species to aid in the recovery of these species. The Yolo HCP/NCCP also commits to providing 8,231 acres of new conservation and the enrollment of 8,000 acres of existing conservation land in addition to the 16,175 acres of mitigation for development activities covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP permits.

Through the Permittees, the Yolo HCP/NCCP provides local public agencies, private developers, consultants, and property owners a streamlined and cost-effective approach for requesting and receiving incidental take coverage for development projects. Prior to the Yolo HCP/NCCP, an applicant for any development that involved loss of federally or state protected plants, wildlife, or their habitats was, in many cases, required to obtain permits directly from state or federal agencies—a process that could take several years and incur high costs.

Yolo HCP/NCCP permit coverage applies only to eligible projects, known as covered activities, undertaken within the Yolo HCP/NCCP Plan Area (Plan Area). The Yolo HCP/NCCP covers a total of 21,559 acres of activities within five categories, including: urban and rural projects (17,550 acres), public/private operations and maintenance (706 acres), conservation strategy implementation (956 acres), and neighboring landowner agreements (2,347 acres). The Plan Area is 654,723 acres, including 653,549 acres contained within Yolo County and 1,174 acres in the expanded area for riparian conservation in Solano County on the south side of Putah Creek (See Figure 1-1).

Table 1-1: Yolo HCP/NCCP covered species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federa/State[a]
Plants		
Palmate-bracted bird's beak	*Chloropyron palmatum*	E/E
Invertebrates		
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus*	T/ -
Amphibians		
California tiger salamander (Central California DPS)	*Ambystoma californiense*	T/T
Reptiles		
Northwestern pond turtle	*Actinemys marmorata*	- /CSC
Giant garter snake	*Thamnophis gigas*	T/T
Birds		
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	- /T
White-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*	- /FP
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	T/E
Western burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*	- /CSC[b]
Least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	E/E
Bank swallow	*Riparia riparia*	-/T
Tricolored blackbird	*Agelaius tricolor*	- /T

a. Status: C= Candidate for listing, CSC=California species of special concern, E=Endangered, FP= Fully protected under California Fish and Game Code, T=Threatened, - = no designation

b. Western burrowing owl was a California species of special concern during FY23/24. This species received candidate status under CESA on October 10, 2024 and will be identified as a candidate species during the next reporting period.

Benefits of the Yolo HCP/NCCP

Local control.
The Yolo HCP/NCCP moves compliance with state and federal endangered species laws for public and private activities from state and federal agencies to the local level. The Yolo Habitat Conservancy administers the permits and implements the Yolo HCP/NCCP in coordination with the member agencies (Yolo County, City of Davis, City of West Sacramento, City of Winters, and City of Woodland) with oversight from the CDFW and the USFWS to streamline the existing process while still providing comprehensive regulatory coverage for currently listed species and those that may be listed in the future.

Improved and increased species conservation.
Coordinated conservation planning through the Yolo HCP/NCCP will provide significant benefits to endangered and threatened species in Yolo County during and beyond the 50-year permit term as it replaces piecemeal mitigation with a regional coservation strategy and adds conservation beyond mitigation.

Streamlined permitting process.
The Yolo HCP/NCCP replaces a project-by-project mitigation process characterized by uncertainties associated with timing, costs, and litigation. This efficiency provides an economic benefit to public agencies and other projects in the form of streamlined Endangered Species Act permitting.

Preservation of working agricultural lands.
The Yolo HCP/NCCP recognizes that many agricultural working landscapes provide habitat. The premise of habitat and species conservation through preserved and carefully managed agriculture is foundational to the HCP/NCCP and integral to the values of Yolo County.

2. Covered Activities and Impacts

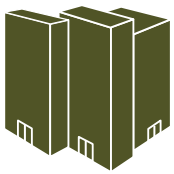
- This chapter provides an overview of the covered activities to which Permittees granted a certificate of approval, compliance, or inclusion during the reporting period.

Reporting Period Activities

Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, a total of sixteen projects received permit coverage through the Yolo HCP/NCCP. The projects include six urban projects and activities, two rural projects and activities, and eight public and private operations and maintenance projects. Table 2-1 provides a list of all covered activities granted Yolo HCP/NCCP take coverage during the reporting period. Information provided for each project includes a brief description of the covered activity, the Permittee extending the coverage, and permanent and temporary acreages disturbed. Figure 2-1 provides a map showing the locations of covered activities. Table 2-2 provides a summary of permanent and temporary acreages disturbed by land cover type for the collective covered activities in the reporting period and cumulatively. Table 2-3 provides a summary of permanent and temporary acreages disturbed by modeled habitat for the collective covered activities in the reporting period and cumulatively. A total of 82 projects have received permit coverage between the start of Yolo HCP/NCCP implementation and the end of this reporting period.

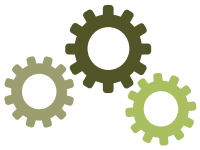
No Permittee, applicant, or Special Participating Entity (SPE) reported observations of harassment or mortality of covered species occurred during the reporting period.

Covered Activity Categories Utilized in FY23/24



Urban Projects and Activities

Rural Projects and Activities



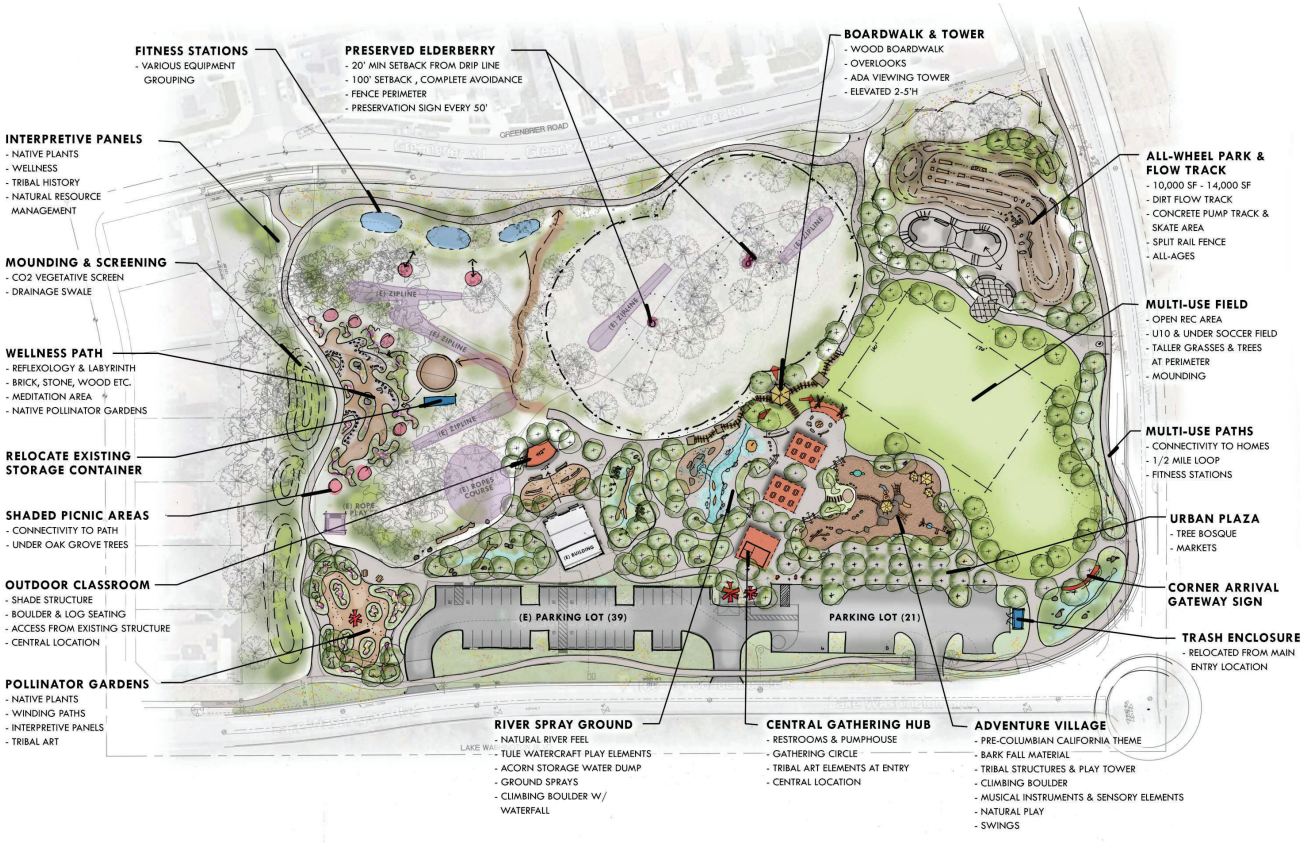
Public/Private Operations and Maintenance

Urban Projects and Activities

Urban projects and activities include covered activities that consist of general urban development, urban public services, infrastructure, and utilities within urban planning units (Planning Units 19, 20, 21, and 22). During the reporting period, six urban projects and activities received streamlined take permit coverage through the Yolo HCP/NCCP. These projects included three residential developments, one healthcare facility, and one retail facility.

General Urban Development:

The City of Davis granted Yolo HCP/NCCP permit coverage for two development projects: one for demolition of an existing 106,000 square foot commercial retail building space and construction of a new 104,219 square foot retail shopping space and one for an 8,712 square foot non-profit care facility that serves children in need by offering a variety of child abuse protection services. The City of West Sacramento granted permit coverage to three development projects: one for the construction of a three-story structure to provide 14,600 square feet of living space with 18 one-bedroom units and 17 two-bedroom units, one for a project to split two existing parcels in four approximately 1-acre parcels for future residential development, and one for development and extensive improvements to the existing Heritage Oaks Park. The City of Woodland granted permit coverage for one project, the 'Walters House', which will include a 15,177 square foot substance abuse treatment center to provide support for on-site residents and include approximately 65 beds, full commercial kitchen, dining hall, recreation center, community rooms, administrative offices, and medical treatment rooms.



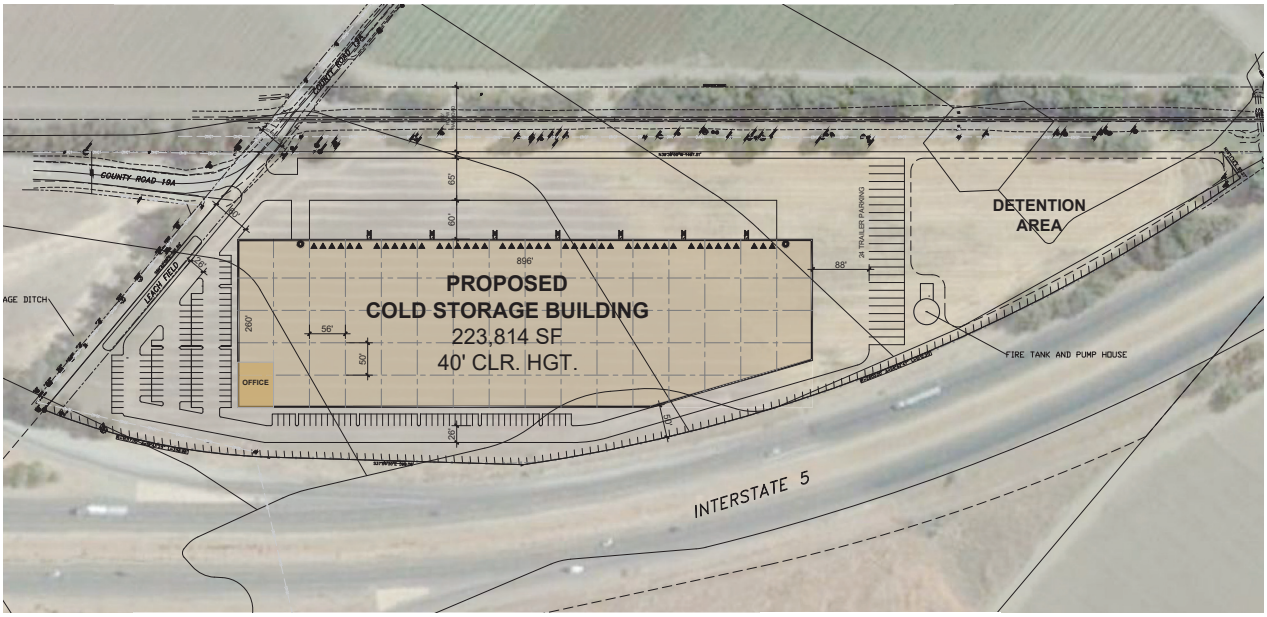
Heritage Oaks Park Improvements
(Source: MDG)

Rural Projects and Activities

Rural projects and activities include roads and bridges, bike lanes and multi-use trails, airports, agricultural economic development and open space, habitat conservation projects, parks and recreation, and aggregate mining within the 18 rural planning units (Planning Units 1 through 18). During this reporting period, two rural projects received Yolo HCP/NCCP permit coverage.

General Rural Development:

The County of Yolo issued permit coverage to a private applicant for the first phase of development of site that will eventually include a 223,814 square foot cold storage facility for cold and dry storage and/or processing of palatized agricultural commodities that are sensitive to temperature. It is anticipated that the second phase of this development project will be covered and reported in a future fiscal year.



Yolo Cold Storage Phase 1
(Source: Ware Malcomb)

Rural Public Services, Infrastructure, and Utilities:

The County of Yolo issued permit coverage to itself to replace the existing bridge on County Road 49 crossing over Hamilton Creek with funding made available through the Federal Highway Administration Highway Bridge Program and administered by California Department of Transportation.

Public and Private Operations and Maintenance

Operations and maintenance activities include activities that are necessary for the ongoing operations and maintenance of existing and planned land uses, facilities, and services in both urban and rural planning units throughout the Plan Area. Activity types eligible for coverage for operations and maintenance include: general urban and rural development operations and maintenance; public services, infrastructure, and utilities operations and maintenance; roads, bridges, bike lanes, and multi-use pathways; flood control facilities; general utilities; and activities associated with the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan. Eight operation and maintenance activities received permit coverage under the Yolo HCP/NCCP during the reporting period.

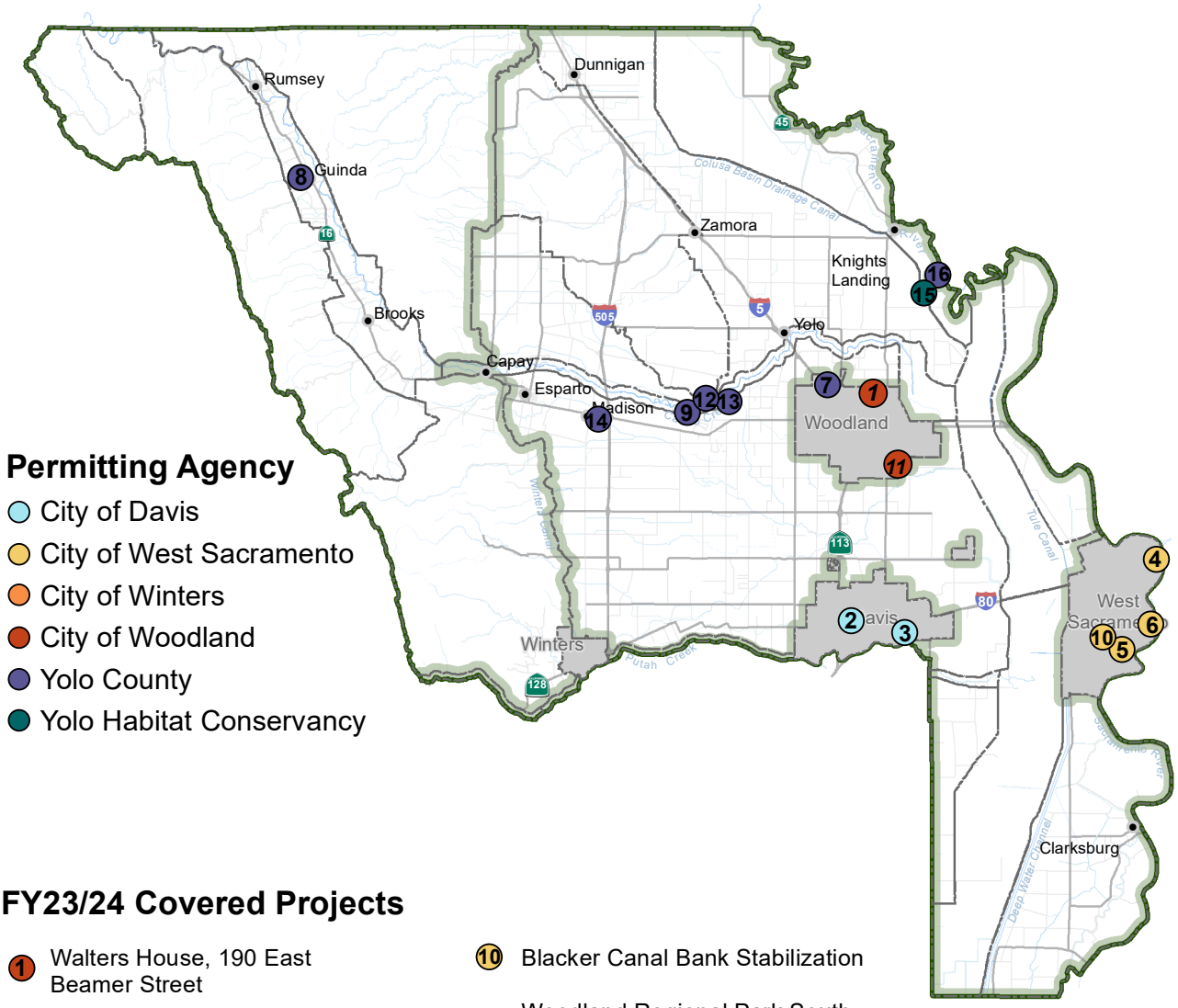
The County issued HCP/NCCP permit coverage for five public operations and maintenance projects: one to construct a new well and pump station to serve residences, facilities, wastewater treatment plant, and irrigation for the golf course in the Wild Wings County Service Area; one to remove and replace the headquarters for the Cache Creek Conservancy located on the County-owned Cache Creek Nature Preserve property; one to implement a streambank stabilization and enhancement project associated with the conditions of approval required as a part of the Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Permit; one to facilitate improvements to the drinking water and fire fighting infrastructure owned by the Madison Community Services District; and one to conduct geotechnical explorations along the Sacramento River Right Bank Levee to identify seepage issues and determine appropriate remediation measures.

The City of West Sacramento issued HCP/NCCP permit coverage for the stabilization of the banks of the Blacker Canal, located between Jefferson Boulevard and the Reclamation District 900 (RD900) Main Drainage Canal in the City of West Sacramento.

The City of Woodland itself HCP/NCCP permit coverage to expand an existing storm drainage ditch the southern border of the Woodland Regional Park Preserve that serves the Spring Lake subdivision development.

The Yolo Habitat Conservancy issued HCP/NCCP permit coverage to the Knights Landing Drainage District, a Special Participating Entity (SPE), to repair eroded areas along the Knights Landing Ridge Cut levees to arrest or avoid streambank erosion. The repairs stretch 1,900 feet from levee stations 62+00 to 81+00.

Figure 2-1: Covered activities in FY23/24



FY23/24 Covered Projects

1. Walters House, 190 East Beamer Street
2. Davis Collection
3. Yolo Crisis Nursery
4. 219-221 5th Street Apartments
5. Harmon Road TPM
6. Heritage Oaks Park Improvements
7. Yolo Cold Storage Phase 1
8. County Road 49 over Hamilton Creek Bridge Replacement
9. Wild Wings CSA Wood Duck Well and Pump Station
10. Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization
11. Woodland Regional Park South Canal Storm Ditch Widening
12. Cache Creek Nature Preserve Modular Building Replacement
13. Teichert Shifler Flood Hazard Development Permit
14. Madison Community Services District Water System Improvements
15. Knights Landing Ridge Cut Erosion Repair Plase 1B
16. Geotechnical Explorations along the Sacramento River Right Bank Levee in Knights Landing

Table 2-1: Covered activities for which permit coverage was granted during FY23/24

Project ID	Project Name	Activity Type	Covered By	Description	Natural Community	
					Perm. Impacts (acres)	Temp. Impacts (acres)
Urban Projects and Activities						
(1) 2019-12	Walters House, 190 East Beamer Street	General Urban Development	City of Woodland	Phase 3 of a project to provide affordable housing for those experiencing homelessness in Woodland and Yolo County. 'Walters House' will be developed as substance abuse treatment center that will provide support for on-site residents. The 15,177 SF facility will include approximately 65 beds, full commercial kitchen, dining hall, recreation center, community rooms, administrative offices, and medical treatment rooms. Friends of the Mission will construct and operate, Walters House, with services to include but not be limited to assessment, treatment planning, individual and group counseling, education, therapy, crisis intervention, transportation, and aftercare planning or such equivalent services as reasonably agreed to between City and Owner.	0	0
(2) 2023-15	Davis Collection	General Urban Development	City of Davis	Demolition of an existing 106,000 SF commercial retail building space and construction of a new 104,219 SF retail shopping space.	0	0
(3) 2023-16	Yolo Crisis Nursery	General Urban Development	City of Davis	The project involves development of a non-profit care facility that serves children in need by offering a variety of child abuse protection services, including its signature programs Crisis and Respite Care, Wraparound Services for Families, and Specialized Infant Daycare and Preschool for children of families transitioning out of crisis and special needs children. The project will consist of an 8,712 SF building plus two storage buildings totaling 709 SF. Other site improvements will include a surface parking lot, landscaping, outdoor play areas, and associated facilities.	0	0
(4) 2023-23	219-221 5th Street Apartments	General Urban Development	City of West Sacramento	Development will include construction of a three-story structure to provide 14,600 SF of living space within 18 units consisting of one-bedroom apartments and 17 two-bedroom apartments.	0	0
(5) 2023-28	Harmon Road TPM	General Urban Development	City of West Sacramento	A project to split two existing parcels into four approximately 1-acre parcels for future residential development.	0.1	0
(6) 2023-29	Heritage Oaks Park Improvements	General Urban Development	City of West Sacramento	Improvements to an existing City of West Sacramento park that include: a new outdoor amphitheater; public plaza; interactive water feature; dedicated open space/lawn area; nature themed play area; enhancements to the existing play area including a new shade feature and decorative safety fencing; new accessible walking paths, including an elevated boardwalk through the oak grove; a small, entry-level BMX skills course; skate plaza; public art; and demonstration garden.	0.9	0.06
Rural Projects and Activities						
(7) 2021-18	Yolo Cold Storage Phase 1	General Rural Development	Yolo County	The first phase of development of an eventual regional-serving 223,814 SF cold storage facility for cold and dry storage and/or processing of palatized agricultural commodities that are sensitive to temperature.	2.94	0
(8) 2021-13	County Road 49 over Hamilton Creek Bridge Replacement	Rural public services, infrastructure, and utilities	Yolo County	Project to replace the existing bridge on County Road 49 that crosses over Hamilton Creek with funding made available through the Federal Highway Administration Highway Bridge Program and administered by California Department of Transportation.	1.16	0.05

Table 2-1 Continued

Project ID	Project Name	Activity Type	Covered By	Description	Natural Community	
					Perm. Impacts (acres)	Temp. Impacts (acres)
Public and Private Operations and Maintenances						
(9) 2023-03	Wild Wings CSA Wood Duck Well and Pump Station	Public and Private Operations and Maintenance	Yolo County	Construction of a new well and pump station to meet the potable drinking water needs for the Wild Wings County Service Area residences, facilities, and supplemental water to the community wastewater treatment plant, and irrigation for the golf course.	0	0
(10) 2023-13	Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization	Public and Private Operations and Maintenance	City of West Sacramento	The Blacker Canal is an unlined urban drainage. Proposed activities include excavating unsuitable canal bank and channel material along the canal, constructing gabion barriers along the length of the canal, and placing fill behind the barriers to stabilize the canal banks.	1.89	0.996
(11) 2023-14	Woodland Regional Park South Canal Storm Ditch Widening	Public and Private Operations and Maintenance	City of Woodland	Expansion of an existing storm drainage ditch that serves the Spring Lake subdivision development and runs parallel to the southern border of the Woodland Regional Park Preserve.	0	2
(12) 2023-17	Cache Creek Nature Preserve Modular Building Replacement	Public and Private Operations and Maintenance	Yolo County	Removal and replacement of a modular building at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve to provide for a new headquarters for the Cache Creek Conservancy.	0	0
(13) 2023-26	Teichert Shifler Flood Hazard Development Permit	Public and Private Operations and Maintenance	Yolo County	A project to implement conditions of approval required as a part of the Teichert Shifler Mining and Reclamation Permit. The project is a streambank stabilization and enhancement project that involved removing non-native vegetation and replacing with native vegetation along portions of the south side of Cache Creek that abut the Shifler site.	0	0
(14) 2023-27	Madison Community Services District Water System Improvements	Public and Private Operations and Maintenance	Yolo County	Improvements to the drinking water infrastructure owned by the Madison Community Services District to provide safe and reliable drinking water, and an additional means of providing sufficient flow in case of fire since there is not adequate storage or pumping capacity in the existing system.	0	0.05
(15) 2022-04	Knights Landing Ridge Cut Erosion Repair, Phase 1B	Public and Private Operations and Maintenance	YHC (SPE)	Project to repair eroded areas along the Knights Landing Ridge Cut levees to arrest or avoid streambank erosion. The repairs stretch 1,900 feet from levee stations 62+00 to 81+00.	1.34	0.01
(16) 2024-01	Geotechnical Explorations along the Sacramento River Right Bank Levee in Knights Landing	Public and Private Operations and Maintenance	Yolo County	Geotechnical explorations east of the community of Knights Landing along the Sacramento River Right Bank Levee to investigate seepage deficiencies. The geotechnical explorations are a preparatory action that is necessary to obtain data to identify appropriate measures to remediate seepage deficiencies in the area.	0	0

Table 2-2: Avoidance and minimization measures applied to activities that received permit coverage during FY23/24

Project ID	Project Name	Avoidance and Minimization Measures[a]																				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
(1) 2019_12	Walters House, 1901 East Beamer Street	■		■	■	■	■	■	■								■		■			■
(2) 2023_15	Davis Collection																■					
(3) 2023_16	Yolo Crisis Nursery	■		■	■	■	■	■									■		■			
(4) 2023-23	219-221 5th St Apartments	■		■		■	■	■	■								■					
(5) 2023_28	Harmon Road TPM	■		■	■	■	■	■	■								■		■			■
(6) 2021_18	Yolo Cold Storage, Phase 1	■		■	■	■	■	■	■								■		■			
(7) 2022_04	Knights Landing Ridge Cut Erosion Repair, Phase 1B	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■		■			■
(8) 2023_03	Wild Wings CSA Wood Duck Well and Pump Station	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■					■		■		■	■		■
(9) 2023_13	Blacker Canal Bank Stabilization	■		■	■	■	■	■							■	■	■		■		■	■
(10) 2023_14	Woodland Regional Park South Canal Storm Ditch Widening	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■		■			■
(11) 2023_17	Cache Creek Nature Preserve Modular Building Replacement	■		■	■	■	■		■	■			■				■					
(12) 2023-26	Teichert Shifler Flood Hazard Development Permit	■		■	■	■	■	■					■		■		■	■		■	■	■
(13) 2023_27	Madison CSD Water System Improvements	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				■		■					
(14) 2023_29	Heritage Oaks Park Improvements	■		■		■	■	■	■		■		■				■					
(15) 2021_13	County Road 49 over Hamilton Creek Bridge Replacement	■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■		■				■					
(16) 2024_01	Geotechnical Explorations along the Sacramento River Right Bank Levee in Knights Landing	■		■	■	■	■		■				■				■					

a Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs)

AMM 1 *Establish Buffers*
AMM 2 *Design Developments to Minimize Indirect Effects at Urban-Habitat Interfaces*
AMM 3 *Confine and Delineate Work Area*
AMM 4 *Cover Trenches and Holes During Construction and Maintenance*
AMM 5 *Control Fugitive Dust*
AMM 6 *Conduct Worker Training*
AMM 7 *Control Night-Time Lighting of Project Construction Sites*
AMM 8 *Avoid and Minimize Effects of Construction Staging Areas and Temporary Work Areas*
AMM 9 *Establish Buffers Around Sensitive Natural Communities*
AMM 10 *Avoid and Minimize Effects on Wetlands and Waters*
AMM 11 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Palmate-Bracted Bird's Beak*
AMM 12 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle*
AMM 13 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of California Tiger Salamander*
AMM 14 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Northwestern Pond Turtle*
AMM 15 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Giant Garter Snake*
AMM 16 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Swainson's Hawk and White-Tailed Kite*
AMM 17 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo*
AMM 18 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Western Burrowing Owl*
AMM 19 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Least Bell's Vireo*
AMM 20 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Bank Swallow*
AMM 21 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Tricolored Blackbird*

Table 2-3: Permanent and temporary acreages disturbed by land cover type

Natural Communities	Reporting Period Impacts (acres)		Cumulative Impacts (acres)		Total Allowed Impacts (acres)		Cumulative Impacts (% toward cap)	
	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
Rice	--	--	--	--	87	--	0%	--
Cultivated Lands (non-rice)	2.9	--	183.5	68.2	9,910	203	1.9%	33.6%
Grassland	1.4	2.6	74.6	14.0	1,734	28	4.3%	50.1%
Blue Oak Woodland	--	--	0.40	--	3	--	13.3%	--
Alkali Prairie	--	--	--	--	4	4	0.0%	0%
Fresh Emergent Wetland	--	--	8.4	--	88	--	9.5%	--
Valley Foothill Riparian	1.13	--	10.1	--	588	--	1.7%	--
Lacustrine and Riverine	3.1	1.1	6.6	3.7	236	31	2.8%	11.8%
Total Natural Communities [a]	***8.53***	***3.7***	***283.7***	***85.9***	***12,649***	***266***	***2.2%***	***32.3%***

[a] *The totals for natural community loss do not match the total impacts in Table 2-1 because some of the impacts consisted of land cover types that provide covered species habitat but do not belong to any natural communities with the maximum allowable loss as listed in Table 5-1 of the HCP/NCCP (e.g., barren land that may support covered species)*

Figure 2-2: Percent of total allowed permanent and temporary impacts incurred by land cover type through FY23/24

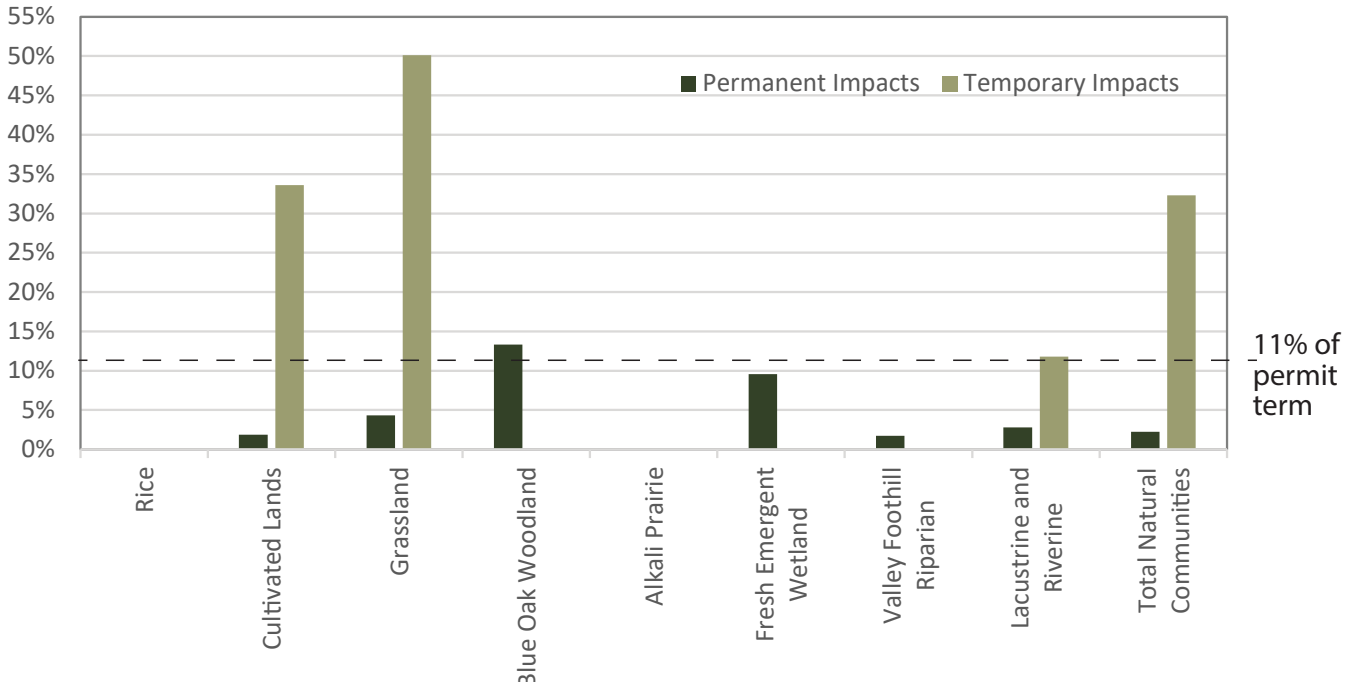


Table 2-4: Permanent and temporary impacts to modeled habitat

Covered Species	Reporting Period Impacts (acres except where noted)		Cumulative Impacts (acres except where noted)		Total Allowed Impacts (acres except where noted)		Cumulative Impacts (% toward cap)	
	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle								
Riparian habitat	0.00	--	3.29	--	523.00	--	0.6%	--
Non-riparian habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.00	1.00	0%	0%
Total	***0.00***	***0.00***	***3.29***	***0.00***	***584.00***	***1.00***	***0.6%***	***0%***
California tiger salamander								
Aquatic breeding habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	1.00	0%	0%
Upland habitat	0.00	0.00	13.26	0.00	398.00	1.00	3.3%	0%
Total	***0.00***	***0.00***	***13.26***	***0.00***	***410.00***	***2.00***	***3.2%***	***0%***
Ponds - seasonal aquatic breeding l	0	--	0	--	3	--	0%	--
Western pond turtle								
Aquatic habitat	1.89	2.76	11.91	4.48	369.00	31.00	3.2%	14.5%
Nesting and overwintering habitat	0.00	0.60	26.93	9.04	3,133.00	112.00	0.9%	8.1%
Total	***1.89***	***3.37***	***38.84***	***13.52***	***3,502.00***	***143.00***	***1.1%***	***9.5%***
Ponds - perennial aquatic habitat (#of ponds)	0	0	0	0	19	1	0%	0%
Ponds - perennial nesting and overwintering habitat (# of ponds)	0	--	0	--	5	--	0%	--
Total (no. of ponds)	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***24***	***1***	***0%***	***0%***
Giant garter snake								
Rice habitat	0.00	--	0.00	--	87.00	--	0%	--
Aquatic habitat	1.72	0.00	4.03	0.51	109.00	1.00	3.7%	51.0%
Freshwater emergent habitat	0.00	--	5.64	--	76.00	--	7.4%	--
Active season upland movement	0.00	1.02	11.04	1.45	441.00	3.00	2.5%	14.0%
Overwintering habitat	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	1,235.00	5.00	0%	0%
Total	***1.72***	***1.02***	***21.28***	***1.96***	***1,948.00***	***9.00***	***1.1%***	***11.1%***
Drainage (miles)	0.00	--	0.00	--	57.00	--	0%	--
Swainson's hawk								
Nesting habitat	0.06	--	13.28	--	651.00	--	2.0%	--
Natural foraging habitat	1.11	0.60	87.57	12.14	1,407.00	22.00	6.2%	55.2%
Cultivated lands foraging habitat	2.94	0.00	198.61	39.22	9,399.00	202.00	2.1%	19.4%
Total	***4.11***	***0.60***	***286.18***	***51.36***	***10,806.00***	***224.00***	***2.6%***	***22.9%***
Nest trees	0	--	0	--	20[a]	--	0%	--
White-tailed kite								
Nesting habitat	0.06	--	14.02	--	661.00	--	2.1%	--
Primary foraging habitat	1.11	0.60	70.90	11.74	2,609.00	29.00	2.7%	40.5%
Secondary foraging habitat	2.94	0.00	216.21	41.92	7,969.00	205.00	0.2%	20.4%
Total	***4.11***	***0.60***	***287.11***	***53.66***	***10,578.00***	***234.00***	***2.7%***	***22.9%***
Western yellow-billed cuckoo								
Nesting/foraging habitat	0.00	--	0.28	--	59.00	--	0.5%	--
Western burrowing owl								
Primary habitat	0.00	0.00	81.08	0.53	861.00	1.00	9.4%	53.0%
Other habitat	3.04	0.00	15.87	15.48	2,311.00	218.00	0.7%	7.1%
Total	***3.04***	***0.00***	***96.95***	***16.01***	***3,172.00***	***219.00***	***0.3%***	***7.3%***
Least Bell's vireo								
Nesting/foraging habitat	0.00	--	2.25	--	39.00	--	4.7%	--
Bank swallow								
Nesting habitat	0.00	--	1.90	--	37.00	--	5.1%	--
Tricolored blackbird								
Nesting habitat	2.89	--	12.18	--	86.00	--	14.2%	--
Foraging habitat	3.04	0.00	122.52	21.86	8,942.00	230.00	1.4%	9.5%
Total	***5.93***	***0.00***	***134.70***	***21.86***	***9,028.00***	***230.00***	***0%***	***0%***
Palmate-bracted bird's beak								
Habitat	0.00	--	0.00	--	4.00	--	0%	--

[a] *The Swainon's hawk nest tree take limit is set at 20 to account for the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures. The number of nest trees per planning unit will not exceed those provided in Yolo HCP/NCCP Table 5-5 and the total will not exceed 20 nest trees.*

3. Acquisition and Restoration

- This chapter describes Yolo HCP/NCCP land acquisition and restoration activities that occurred during the reporting period.

Acquisition

The heart of the Yolo HCP/NCCP conservation strategy is the creation of a reserve system that will include at least 33,406 acres (and up to 956 acres of additional restored natural community if loss of all allowable acres occurs) for the benefit of covered species, natural communities, biological diversity, and ecosystem function. The Conservancy will select lands for the reserve system based on reserve system assembly principles, criteria, and guidelines described in Yolo HCP/NCCP Section 6.4.1 Conservation Measure 1: Establish Reserve System. Of the 32,406 acres, 24,406 acres will consist of newly protected lands and 8,000 acres will consist of pre-permit reserve lands that the Conservancy enrolls into the reserve system and manages and monitors consistent with the Yolo HCP/NCCP. At the end of FY23/24 a total of 28 sites had been enrolled in the reserve system. The natural communities land cover contributions of the sites enrolled in the reserve system are summarized in Table 3-2 and the habitat contributions are summarized in Table 3-3.

During FY23/24 the Conservancy actively pursued the enrollment of both newly protected lands and pre-permit reserve lands into the reserve system. The Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) conducted site visits and prepared STAC evaluations for the Lucky Land site and the Muller Pond site during FY23/24. The Lucky Land site was approved by the Conservancy's Board of Directors, CDFW, and USFWS as candidate Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system sites in FY23/24. The Capay Inc Cache Creek Habitat Preserve, which was visited and evaluated by the STAC near the end of FY22/23 was also approved by the Conservancy's Board of Directors, CDFW, and USFWS as candidate Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system sites in FY23/24. The Muller Pond site was approved as a candidate Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system site by the Conservancy's Board in FY23/24 and subsequently by CDFW and USFWS. The candidate approval dates and total acreages associated with each of the sites approved as candidate reserve system sites during FY23/24 are included in Table 3-1. In addition to conducting initial STAC evaluations and obtaining candidate reserve system site approval for these sites, the Conservancy worked on conducting due dilligence activities and resolving title issues associated with these and other sites previoiusly approved as candidate sites for reserve system enrollment.

Table 3-1: Sites approved as candidate reserve system sites in FY23/24

Site Name	Approximate Conservation Area (Acres)[a]	Candidate Reserve Site Approval Dates		
		Conservancy	USFWS	CDFW
Capay Inc. Cache Creek Habitat Preserve	66	11/6/2023	9/7/2023	9/7/2023
Lucky Land	310	3/18/2024	3/18/2024	3/18/2024
Muller Pond	98	5/20/2024	7/17/2024	7/17/2024

a. Specific acreages to be enrolled in the reserve system will be identified in the associated conservation easement

Figure 3-1: Sites enrolled in the reserve system

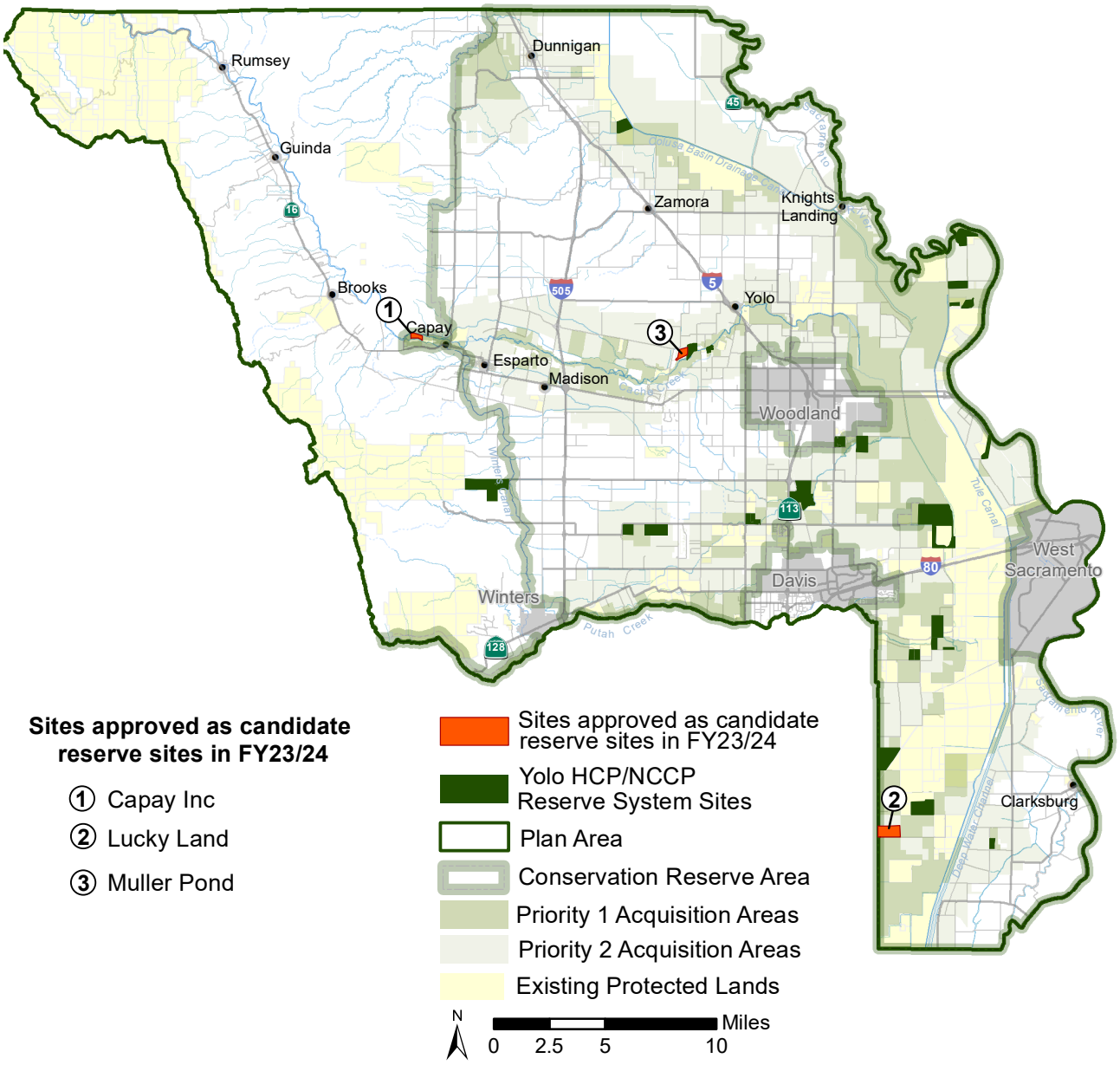


Figure 3-2: Actual vs. projected reserve system enrollment

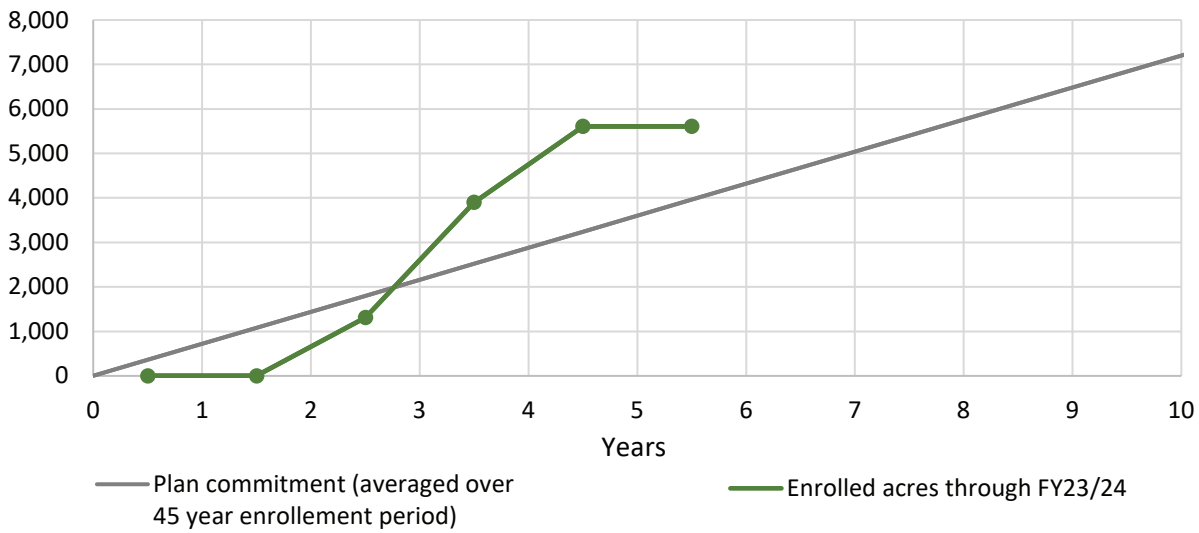


Table 3-2: Natural community land cover acres enrolled in the reserve system

Natural Communities	Total Enrollment Requirements (acres)			Cumulative Enrollment (acres)			Percent Complete (%)		
	Pre-Permit	Newly Protected	Restoration/ Creation (min./max.)[a]	Pre-Permit	Newly Protected	Restoration/ Creation	Pre-Permit	Newly Protected	Restoration/ Creation
Rice	1,775	2,800	--	883.1	0.0	--	49.8%	0%	--
Cultivated Lands (non-rice)	3,649	14,362	--	2360.2	238.6	--	64.7%	1.7%	--
Grassland	335	4,430	--	106.0	806.3	--	31.6%	18.2%	--
Oak Woodland (Valley Oak Woodland+ Blue Oak Woodland)	--	30	--	--	43.7	--	--	145.6%	--
Alkali Prairie	--	33.7	--	--	36.7	--	--	109%	--
Vernal Pool Complex	--	--	--	--	0.9	--	--	--	--
Fresh Emergent Wetland	750	500	8.4 / 88[b]	674.4	5.5	5.62	89.9%	1.1%	67% / 6%
Valley Foothill Riparian	--	1,600	30.1/ 608[c]	237.8	32.3	6.38	100%[e]	2%	21% / 1%
Lacustrine and Riverine	--	600	30.6/ 260[d]	82.5	7.8	6.37	100%[e]	1.3%	21% / 3%
Total Natural Communities[f]	***8,000***	***24,406***	***69.1 / 956***	***4,344.1***	***1,171.8***	***18.37***	***54.3%***	***4.8%***	***26.6%***

[a] The minimum requirement amount shown is the amount of mitigation required as a result of impacts by covered activities to-date plus any restoration commitments above mitigation. The maximum amount is the total maximum stated in the Yolo HCP/NCCP.

[b] The fresh emergent wetland requirement is to restore an acre of fresh emergent wetland for each acre removed as a result of covered activities up to a maximum of 88 acres. The amount identified is the total acres removed as of the end of FY22/23.

[c] The valley foothill riparian requirement is to restore 20 acres of valley foothill riparian and an additional acre of valley foothill riparian for each acre removed as a result of covered activities up to a maximum of 588 additional acres. The amount identified is the sum of the 20 acre commitment and the total acres removed as of the end of FY22/23.

[d] The lacustrine and riverine requirement is to restore 24 acres of lacustrine specifically for California tiger salamander aquatic habitat and to restore up to 236 acres of lacustrine and riverine for each acre removed as a result of covered activities. The 24 acres may be subsumed within the 236 acres as long as the total restored California tiger salamander aquatic habitat is at least 36 acres. The amount identified is the sum of the 24 acre commitment and the total acres removed as of the end of FY22/23.

[e] The dataset used to establish the land coverage acerage requirements for reserve lands was prepared several years prior to when the Yolo HCP/NCCP began implementation. Two of the pre-permit sites had significant land cover changes that resulted a reduction in cultivated lands and an increase in foothill valley riparian and fresh emergent wetland land cover types prior to Yolo HCP/NCCP, resulting in actual acerages for valley foothill ripairan and lacustrine and riverine land cover within pre-permit lands that exceed what was previously anticipated.

[f] The total acreages shown in this table are less than what is shown as the total acres enrolled in Table 3-1 because some of the enrolled acres include other land cover types.

Table 3-3: Modeled species habitat enrolled in the reserve system

	Cumulative Conservation Through FY23/24 (acres except where noted)		Total Conservation Commitment (acres except where noted)		Percent Complete (% toward conservation commitment)	
Covered Species Habitat	**Pre-Permit**	**Newly Protected**	**Pre-Permit**	**Newly Protected**	**Pre-Permit**	**Newly Protected**
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle						
Riparian habitat[a]	210	13	10	1600	100%	1%
Non-riparian habitat	36	20	120	20	30%	20
Total	***246***	***22***	***130***	***1620***	***100%***	***1%***
California tiger salamander						
Aquatic breeding habitat	0	0	27	36	0%	0%
Upland habitat	0	0	340	2,000	0%	0%
Total	***0***	***0***	***367***	***2,036***	***0%***	***0%***
Ponds - seasonal aquatic breeding	--	0	--	36	--	0%
Western pond turtle						
Aquatic habitat	1069	13	2098	2400	51.0%	0.5%
Nesting and overwintering habitat	679	699	978	3475	69.4%	20.1%
Total	***1749***	***712***	***3076***	***5875***	***56.8%***	***12.1%***
Giant garter snake						
Rice habitat	883	0	1775	2800	49.8%	0%
Aquatic habitat	66	8	140	420	47.1%	1.9%
Freshwater emergent habitat	678	2	750	500	90.4%	0.4%
Active season upland movement	28	25	130	1160	21.8%	2.2%
Overwintering habitat	10	78	115	2315	9.0%	3%
Total	***1666***	***114***	***2910***	***7195***	***57.2%***	***1.6%***
Swainson's hawk						
Nesting habitat	108	16	215	1,600	50.4%	1.0%
Natural foraging habitat	177	843	980	4,430	18.1%	19.0%
Cultivated lands foraging habitat	2,323	290	3,600	14,362	64.5%	2.0%
Total	***2,609***	***1,149***	***4,795***	20,392	***54.4%***	***5.6%***
White-tailed kite						
Nesting habitat	108	92	215	1,600	50.4%	6%
Foraging habitat	2,144	999	3,330	18,792	64.4%	5%
Total	***2,252***	***1,090***	***3,545***	***18,792***	***63.5%***	***6%***
Western yellow-billed cuckoo						
Nesting/foraging habitat[a]	***164***	***0***	***135***	***500***	***121%***	***0%***
Western burrowing owl						
Primary habitat	85	100	330	3,000	25.8%	3.3%
Other habitat	843	186	770	2,500	109.5%	7.4%
Total	***928***	***287***	***1,100***	***5,500***	***84.4%***	***5.2%***
Least Bell's vireo						
Nesting/foraging habitat[a]	***186.60***	***0***	***110***	***600***	***169.6%***	***0%***
Bank swallow						
Nesting habitat	***1.8***	***0***	***--***	***50***	***100%***	***0%***
Tricolored blackbird						
Nesting habitat[a]	265	0	150	200	100%	0%
Foraging habitat	2,771	1,016	4,000	16,610	69.3%	6.1%
Total	***3,036***	***1,016***	***4,150***	***16,810***	***73.1%***	***6.0%***
Palmate-bracted bird's beak						
Habitat	***0***	***37***	***141***	***33***	***0%***	***111.2%***

[a] *The dataset used to establish the land coverage acerage requirements for reserve lands was prepared several years prior to when the Yolo HCP/NCCP began implementation. Two of the pre-permit sites had significant land cover changes that resulted a reduction in cultivated lands and an increase in foothill valley riparian and fresh emergent wetland land cover types, resulting in modeled habitat acerages within pre-permit lands that exceed what was previously anticipated for some habitat types.*

Restoration

Restoration is an important component of the overall Yolo HCP/NCCP conservation strategy. Restoration is defined as the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site, with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a site that historically supported such functions but no longer does because of the loss of one or more required ecological factors or as a result of past disturbance.

Under the Yolo HCP/NCCP at least 20 acres of valley foothill riparian and 24 acres of lacustrine and riverine natural communities will be restored independent of impacts to these natural communities. Additional acres of fresh emergent wetland, valley foothill riparian, and lacustrine and riverine natural communities will be restored at a ratio of one acre restored for each acre of loss that is covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP permits. The Yolo HCP/NCCP allows for a maximum loss of 88 acres of fresh emergent wetland, 588 acres of valley foothill riparian, and 212 acres of lacustrine and riverine natural communities. The Conservancy will complete construction of all habitat restoration projects by Year 40 of the permit term.

During FY23/24, there were three Yolo HCP/NCCP sites undergoing restoration and/or monitoring of recent restoration activities. These sites include monitoring and maintenance of valley foothill riparian plantings and elderberry transplants within previously restored portions of the Woodland Reiff VELB site, active valley foothill riparian restoration and elderberry transplants within portions the Correll site, and active habitat creation and enhancement at the Woodland Regional Park Preserve wetlands. Summaries of each of these efforts are provided below. Each of these efforts was either actively undergoing restoration and/or monitoring of recent restoration activities. The restoration and enhancement acreages attributed to each site are not considered final until verified that success criteria have been met after 5 years of post-restoration monitoring.

Table 3-4: Restoration activities conducted through FY23/24

Restoration Project Name	Year Initiated	Year Completed	End of 5 year establishment period	Restoration (acres)[a]		
				Fresh Emergent Wetland	Valley Foothill Riparian	Lacustrine and Riverine
Woodland Reiff VELB1	2019	2020	2024	--	3.14	--
Correll VELB - Pioneer Village	2021	2022	2027	--	0.45	--
Correll VELB - Rivers 202	2021	2022	2027	--	0.08	--
Correll VELB - UC Davis Orchard Park	2022	2023	2027	--	0.67	--
Correll VELB - Rivers 2	2023	2023	2028	--	0.28	--
Correll VELB - County Road 41	2023	2023	2028	--	0.32	--
Correll VELB - CCC	2023	2023	2028	--	0.38	--
Correll General Riparian Restoration	2023	2023	2028	--	0.66	--
Woodland Regional Park Preserve[c,d]	2023	ongoing	pending	5.62	0.38	6.37
			TOTAL:	**5.62**	**6.36**	**6.37**

a. Acreages listed are acres planted to-date but will not officially count towards the HCP/NCCP restoration targets until success criteria are met at the end of the 5-year establishment period for each individual restoration project.
b. Acres identified for Woodland Regional Park Preserve restoration are the acres created to-date. Additional fresh emergent wetland and valley foothill riparian habitat restoration activities for this site are still in progress.
c. Initial grading for the wetlands restoration at Woodland Regional Park Preserve began in 2019 but the site was not enrolled in the HCP/NCCP until June 2023. The date identified as the initial date is in reference to when the site became part of the HCP/NCCP reserve system.

Woodland Reiff VELB Site

In 2020, the Conservancy issued permits to cover a project that was required to implement Avoidance and Minimization Measure 12, Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB). Compliance required the transplanting of 37 elderberry shrubs, planting, maintenance, and monitoring of 290 blue elderberry seedlings, and 465 native associate species seedlings (755 total plantings) within a 3.14-acre portion of the Woodland-Reiff VELB Site. A minimum of 60% of the required plantings must be surviving at the end of the 5-year monitoring term. A total of 878 elderberry seedlings and native associates were planted to help ensure that survival criteria are met and to reduce the need for future re-planting because of plant mortality. Specific maintenance activities have included providing weed control, minimizing herbivory, mowing, and trash removal. Due to initial overplanting efforts the survival rates documented in 2024, the 5th and final year of monitoring, exceeded all minimum success criteria with elderberry plantings at 100.3% and native associate plantings at 77.2%

Table 3-5: Woodland Reiff restoration planting monitoring results for FY23/24 (Year 5)

Planting	Min. # Required to be Planted	Total # Planted	Total # Surviving	% Survival[a]
Blue elderberry	290	327	291	100%
Native Associate Plantings	465	551	359	77%
Overall Total	755	878	650	86%

[a] *Calculated by dividing the "Total # Surviving" by the "Min. # Required to be Planted".*

Correll

After enrolling the 38.9-acre Correll site into the reserve system in FY21/22, a restoration plan was developed for the site to provide a blueprint for designating areas of the site suitable for VELB habitat mitigation and general riparian restoration. By the end of FY23/24, various portions of the Correll site had been planted with native riparian seedlings in an effort to provide VELB mitigation for six different projects covered under the Yolo HCP/NCCP (Pioneer Village, Rivers 202, Rivers 2, UC Davis Orchard Park, Cache Creek Nature Preserve Modular Building, and County Road 41 'Rumsey' Bridge Replacement) as well as to provide general riparian restoration within the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system. Similar to the plantings at Woodland Reiff, these plantings are monitored and managed for a minimum of five years with re-plantings conducted if fewer than 60% of the plants required for mitigation survive. In February of 2022, two mature elderberry transplants, 64 elderberry seedlings and 64 native associated tree, shrub, and vine seedlings were planted on the Correll site to provide VELB mitigation for two projects covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP (Pioneer Village and Rivers 202). In February of 2023, a total of 88 blue elderberry seedlings and 154 native associated tree, shrub, and vine seedlings (142 plants were required) were planted to provide VELB mitigation for two additional projects covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP (Rivers 2 and Orchard Park). Starting in November 2023, two elderberry transplants, 105 elderberry seedlings, and 71 associated native plant seedlings were planted (55 plants were required) to provide VELB mitigation for two additional projects covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP (Cache Creek Nature Preserve Modular Building, and County Road 41 'Rumsey' Bridge Replacement) and an additional 160 native riparian seedlings and cuttings were planted in an area of the site designated for general riparian restoration.

Mature elderberry shrubs being transplanted to the Correll site by Triangle Properties
(Source: Yolo RCD, December 2023)

A series of significant winter storms in early 2023 flooded a large portion of the Correll site when a portion of the levee between the Correll basin and the active Cache Creek channel was overtopped by the creek, leaving a large portion of the areas previously planted as VELB mitigation submerged for several weeks. After the water on the site subsided the Yolo RCD documented plant mortality, coordinated with the Conservancy to update the site restoration plan to reconfigure the designated restoration and VELB mitigation areas to keep future elderberry plantings above the primary flood inundation zone, and developed a strategy to replace plants that did not survive the 2023 floods. In fall of 2023, the plantings for UC Davis Orchard Park and Rivers 2 were re-planted within the same planting areas but with species stratified to ensure that only flood-tolerant species were located within the identifeid flood zone. The original Pioneer Village and Rivers 202 original VELB mitigation areas were almost entirely within the area flooded in the winter of 2023 so this area was re-classified as a general riparian restoration area for flood tolerant species and the VELB mitigation areas for these projects were moved to the adjacent Rodgers site and re-planting is scheduled to occur there during the FY24/25 winter planting season. To account for the death of the two mature elderberry transplants in the Rivers 202 project, an additional 10 elderberry seedlings will be included in the re-planting of this project. Table 3-6 summarizes the plantings that have occurred on the Correll site through FY23/24.

Inundated plantings in the basin of the Correll site
(Source: Yolo RCD)

Table 3-6: Correll restoration planting monitoring results for FY23/24

Planting	Min. # Required to be Planted[a]	Total # Planted	Total # Surviving	% Survival[a]
UC Davis Orchard Park and Rivers 2 (Year 2)				
Blue elderberry	88	88	53	60%
Native Associate Plantings	142	154	144	101%
Overall Total	230	242	197	86%
Pioneer Village and Rivers 202[b]				
Blue elderberry	64	64	--	--
Native Associate Plantings	64	64	--	--
Overall Total	128	128	--	--
Cache Creek Nature Preserve Modular Building and County Road 41 Bridge Replacement[c]				
Blue elderberry	105	108	--	--
Native Associate Plantings	65	71	--	--
Overall Total	170	179	--	--

a. Calculated by dividing the "Total # Surviving" by the "Min. # Required to be Planted."

b. These plantings were inundated by flood waters and will be re-planted in the FY24/25 winter planting season.

c. These plantings were planted in winter of FY23/24. Year one survival monitoring will be reported in FY24/25.

Woodland Regional Park Preserve Wetland

Woodland Regional Park Preserve is an approximately 153-acre site that contains alkali prairie, grassland, fresh emergent wetland, riparian, lacustrine, and vernal pool natural communities. The site was enrolled in the reserve system in FY 22/23 to protect and enhance habitat for palmate-bracted bird's beak as well as to provide habitat for Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, northwestern pond turtle, tricolored blackbird and a variety of other species. Restoration/creation activities on this site have primarily focussed on the created wetland and riparian area located in the southeast portion of the site while efforts in the grassland and alkali prairie portions of the site have been focussed on habitat enhancement as summarized in Chapter 4 of this annual report.

The City of Woodland, Tuleyome, and the California Waterfowl Association, in coordination with the Conservancy and a variety of project partners, developed a restoration plan for the former borrow pit located at Woodland Regional Park Preserve that was approved by USFWS and CDFW during FY19/20 (ICF, 2020). Initial restoration efforts began during FY19/20. These efforts included excavating deeper open water areas to provide lacustrine habitat; leveling and grading seasonal wetlands to provide fresh emergent wetland habitat; enhancing and restoring riparian habitat; and planting a variety of native riparian and wetland plants. The restoration design for this site relies on a combination of active planting/seeding native plant species and allowing for natural recruitment to occur along the edges of the permanent wetland and within the seasonal wetland area. Plantings within the areas designated for valley foothill riparian restoration have occurred incrementally and are ongoing in combination with invasive species removal. A well equipped with a variable speed pump was installed on the site in FY21/22 to provide a dedicated water supply in order to ensure water on the site year-round for aquatic and wetland habitat. The well pump was operated such that water was maintained in the constructed wetland for the first time throughout the summer in FY22/23, enabling rapid recruitment of aquatic and riparian vegetation within and along the edges of the constructed wetland in both FY22/23 and FY23/24. During FY23/24, the Yolo RCD surveyed and mapped the native trees and shrubs that were previously planted within the ripairan portion of the site to assess species survival rates and to identify suitable species and locations for future planting efforts.

Woodland Regional Park Preserve Constructed Wetland

Photo on left taken in 2019 after initial site grading, photo on right taken in 2024 (Source: Alford Environmental)

4. Management and Monitoring

- This chapter summarizes the management, enhancement, monitoring, and research activities the Conservancy and partners conducted within the Yolo HCP/NCCP Plan Area and reserve system lands during the reporting period.

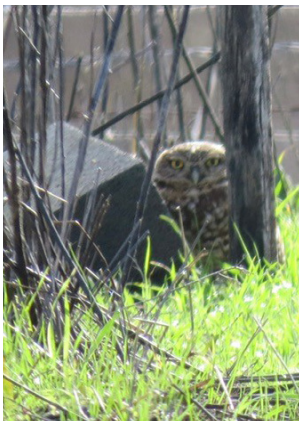
Reserve Management and Enhancement

Management Plans

During FY23/24 the Conservancy completed the Rodgers Site-Specific Management Plan consistent with the Lower Cache Creek Reserve Unit Management Plan (ICF, 2023). Due to the location of this candidate reserve system site within the Cache Creek Area Plan boundaries, the site-specific management plan was also developed to be consistent with the Parkway Plan (Yolo County, 2020) and the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan for Lower Cache Creek (Yolo County, 2019). The site-specific management plan for the 30-acre Rodgers site was reviewed and approved by County staff (landowner), Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW representatives during FY23/24. The Rodgers site has been conditionally approved by USFWS and CDFW for enrollment in the reserve system, pending the removal of a title encumbrance associated with an historic access easement. The Conservancy is working with the landowner and adjacent landowners who are parties to the access easement to have it extinguished so that the site can be enrolled in the HCP/NCCP reserve system.

Burrowing Owl Habitat Enhancement

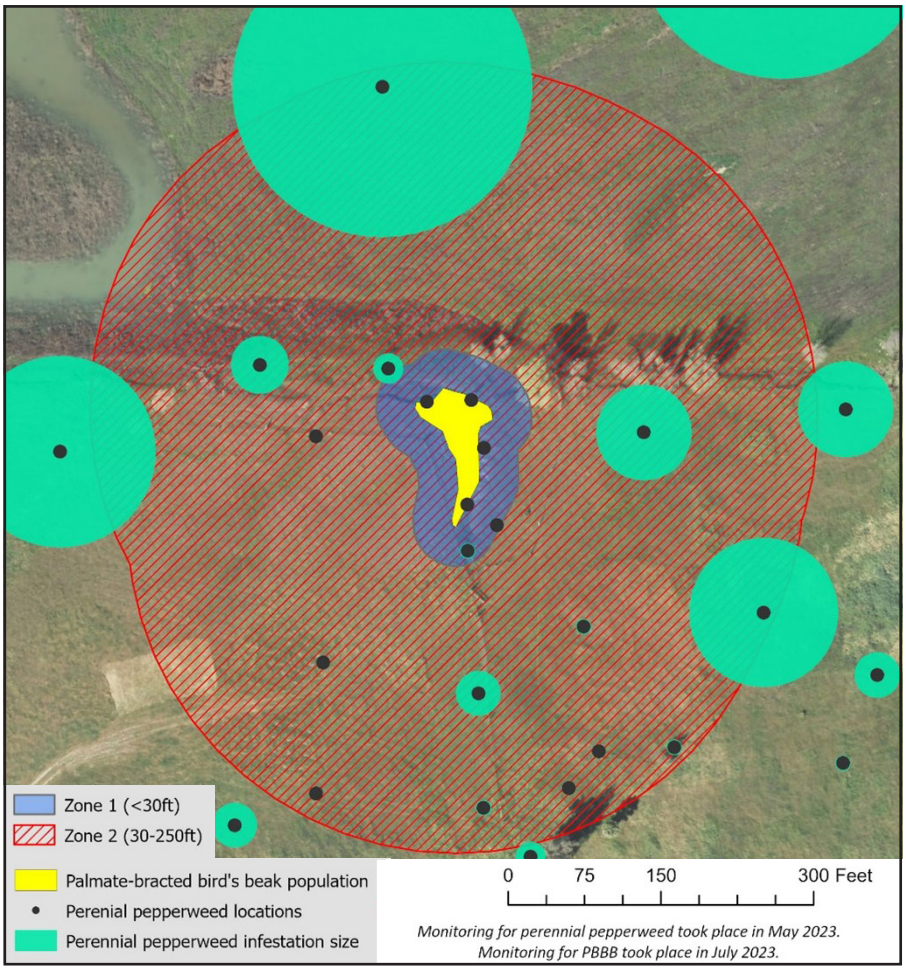
Burrowing owls have been observed foraging on lands adjacent to Woodland Regional Park Preserve; however, there are few natural burrows in the immediate area available for nesting and limited shelter available for owls to avoid predators or inclimate weather. In January and February of 2024 the Conservancy partnered with the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society and Boy Scout Troop #139 to install two shelters and eight artificial burrowing owl nest boxes within the Woodland Regional Park Preserve. No nesting activity was observed during the remainder of FY23/24; however, owl pellets were observed at the entrances of the two shelters within three weeks of their initial installation and a single burrowing owl was observed on the Woodland Regional Park Preserve within the vicinity of the shelters on multiple occassions in February and March.



Palmate-Bracted Bird's Beak Habitat Enhancement

The area within and surrounding the population of palmate-bracted bird's beak (PBBB; Chloropyron palmatum) at Woodland Regional Park Preserve is dominated by a variety of non-native annual grasses and forbs such as perrennial pepperweed (Lepidium latifolium). During FY23/24 the Conservancy and Yolo RCD developed a proposed approach for managing non-native species located within the 250-foot buffer area surrounding the existing PBBB population on the Woodland Regional Park Preserve site in an effort to control nonnative plants and reduce adverse effects on habitat conditions and enhance the functions of alkali prairie within the Reserve System consistent with Yolo HCP/NCCP Objective NC-AP1.2. The approach includes utilizing a combination of grazing and/or mowing and targeted herbicide applications within the alkali prairie areas of Woodland Regional Park Preserve that are greater than 30-feet from the PBBB population. For portions of the site that are between 30 and 250 feet from the PBBB population (Zone 2), herbicide treatment would take place between April-July, after pepperweed has reached the bud stage of maturity and throughout the flowering period. Pepperweed plants will be individually spot-sprayed with chlorsulfuron (Telar) or glyphosate (Roundup Custom) using a backpack sprayer and very low-pressure spray wand. Management within the 30-foot buffer area (Zone 1) is limited to hand-clipping of perennial pepperweed and other invasive broadleaf weeds at ground level to remove all live aboveground material and string-trimming and/or grazing annual grasses before and during their bloom time, before seeds are mature, to reduce biomass and prevent grasses from setting seed. This management approach was approved by USFWS on April 4, 2024 and by CDFW on April 9, 2024. At the end of April 2024, Yolo RCD began backpack spray treatments in the area between 30 to 250 feet from the PBBB population (Zone 2) and Conservancy staff, Yolo RCD staff, and volunteers conducted manual defoliation of perrennial pepperweed plants located both directly within the 0.056-acre portion of the Woodland Regional Park Preserve that is occupied by PBBB and the surrounding 30-foot buffer area (Zone 1).

Figure 4-1: Palmate-Bracted Bird's Beak Management Zones



Reserve System Monitoring

Covered Species Monitoring: Palmate-bracted bird's beak

The Yolo HCP/NCCP's occupancy commitment for PBBB is to increase the 10-year average size of the population of PBBB within the Woodland Regional Park Preserve by at least 10% by managing and enhancing habitat. In order to track the population size, the Conservancy has had the PBBB population at Woodland Regional Park Preserve surveyed annually since the Yolo HCP/NCCP began implementation in 2019. Additionally, some population records are available from surveys conducted by others in prior years. Table 4-1 summarizes the number of individual plants observed during each annual PBBB survey conducted at Woodland Regional Park Preserve. Figure 4-1 shows the spatial extent of the population as mapped in FY22/23. The spatial extent of the population did not change in FY23/24.

Table 4-1: Palmate-bracted bird's beak population survey results

Year	PBBB plants	Surveyors
1996	482	Showers
--	--	--
2009	25	Dean
2010	--	--
2011	0	Barnett
2012	--	--
2013	--	--
2014	--	--
2015	--	--
2016	--	--
2017	87	CNLM[a]
2018	42	CNLM[a]
2019	85	CNLM[a]
2020	282	CNLM[a]
2021	47	Barry and Hogan
2022	175	Barry and Hogan
2023	252	Barry, Hogan, Alford, & Williams
2024	292	Barry, Hogan, Alford, & Meyer

a. Center for Natural Lands Management

Covered Species Monitoring: Swainson's hawk occupied nest sites

The Yolo HCP/NCCP's occupancy commitment for Swainson's hawk is to protect at least 20 Swainson's hawk nest trees, with a nest tree being defined as a tree that has been occupied by an active nesting pair within at least one of the previous five years. The schedule for nest tree protection is based on the HCP/NCCP's Stay Ahead provisions. To-date, no Swainson's hawk nest sites have been impacted by Yolo HCP/NCCP covered activities. Table 4-2 identifies the reserve system sites that have had occupied nest trees on them within the past five years. It is worth noting that easement compliance surveys are not always conducted during the breeding season and the Plan-wide nest survey is conducted once every five years so there may have been additional reserve system sites with occupied nest trees or sites with occupied nests over multiple years that were not detected. The next Plan-wide Swainson's hawk nest survey is scheduled to occur in FY24/25.

Table 4-2: Occupied Swainson's hawk nests within the reserve system

Reserve Site	Occupied Nest Sites	Year of Observation
Conaway Ranch TCBB CE	2	2020[a]
Peabody Ranch West	1	2020[a]
CCR1	1	2020[a]
Koontz	1	2020[a]
Merritt Ranch	3	2020[a]
Correll	1	2024[b]
Woodland Regional Park Preserve	1	2024[b]
Overall Total	**10**	

a. Occupied nest identified during Plan-wide Nest Survey (Estep, 2020)
b. Occupied nest identified during reserve system management and restoration activities (Yolo RCD, 2024)

Covered Species Monitoring: Bank swallow

The Cache Creek Technical Advisory Committee Biologist, Drew Rayburn, observed at least 240 holes and several bank swallows on the south bank of Cache Creek within the southeast portion of the Woodland Reiff site on June 12, 2024 during the 2024 Cache Creek Walk. This is the first observation of an active bank swallow nesting colony on a Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system site.

Covered Species: Valley elderberry longhorn beetle

The Yolo HCP/NCCP prioritizes the protection of occupied VELB habitat. Baseline surveys conducted during FY21/22 within the Woodland Reiff, Correll, and Rodgers sites identified elderberry shrubs with exit holes present on each of the three sites. As part of the FY23/24 restoration monitoring survey for the Woodland Reiff VELB mitigation planting, Triangle Properties staff conducted a comprehensive survey of elderberry stems ≥1 inch in June and July 2024 to determine recent VELB use of elderberry plants within, and immediately adjacent to, the mitigation planting area on that site. No adult VELB were observed in 2024; however, one transplanted elderberry shrub and three previously existing shrubs located within or along the planting area were observed to have recent exit holes.

Invasive species monitoring

Invasives removed from Woodland Regional Park Preserve by volunteers

The Yolo RCD continued to map and monitor target invasive species at Correll and Woodland Regional Park Preserve during FY23/24 including perennial pepperweed (Lepidium latifolium), barbed goatgrass (Aegilops triuncialis), stinkwort (Dittrichia graveolens), white top (Lepidium draba), and Russian knapweed (Rhaponticum repens, a.k.a Acroptilon repens). Target invasive species were managed in tandem with montoring efforts. Target invasive species within VELB mitigation and riparian planting areas were managed using a combination of hand-pulling within cages, string-trimming or weed-whacking in areas of high topography, mowing between rows, and spot spraying to target invasive broadleaf weeds. At the Correll site the Yolo RCD collected and disposed of barbed goatgrass seed heads from small populations discovered in 2023 along the northern border of the Correll site to minimize the spread of this highly invasive species and also mapped and cut stinkwort populations found at the Correll site. Perrenial pepperweed populations located around the PBBB population, the constructed wetland, and the immediate surrounding area within Woodland Regional Park Preserve were treated with a combination of grazing, weed-whacking, and backpack spraying in the areas outside of the PBBB 30-foot buffer zone while perennial pepperweed plants located within the 30-foot buffer zone were hand-stripped several times during the spring and summer to prevent the plants from producing seed and to reduce plant vigor and the shading of other plants. Volunteers at Woodland Regional Park Preserve also aided in the removal of stinkwort, yellow starthistle, and other invasive species found within the the Woodland Regional Park Preserve.

Effectiveness monitoring

The VELB mitigation areas previously planted at Woodland Reiff and the Correll site were monitored during FY23/24 to determine overall plant health and survival rates as described in the Restoration section of Chapter 3.

Easement Compliance Monitoring

The Yolo RCD and Yolo Land Trust conducted easement compliance monitoring on all of the sites that are enrolled in the Yolo HCP/NCCP as newly protected lands and pre-permit lands that have easements that are held by the Conservancy. Other parties, including the Cache Creek Conservancy, California Waterfowl Association, and the Wildlife Heritage Foundation also each hold easements on sites that are enrolled as pre-permit sites in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system. All easements monitored by the Yolo RCD, Yolo Land Trust, Cache Creek Conservancy, and California Waterfowl were in compliance with the terms of their respective easements during FY23/24. The Conservancy was notified at the end of FY23/24 by the Wildlife Heritage Foundation that they had sent the landowner of the Sacramento River Ranch Swainson's hawk easement site, a pre-permit site with a conservation easement held by the Wildlife Heritage Foundation, a notice of violation on May 6, 2024. The Wildlife Heritage Foundation informed the Conservancy that they have requested a meeting with the landowner to discuss the violation and determine a remedy to the violation.

5. Stay Ahead Compliance and Changed Circumstances

- This chapter includes key components of the Yolo HCP/NCCP's compliance monitoring requirements for the stay-ahead provision and for changed and unforeseen circumstances.

Stay-Ahead Provision Compliance

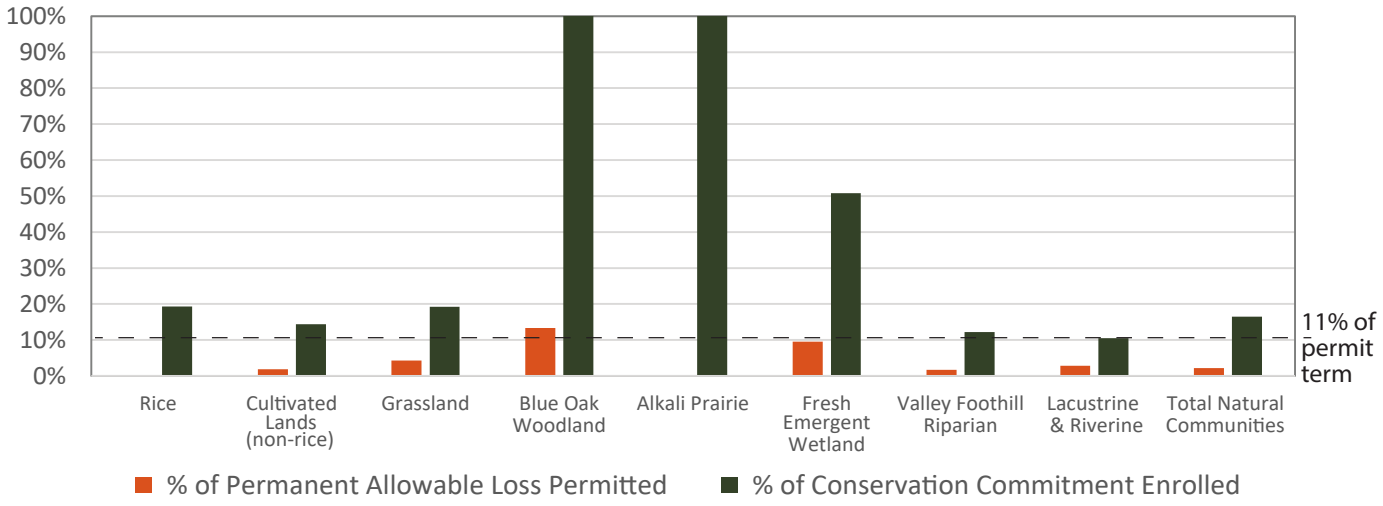
The conservation strategy of an NCCP must be implemented at or faster than the rate at which the loss of natural communities or habitat for covered species occurs so that conservation always stays ahead of effects and rough proportionality is maintained between adverse effects on natural communities or covered species and conservation measures (California Fish and Game Code Section 2820(b)(3)(B)). The Yolo HCP/NCCP stay-ahead provision requires the Conservancy to ensure the amount of each natural community conserved, restored, or created by the Conservancy as a proportion of the total requirement for each natural community is roughly proportional to the impact on that natural community as a proportion of the total impact expected by all covered activities. Per Section 7.5.3.1 of the Yolo HCP/NCCP, the stay-ahead provision of the Yolo HCP/NCCP is being met as long as conservation measure implementation (i.e., preservation, restoration, or creation) does not fall behind the pace of covered activity impacts by more than 10 percent (conservation overall and by each land cover type). In situations where the stay-ahead provision is not met, the Conservancy will notify USFWS and CDFW staff within 30 days of completion of the annual report and will meet to develop and implement a mutually agreed upon plan of action to address any deficits in land conservation as described in Yolo HCP/NCCP Section 7.5.3.3.

As shown in Table 5-1, the percentage of the total amount of natural communities acreage enrolled in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system by the end of FY23/24 was 14.3 percent greater than the percentage of the total allowable permanent impacts that had been incurred by the end of FY23/24, meaning that the overall permanent conservation efforts of the Yolo HCP/NCCP implemented by the end of FY23/24 were proportionally greater than the permanent impacts covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP. All eight natural community land cover classifications that are used to track impacts that are covered under the Yolo HCP/NCCP and conserved lands that are enrolled in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system had a greater percentage of cumulative reserve system enrollment (% towards completing the overall commitment) than the percentage of cumulative allowable impact permitted (% towards cap) at the end of FY23/24. At the end of FY23/24, the stay-ahead provision was met both cumulatively and for each individual land cover type.

Table 5-1: Natural communities impacts and enrollment through FY23/24

Natural Communities	Cumulative Permanent Impacts (% of cap)	Cumulative Reserve Enrollment (% complete)	Difference (%)
Rice	0%	19.3%	19.3%
Cultivated Lands (non-rice)	1.9%	14.4%	12.5%
Grassland	4.3%	19.2%	14.9%
Blue Oak Woodland	13.3%	145.6%	132.3%
Alkali Prairie	0.0%	109.0%	109.0%
Fresh Emergent Wetland	9.5%	50.8%	41.3%
Valley Foothill Riparian	1.7%	12.2%	10.5%
Lacustrine and Riverine	2.8%	10.5%	7.7%
Total Natural Communities	***2.2%***	***16.5%***	***14.3%***

Figure 5-1: Comparison of the % of total acres of allowable permanent impacts incurred and the % of total committed conservation acres enrolled by land cover type



Unforeseen and Changed Circumstances Compliance

Unforeseen circumstances are events the Conservancy could not reasonably anticipate during development of the Yolo HCP/NCCP. If unforeseen circumstances arise during the life of the Yolo HCP/NCCP, wildlife agencies will not require the commitment of additional land or financial compensation or additional restrictions on the use of land, water, or other natural resources, other than those in the HCP/NCCP, unless the permittees authorize consent. Within these constraints, the wildlife agencies may require additional measures, but only if (1) they prove an unforeseen circumstance exists, (2) such measures are limited to modifications of the Yolo HCP/NCCP's operating conservation program for the affected species, (3) the original terms of the Yolo HCP/NCCP are maintained to the maximum extent practicable, and (4) the overall cost of implementing the Yolo HCP/NCCP is not increased by the modification. This section provides a description of actions implemented to respond to unforeseen circumstances.

Changed circumstances are changes in circumstances that affect a species or geographic area covered by an HCP that plan developers and wildlife agencies and can reasonably anticipate and for which they can plan. The Yolo HCP/NCCP identifies eight categories of changed circumstances and the triggers for when a changed circumstance occurs. This section provides a description of actions implemented to respond to changed circumstances.

Unforeseen Circumstances

An unforeseen circumstance **did not occur** in the reporting period.

Changed Circumstances

The eight categories of changed circumstances identified in the Yolo HCP/NCCP and a summary of their status during the reporting period are provided below.

1. Non-covered species becoming listed.

In the event that USFWS or CDFW lists a species whose range includes any portion of the Plan Area and that species is not already covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP, the provisions of this changed circumstance will be automatically triggered.

In the event that USFWS or CDFW lists a species whose range includes any portion of the Plan Area and that species is not already covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP, the provisions of this changed circumstance will be automatically triggered.

On October 3, 2023 the USFWS proposed to list the northwestern pond turtle (Actinemys marmorata), as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) due to concerns about its declining population. A portion of this species range is located within the Yolo HCP/NCCP Plan

Area. This species is already included as a covered species under the Yolo HCP/NCCP and conservation measures specific to this species are already included in the Conservation Strategy. No other species known to occur within the Plan Area were listed or identified for listing during the reporting period.

A changed circumstance due to new non-covered species listing **did not occur** in the reporting period.

2. Climate change.

Under the Yolo HCP/NCCP, an increase in temperature of up to 2.5°C (4.5°F), measured as a 10-year running average for three baseline periods (i.e., average annual temperature, average summer temperature [June, July, and August], and average winter temperature [December, January, and February]) is considered a changed circumstance. Table 5-2 tracks the 10-year running average for three baseline periods.

A changed circumstance due to climate change **did not occur** in the reporting period.

Table 5-2: Average temperatures for three baseline periods (i.e., average annual temperature, average summer temperature [June, July, and August], and average winter temperature [December, January, and February])

Year	Average Annual Temperature		Average Summer Temperature[a]		Average Winter Temperature[b]	
	C°	F°	C°	F°	C°	F°
2019	16.2	61.2	24.1	75.4	8.32	47
2020	16.9	62.4	24.4	75.9	9.79	49.6
2021	17.9	61.5	24.4	75.6	8.1	48.8
2022	17.1	62.7	25.2	77.3	8.4	47.2
2023	16.8	62.2	24.4	76.0	8.9	48.1
2024	17.1	64.3	26.0	78.7	11.0	51.8
10-yr. Running Averages	**16.7**	**62.0**	**24.3**	**75.8**	**9.3**	**48.7**
Baseline (average 2009-2018)	**16.1**	**61.0**	**23.2**	**73.8**	**8.9**	**48.0**
Change from 2019 Baseline	**0.6**	**1.0**	**1.1**	**2.0**	**0.4**	**0.7**

[a] *Summer months are June, July, and August.*

[b] *Winter months are December, January, and February. Winter average is calculated using the previous year's*

Source: Sacramento International Airport Weather Station as reported be Weather Underground: https://www.wunderground.com/history/monthly/us/ca/sacramento/KSMF/. Note that the data presented in the first annual report used a weather station in Woodland, CA that has been discontinued so all data reported in this table is from weather station KSMF.

3. Wildfire.

The Yolo HCP/NCCP anticipates up to four catastrophic fires (each more than 10,000 acres) within the study area over the course of the permit term. This level of fire occurrence would be considered a changed circumstance for the purposes of the Yolo HCP/NCCP. In the event of a wildfire, the Conservancy will assess the proportion of the protected habitat area that has burned and likely effects on habitat

use by covered species. The Conservancy will make an initial determination of whether or not the fire constitutes a changed circumstance and notify the wildlife agencies of the fire event.

A changed circumstance due to wildfire **did not occur** in the reporting period.

4. Nonnative invasive species or disease.

Under the Yolo HCP/NCCP, the following are considered changed circumstances:

- Infestations of new diseases or new nonnative invasive species that affect up to 25 percent of the extent (i.e., acres) of a predominant natural community (i.e., valley foothill riparian) or occupied covered species habitat within the reserve system in any given year; and

- Spread of nonnative species or diseases on up to 25 percent within the reserve system in any given year.

A changed circumstance due to nonnative invasive species or disease **did not occur** in the reporting period.

5. Flooding.

Flood damage in protected natural communities and habitats caused by storms that are at or below a 100-year flood event on a given stream is a changed circumstance.

A changed circumstance due to flooding **did not occur** in the reporting period.

6. Drought.

The Yolo HCP/NCCP will fund remedial actions for up to five droughts that occur during the permit term. Of the five droughts, only one is anticipated to be more than six years in duration.

December 2023 was the wettest December on record over the past 130 years and conditions in general were wetter than normal during FY23/24 (NOAA).

A changed circumstance due to drought **did not occur** in the reporting period.

7. Earthquakes.

The Yolo HCP/NCCP will fund remedial actions for damage to reserve system infrastructure, natural communities, and covered species from any earthquake of magnitude 7.1 or lower.

A changed circumstance due to earthquake **did not occur** in the reporting period.

8. Loss of Swainson's hawk habitat and populations declining below the threshold.

Under the Yolo HCP/NCCP, the Conservancy committed to evaluating the effects on the Swainson's hawk nesting population if the amount of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat falls below 24,560 acres of high-value cultivated lands foraging habitat or 267,750 total acres of suitable foraging habitat. These two criteria were identified during the planning and development of the Yolo HCP/NCCP to be potential threshold indicators for sustaining the Swainson's hawk population within the Plan Area. The Conservancy has committed to conduct a Swainson's hawk breeding population survey consistent with Section 6.5.6.3.6 of the Yolo HCP/NCCP if either of the foraging habitat acreage criteria are not met. A drop in the Swainson's hawk population below 240 breeding pairs is considered a changed circumstance. If the survey finds that the population has fallen below 240 breeding pairs then the Conservancy must meet and confer with the wildlife agencies to develop and implement a mutually agreed upon plan of action to try to increase the Swainson's hawk population within the Plan Area.

Table 5-3 tracks Swainson's hawk habitat data as specified in Section 7.7.1.2.8, Regional Loss of Swainson's Hawk Habitat. During FY23/24 the amount of high-value agricultural foraging habitat acres fell below the 24,560-acre threshold for the fourth year in a row and the total acres of habitat fell below the 267,750-acre threshold for the first time during Plan implementation. The Plan Area experienced drought conditions from 2020 through fall of 2023, prior to a wet winter experienced in 2023/2024. Since the crop data that is available to the Conservancy is a year behind the HCP/NCCP reporting year, it is assumed that at least a portion of the recent decrease in high-value agricultural foraging habitat is a result of temporary fallowing in response to drought conditions.

Table 5-3: Swainson's hawk suitable agricultural foraging habitat within Yolo County

Foraging Habitat	Evaluation Threshold (acres)	Reporting Period[a]
High Value Agricultural Foraging Habitat	24,584	18,837
Total Suitable Foraging Habitat	267,750	267,103

[a] *Reporting years for crop types are 1 year behind the Yolo HCP/NCCP reporting year due to the timing of when the County's annual crop reports are released. Natural foraging habitat (i.e. non-agricultural) is the baseline acreage identified in the HCP/NCCP minus the amount authorized for loss under the HCP/NCCP.*

The Conservancy hired Estep Environmental Consulting to conduct a Plan Area Swainson's hawk nest survey in 2020, to assess the number of breeding pairs within the Plan Area. A total of 381 occupied nesting territories, with a total of 377 active nests, were identified during this survey effort, which is significantly greater than both the 240-pair threshold and the 290 occupied nesting territories observed by Estep during the 2007 survey that was used to inform the criteria included in the Yolo HCP/NCCP (Estep, 2020). The Conservancy will conduct another Plan Area Swainson's hawk nest survey in the spring of 2025 to determine if the nesting population has decreased and further action is needed.

A changed circumstance due to the Swainson's hawk population declining below the threshold **did not occur** in the reporting period.

6. Program Administration

- This chapter summarizes administrative changes, minor modifications and revisions, and formal amendments to the Yolo HCP/NCCP proposed or approved during the reporting period.

Administrative Changes

Administrative changes are actions taken on the basis of Yolo HCP/NCCP interpretations that do not substantively change the purpose or intent of the Yolo HCP/NCCP's provisions and do not require modification or amendment of the Yolo HCP/NCCP or its associated authorizations. During the reporting period the following administrative changes were made:

Annual Fee Adjustment

The Conservancy adjusted the HCP/NCCP fees on April 1, 2024, consistent with Yolo HCP/NCCP Section 8.4.1.6.1 Automatic Adjustment of Fees and the Ordinance Amending the Conservancy's Adopted Fee Ordinance to Authorize the Executive Director to Implement Annual Fee Adjustments (Ordinance No. 2019-02). The fee adjustments made in 2024 are listed below in Table 7-3.

Minor Modifications

Minor modifications are changes to the Yolo HCP/NCCP document made in response to new information, changes in scientific understanding, technological advances, and other such circumstances. Minor modifications do not include changes that would adversely affect covered species, the level of take, or the obligations of Permittees. No minor modifications to the Yolo HCP/NCCP were made during the reporting period.

Amendments

Amendments are changes to the Yolo HCP/NCCP that are more significant than administrative actions or the minor modifications described above. Any proposed changes to the Yolo HCP/NCCP that do not qualify for treatment as administrative actions or minor modification require an amendment to the Yolo HCP/NCCP document and corresponding amendment to the permits, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations regarding permit amendments. No amendments to the Yolo HCP/NCCP were completed during the reporting period.

7. Finances

This chapter summarizes funds collected by the Conservancy for Yolo HCP/NCCP implementation and the source of those funds (e.g., fees, grants), annual and cumulative expenditures by major cost category, and an explanation of deviations in expenditures from the annual budget. This chapter also includes other relevant information as appropriate for annual reporting purposes.

Financial Structure

The financial structure used to manage the finances of the Yolo HCP/NCCP has six separate funds:

- **Mitigation Fee Fund.** The Conservancy places revenue collected from mitigation fees in this fund and tracks expenditures of mitigation fees. The Conservancy places revenue from four types of mitigation fees in the Mitigation Fee Fund:
    - **Land Cover Fee**
    - **Fresh Emergent Wetlands Fee**
    - **Valley Foothill Riparian Fee**
    - **Lacustrine and Riverine Fee**

- **Grant Fund.** The Conservancy tracks all grant revenues and expenditures through this fund.

- **Other Revenue Fund.** The Conservancy places contribution to recovery fee revenue collected from Special Participating Entities and other non-mitigation fee revenue in this fund.

- **Mitigation Trust Account.** This fund contains mitigation fees collected under the Swainson's hawk foraging habitat mitigation program and pre-permit mitigation fees collected to mitigate for impacts to burrowing owl. The Swainson's hawk foraging habitat mitigation program was replaced by the Yolo HCP/NCCP as of January 11, 2019. The Conservancy used the last of the Swainson's hawk foraging habitat mitigation funds towards the purchase of the Woodland Regional Park Preserve conservation easement at the end of FY22/23 and intends to use the burrowing owl mitigation funds for the acquisition of a conservation easement on lands that have occupied burrowing owl habitat.

- **Pre-permit Endowment Fund.** This fund contains endowment funds collected to monitor conservation easements established prior to the official start of Yolo HCP/NCCP implementation (January 11, 2019).

- **Post-permit Endowment Fund.** The Conservancy places 2.5% of all HCP/NCCP mitigation fees collected as well as all stewardship donations collected into this fund to save for management and monitoring of the reserve system after the permit term ends in 50 years. The Conservancy deposits these funds into an account held by the County at the time they are received and subsequently transfers the funds to a long-term endowment fund held by the Sacramento Community Foundation on a semi-regular basis.

Annual Budget

The Conservancy adopted the annual budget for FY23/24 on May 15, 2023. Table 7-1 below, provides the adopted budget summary along with actual revenue and expenditures accrued during FY23/24.

Table 7-1: Adopted budget, actual revenue, and actual expenditures for FY23/24

Description	Mitigation Fee Fund	Mitigation Account Fund	Grant Fund	Pre-Permit Endowment	Post Permit Endowment	Other Revenue Fund	Total
Beginning Balance	$2,747,162	$150,611	$20,357	$358,092	$336,359	$103,560	**$3,716,141**
Revenue (Actual)[a]	$614,631	$7,430	$11,581	$37,147	$19,480	$5,292	**$695,561**
Revenue (Budgeted)	$1,005,000	$1,000	$0	$25,000	$131,000	$26,000	**$1,188,000**
Expenditure (Actual)	($503,977)	$0	($3,466)	($9,308)	($566)	$0	**($517,317)**
Expenditure (Budgeted)	($2,545,500)	($154,238)	$0	($15,000)	($1,000)	($15,000)	**($2,730,738)**
Actual Revenue vs. Expenditure	$110,654	$7,430	$8,115	$27,839	$18,914	$5,292	**$178,244**
Closing Balance	$2,857,816	$158,041	$28,472	$385,931	$355,273	$108,852	**$3,894,385**
Revenue Budget to Actual	61%	743%	-	149%	15%	20%	**59%**
Expenditure Budget to Actual	20%	-	-	62%	57%	0%	**19%**

[a] *Includes accrued interest*

Revenue Sources

The Conservancy's revenue received in FY23/24 was primarily from mitigation fees, with a minor amount of revenue from accrued interest. Table 7-2 summarizes the mitigation fee fund revenue and expenditures for FY22/23.

Table 7-2: Mitigation Fee Fund revenue and expenditures for FY23/24

	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Interest	Expenditures	Closing Balance
Total Balance	2,747,162	464,867	149,764	(503,977)	$2,857,816

Endowment Funding

The Conservancy is setting aside 2.5% of every land cover fee and wetlands fee collected for the Post-Permit Endowment Fund. The Conservancy also collects stewardship donations per the Stewardship Donation Policy, originally adopted by the Conservancy Board on January 28, 2019 and amended by the Conservancy Board on May 17, 2021, and deposits those funds into the Post-Permit Endowment Fund account. The funds in this endowment account are intended for long-term reserve system management and monitoring after the end of the 50-year Yolo HCP/NCCP permit term.

Mitigation Fee Act Annual Reporting

The Conservancy provides regular reports on the budget, which include summaries of the acquisition and use of mitigation fee funds to the Conservancy's Board of Directors during public meetings that comply with the Brown Act. This annual report also contains information necessary to meet the requirements of Government Code Section 66006 (b) (1) related to the Mitigation Fee Act as follows:

For each separate account or fund established pursuant to subdivision (a), the local agency shall, within 180 days after the last day of each fiscal year, make available to the public the following information for the fiscal year:

(A) A brief description of the type of fee in the account or fund.

The purpose of the Land Cover Fee is to mitigate for direct (project impact acreage) and indirect (project land cover fee buffer acreage) impacts on species covered by the Yolo HCP/NCCP. The Land Cover Fee revenues will be used to fund the acquisition of land that does or could provide habitat for covered species, the management and enhancement of such land and habitat, and the administrative actions necessary to accomplish these tasks, as more particularly set forth in the Yolo HCP/NCCP.

The purpose of the Wetlands Fee is to mitigate (in addition to the Land Cover Fee) for impacts to fresh emergent marsh, valley foothill riparian, and lacustrine and riverine land cover types. Revenue from the three Wetlands Fee types will be used to fund the restoration, creation and management of fresh emergent wetland, valley foothill riparian, and lacustrine and riverine lands and the administrative actions necessary to perform these tasks, as more particularly set forth in the Yolo HCP/NCCP.

(B) The amount of the fee.

The Yolo HCP/NCCP fees are updated annually on or about March 15. In FY23/24, the Yolo HCP/NCCP fees were updated on April 1, 2024. The Yolo HCP/NCCP per acre fees, as of the April 2024 update, are shown in Table 7-3.

Table 7-3: Yolo HCP/NCCP fees at the end of FY23/24

Fee Type	Fee Amount (per acre)
Land Cover Fee	$16,559
Wetlands Fee	
Fresh Emergent Wetland	$91,085
Valley Foothill Riparian	$95,754
Lacustrine and Riverine	$73,052

(C) The beginning and ending balance of the account or fund.

See Table 7-2.

(D) The amount of the fees collected and the interest earned.

See Table 7-2.

(E) An identification of each public improvement on which fees were expended and the amount of the expenditures on each improvement, including the total percentage of the cost of the public improvement that was funded with fees.

None reportable within this period.

(F) An identification of an approximate date by which the construction of the public improvement will commence if the local agency determines that sufficient funds have been collected to complete financing on an incomplete public improvement, as identified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 66001, and the public improvement remains incomplete.

None reportable within this period.

(G) A description of each interfund transfer or loan made from the account or fund, including the public improvement on which the transferred or loaned fees will be expended, and, in the case of an interfund loan, the date on which the loan will be repaid, and the rate of interest that the account or fund will receive on the loan.

None reportable within this period.

(H) The amount of refunds made pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 66001 and any allocations pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 66001.

None reportable within this period.

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy
PO Box 2202
Woodland, CA 95776
info@yolohabitatconservancy.org
www.yolohabitatconservancy.org