Yolo

Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan

Yolo HCP/NCCP Annual Report

for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

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Mabel Salon, University of California, Davis

Contact:
Elisa Sabatini, Executive Director
elisa@yolohabitatconservancy.org
(530) 666-8850

Prepared By:
Yolo Habitat Conservancy & Alford Environmental

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMM	Avoidance and Minimization Measure
CCRMP	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
FY22/23	Fiscal Year 2022/2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)
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
WCB	Wildlife Conservation Board

1. Introduction and Overview

This is the fifth 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, 2022 and June 30, 2023, which was the fourth 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.

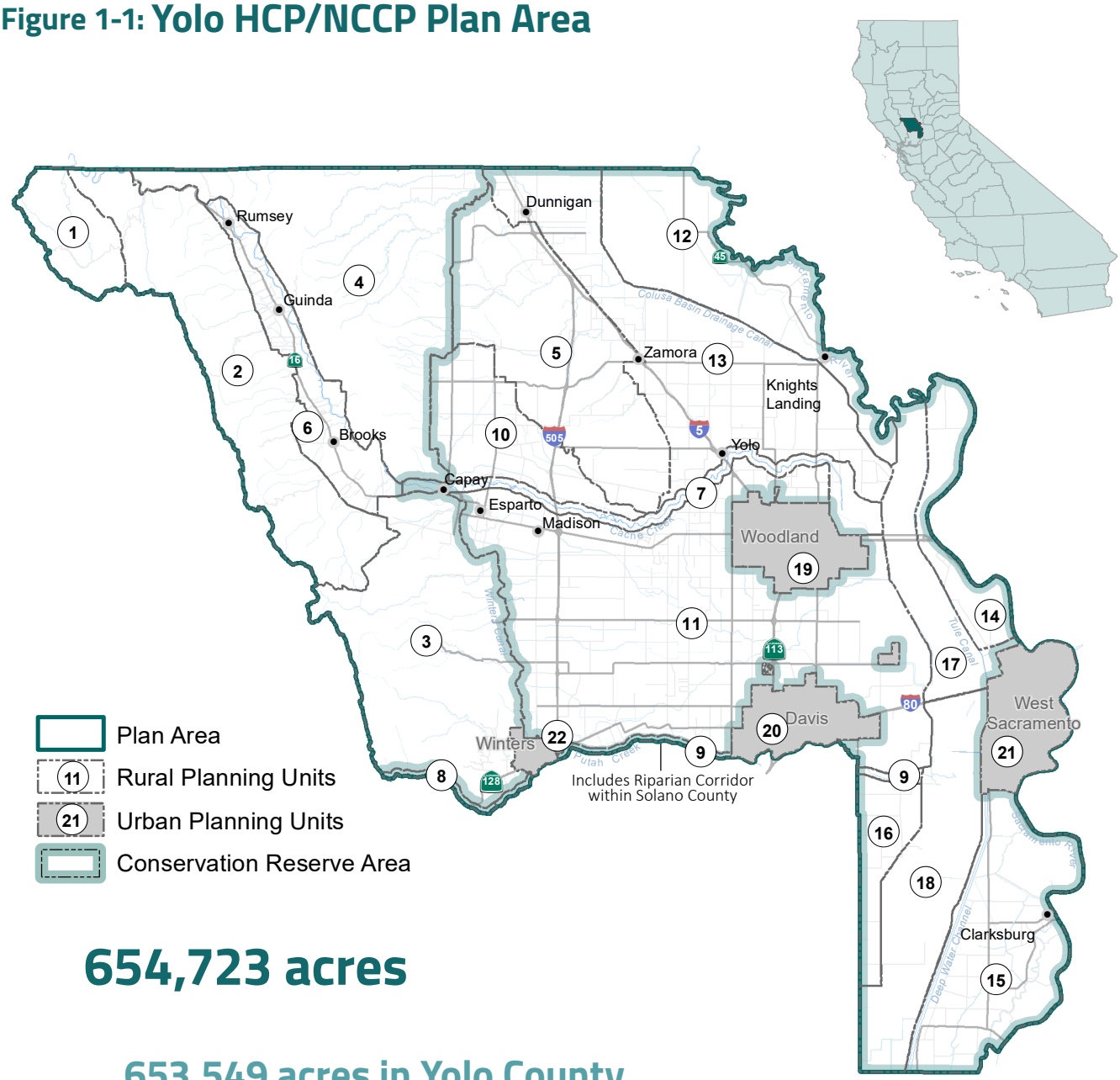
The components of this annual report include:

- 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.

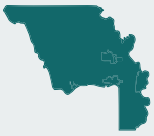
Yolo HCP/NCCP permit coverage applies only to eligible projects, known as covered activities, undertaken within the Yolo HCP/NCCP Plan Area (Plan Area). The Yolo HCP/NCCP covers a total of 21,559 acres of activities within five categories, including: urban and rural projects (17,550 acres), public/private 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		
Western 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
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

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, 2022 and June 30, 2023, a total of eighteen projects received permit coverage through the Yolo HCP/NCCP. The projects include ten urban projects and activities, one rural project, and seven public operation 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 location 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 67 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

Urban Projects and Activities

Rural Projects and Activities

Public/Private Operations and Maintenance

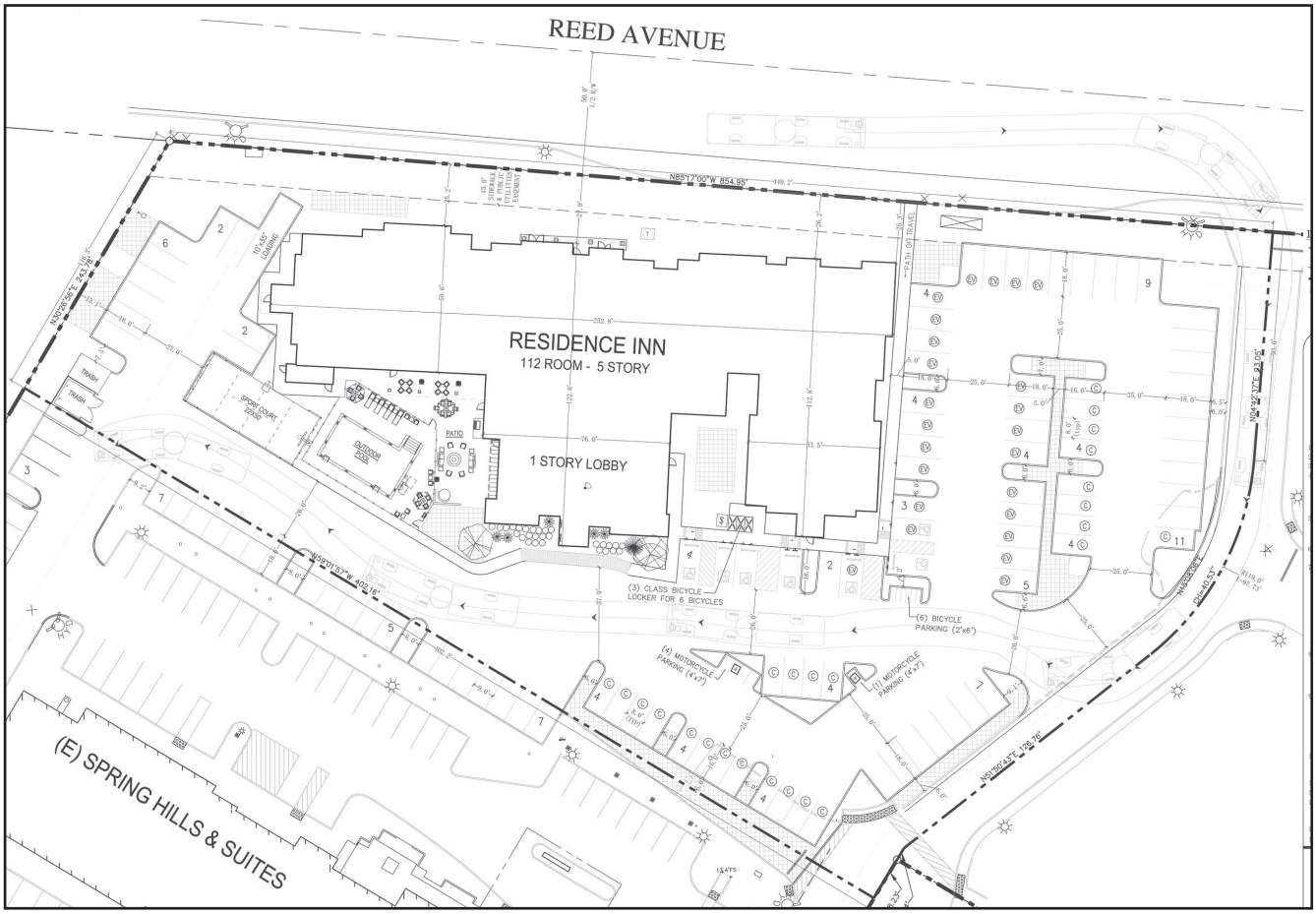
Conservation Strategy Implementation

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, ten urban projects received streamlined permits through the Yolo HCP/NCCP. These projects included five residential developments, one healthcare facility, one carwash, and three industrial facilities.

General Urban Development:

General Urban Development: The City of Davis issued permits for five development projects; one for a 107,612 square foot manufacturing facility, one for a mixed-use development, one for a 200-unit high-density housing development that includes commercial retail and leasing space, one for a carwash, and one for the construction of two residential duplexes. The City of West Sacramento issued permits for three development projects; one for construction of a hotel, one for construction of a mixed-use development, and one for a parcel map to facilitate future industrial uses. The City of Woodland issued two permits for development projects, including one for an expansion of existing health care facility and another for an industrial warehousing facility.



Residence Inn by Marriot - 3435 Reed Avenue
(Source: ACE Design LLC)

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, one rural project received streamlined permits through the Yolo HCP/NCCP.

General Rural Development:

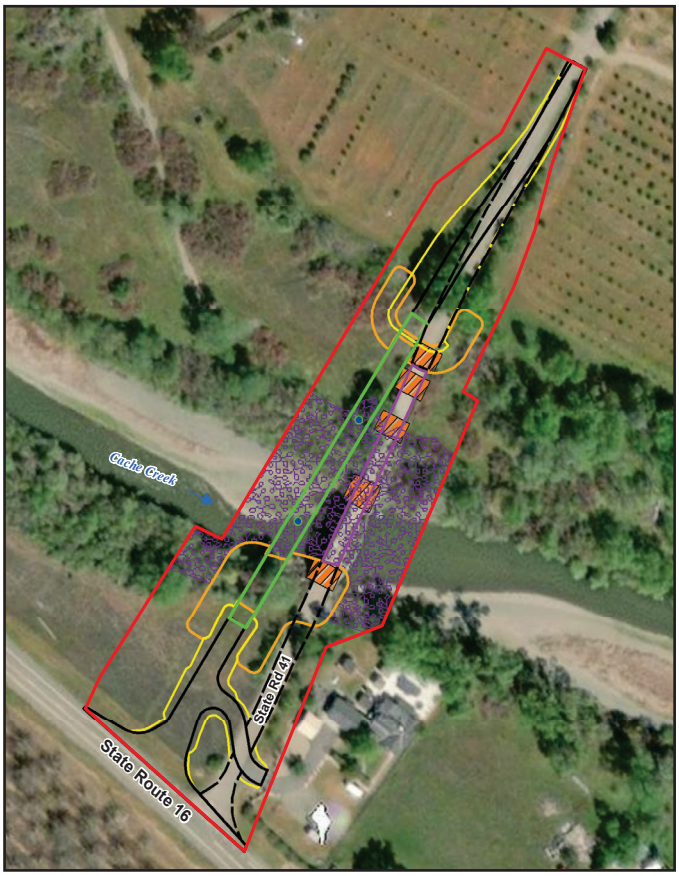
The County of Yolo issued one permit to a private applicant . The project was for activities associated with the alteration of a historic building.

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. Seven operation and maintenance activities received permit coverage under the Yolo HCP/NCCP during the reporting period. The County issued itself four permits, two for projects on County levees along the Sacramento River and two for bridge replacements in the unincorporated area.

The City of Woodland issued itself a permit to construct a pedestrian footpath over State Route 113. The Conservancy also issued two permits to Special Participating entities during the reporting period; one permit to allow for underground wiring replacement at PG&E facilities and one permit to allow for erosion repair along sections of Knights Landing Ridge Cut.



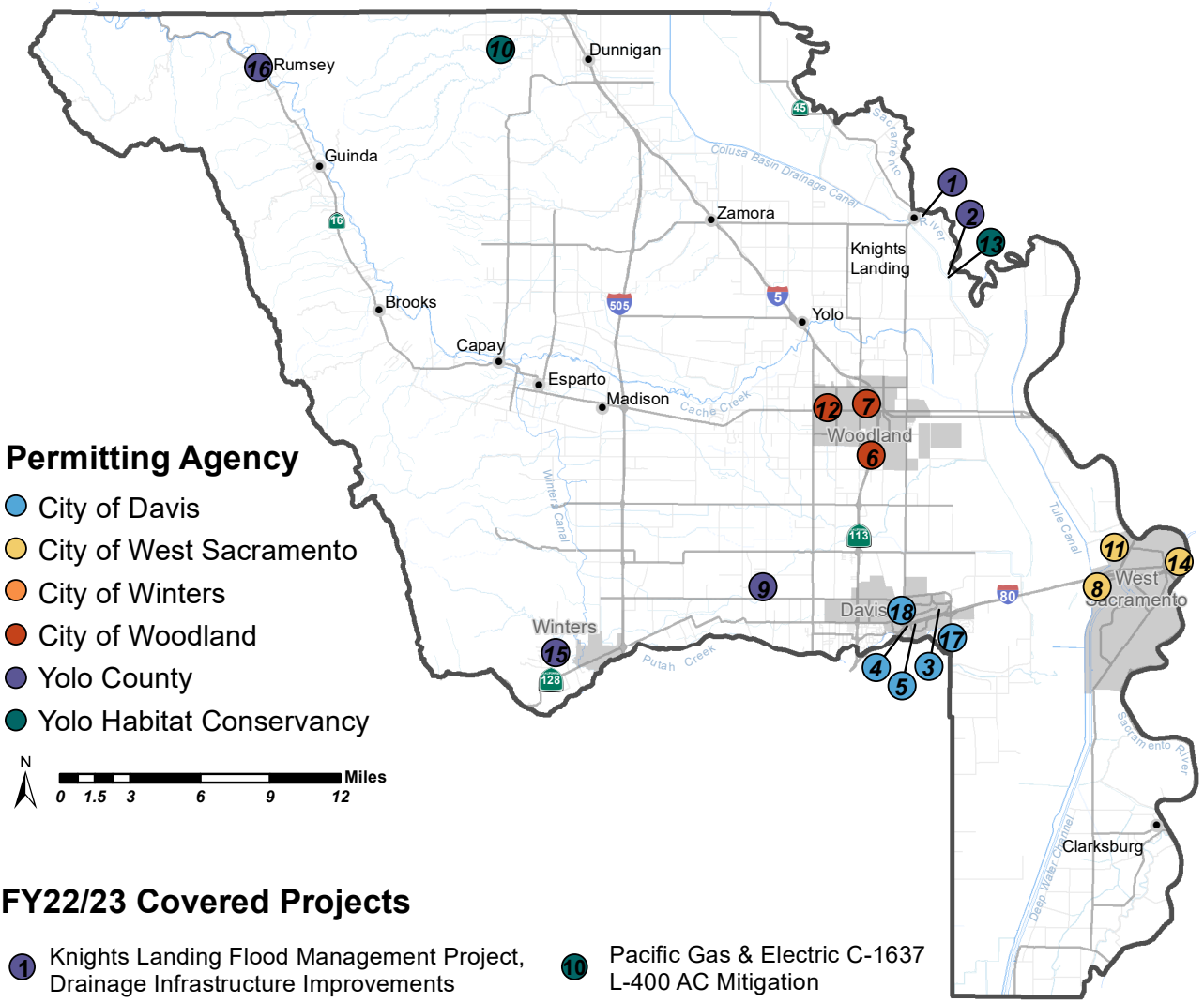
County Road 41 over Cache Creek 'Rumsey' Bridge Replacement
(Source: Stantec)

Conservation Strategy Implementation Projects

The Yolo HCP/NCCP provides take authorization for the actions described in Chapter 6, Conservation Strategy, of the Plan. The activity types include all the habitat modification, management and monitoring activities undertaken for the purposes of implementing this HCP/NCCP, as well as projects implemented by other groups that build on and support decades of local, state, and federal conservation efforts in the Plan Area, including conservation activities within the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, implementation of the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan (CCRMP) and Willow Slough Watershed Integrated Resources Management Plan, and the efforts of the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee.

No conservation strategy implementation projects received coverage during this reporting period.

Figure 2-1: Covered activities in FY22/23



Permitting Agency

- City of Davis
- City of West Sacramento
- City of Winters
- City of Woodland
- Yolo County
- Yolo Habitat Conservancy

FY22/23 Covered Projects

1. Knights Landing Flood Management Project, Drainage Infrastructure Improvements
2. Knights Landing Flood Management Project, Sacramento River Right Bank LM4.3-5.35
3. 3808 Faraday Ave Life Science/Bio-Tech Manufacturing Facility
4. 1720 Research Park Drive Mixed Use
5. Plaza 2555
6. Sports Park Drive Pedestrian Crossing
7. D&L Supply Co., 1244 Wilson Way
8. Channel Drive Industrial Tentative Parcel Map 5218
9. Yolo County Road 96 Dry Slough Bridge Replacement Project
10. Pacific Gas & Electric C-1637 L-400 AC Mitigation
11. Residence Inn by Marriot, 3435 Reed Avenue
12. Hansen Family Center, Communicare Health Centers, Woodland
13. Knights Landing Ridge Cut Erosion Repair, Phase 1 Project
14. Rivers 2
15. Samuel Carpenter Cottage Historic Building Alteration Permit
16. County Road 41 over Cache Creek 'Rumsey' Bridge Replacement
17. Davis Express Carwash
18. 335 Russell Blvd.

Table 2-1: Covered activities for which permit coverage was granted during FY22/23

Project ID	Project Name	Activity Type	Covered By	Description	Natural Community	
					Perm. Impacts (acres)	Temp. Impacts (acres)
Urban Projects and Activities						
(3) 2022-13	3808 Faraday Ave Life Science/Bio-Tech Manufacturing Facility	General Urban Development	City of Davis	The project includes one single-story concrete tilt-up building totaling approximately 107,612 square feet on 7.81 acres. The back of the building would contain 2-4 dock doors and 2-5 grade level overhead doors to accommodate the proposed biotech/advanced manufacturing tenant base.	6.7	0
(4) 2018-02	1720 Research Park Drive Mixed Use	General Urban Development	City of Davis	Project is a residential rental apartments over ground-floor tech space. The project will encompass 160 apartment units situated in four buildings with an additional 26,912 square feet of open-plan tech space.	0	0
(5) 2018-03	Axis @ Davis (Formally Plaza 2555)	General Urban Development	City of Davis	Project includes 200 units of high-density rental housing, including 10 units affordable to very low-income households, and associated amenities. The community will offer a mix of one, two and three-bedroom units and the units will range in size from approximately 581 to 1,259 square feet. Approximately 9,704 square feet of leasing/amenity community space and 53,086 square feet of open space will be provided in addition to approximately 1,528 square feet of ground floor commercial retail space.	5.8	0
(7) 2021-26	D&L Supply Co., 1244 Wilson Way	General Urban Development	City of Woodland	D&L is constructing a 7200 sq foot metal building on the property with a paved parking lot, new fencing and gates on Wilson way. The proposed building will consist of roughly 2000 square feet of office space designed to support 4-8 office staff and 5000 square feet of warehouse space that will be used to receive in material, repackage and ship material.	0	0
(8) 2022-08	Channel Drive Industrial Tentative Parcel Map 5218	General Urban Development	City of West Sacramento	The project involves subdividing the existing parcel located at 3771 Channel Drive (APN 067-053-013) into three parcels. One of the parcels will contain the existing logistics warehouse, office space, and associated parking area.The two new parcels will be developed with industrial uses.	0	0
(11) 2022-09	Residence Inn by Marriot - 3435 Reed Avenue	General Urban Development	City of West Sacramento	Construction of a Residence Inn by Mariot.	0	0
(12) 2023-05	Hansen Family Center, Communicare Health Centers, Woodland	General Urban Development	City of Woodland	The project invovles construction of a new 3,000 square foot modular builidng to support the behavioral health services provided by the existing 21,053 square foot office building that provides various prenatal, dental, and medical services. Hansen Family Health Center, plus associated driveway, parking, and utility connections.	0	0
(14) 2023-01	Rivers 2	General Urban Development	City of West Sacramento	Development of a single building containing approximately 165 multifamily residential units and structured parking for approximately 177 vehicles. The building would have approximately eight stories and an overall height of approximately 77 feet on the site.	0	0
(17) 2022-14	Davis Express Carwash	General Urban Development	City of Davis	Construction of a carwash.	0	0
(18) 2023-04	335 Russell Blvd.	General Urban Development	City of Davis	Construction of two residential duplexes.	0	0
Rural Projects and Activities						
(15) 2023-06	Samuel Carpenter Cottage Historic Building Alteration Permit	General Rural Development	Yolo County	Historic building alterration permit for construction activites on a County-recognized historic resource.	0	0

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						
(1) 2022-11	Knights Landing Flood Management Project, Drainage Infrastructure Improvements	General maintenance of existing or future facilities, including repair, replacement, and general upkeep.	Yolo County	Infrastructure improvents in the unincorporated community of Knights Landing.	0	0
(2) 2022-12	Knights Landing Flood Management Project, Sacramento River Right Bank LM4.3-5.35	Flood control facilities and levees.	Yolo County	A project to construct a drained stability berm along the landlines levee slope to meet USACE criteria for through seepage. A seepage berm would be constructed in addition to this stability berm, extending landward from the stability berm, along the upstream 3,266 linear feet of this levee segment to meet USACE criteria for underseepage. The project also involvesThe levee crown is currently 20 to 24 feet wide and is paved to accommodate CR 116B. The levee crown will be expanded 10 feet.	0	7.6
(6) 2019-26	Sports Park Drive Pedestrian Overcrossing	Roadways and bridges, bikeways, and pathways.	City of Woodland	The project invovles construction of a pedestrian path from the intersection of Matmor Road and Sports Park Drive, crossing over SR-113, and connecting to a planned 8-acre park and Harry Lorenzo Avenue east of the project site.	1.7	2.3
(9) 2021-14	Yolo County Road 96 Dry Slough Bridge Replacement Project	Roadways and bridges, bikeways, and pathways.	Yolo County	The proposed project will construct a new bridge on CR96 crossing over Dry Slough along the same roadway alignment. The new bridge is anticipated to be a single-span structure, approximately 60 to 70 feet long. Construction of the bridge will involve excavation for and construction of concrete abutments, founded on driven piles. The new abutments will be constructed behind the existing abutments and most of this work will occur outside of the waterway.	0.139	0.057
(10) 2022-05	C-1637 L-400 AC Mitigation - Pacific Gas & Electric	General maintenance of existing or future facilities, including repair, replacement, and general upkeep.	Yolo Habitat Conservancy	The project includes five work locations spanning four private parcels in Yolo County. The mitigation wire will be installed between Gas Lines 400 and 401, within PG&E's existing easement. To minimize orchard crop loss and impacts, roughly 1,275 feet of wire will be installed via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The remaining wire will be installed via open trench, with an approximate workspace of 79,494 square feet. Each of the five SSD cabinets will require two 4' x 4' bell holes and a 1' by 30' trench connecting them. A bulldozer-mounted plow will be used to install the mitigation wire, placing it near the same depth of the gas lines which ranges from 3 to 6 feet. In areas where a plow is not feasible, a backhoe will be used to excavate the trenches. A backhoe will be used to dig the HDD splice/termination locations and the trenches to the SSD locations.	0.062	3.9
(13) 2022-04	Knights Landing Ridge Cut Erosion Repair, Phase 1 Project	Flood control facilities and levees.	Yolo Habitat Conservancy	The Project is to repair existing eroded areas along the KLRC levees to arrest or avoid streambank erosion that threatens the integrity of the KLRC levee system and therefore protect property and the health and safety of residents. The Project is being proposed to occur in two subphases: Phase 1A and Phase 1B. Phase 1A of the repairs will begin at County Road 16 and run approximately 2,200 feet along the levee from levee stations 40+00 to 62+00. Phase 1B will be reported in one of the following FY Annual Reports.	1.62	0
(16) 2020-02	County Road 41 over Cache Creek 'Rumsey' Bridge Replacement	Roadways and bridges, bikeways, and pathways.	Yolo County	Removal and replacement of the 'Rumsey' Bridge over Cache Creek.	1.535	0.608

Table 2-2: Avoidance and minimization measures applied to activities that received permit coverage during FY22/23

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) 2022_11	Knights Landing Flood Management Project, Drainage Infrastructure Improvements	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						■					
(2) 2022_12	Knights Landing Flood Management Project, Sacramento River Right Bank LM4.3-5.35	■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■		■			■	■	
(3) 2022_13	3808 Faraday Avenue Life Science/Bio-Tech Manufacturing Facility	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■							■		■			
(4) 2018_02	1720 Research Park Drive Mixed Use	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■							■		■			
(5) 2018_03	Axis @ Davis (Formally Plaza 2555)	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■							■		■			
(6) 2019_26	Sports Park Drive Pedestrian Overcrossing	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■							■		■			
(7) 2021_36	D&L Supply Co., 1244 Wilson Way																■					
(8) 2022_08	Channel Drive Industrial Tentative Parcel Map 5218	■		■	■	■	■	■	■								■		■			
(9) 2021_14	Yolo County Road 96 Dry Slough Bridge Replacement Project	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				■		■					■
(10) 2022_05	C-1637 L-400 AC Mitigation - Pacific Gas & Electric	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■							■		■			
(11) 2022_09	Residence Inn by Marriot - 3435 Reed Avenue												■				■					
(12) 2023_05	Hansen Family Center, Communicare Health Centers, Woodland																■					
(13) 2022_04	Knights Landing Ridge Cut Erosion Repair, Phase 1 Project	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■		■			■
(14) 2023_01	Rivers 2			■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■				■		■			
(15) 2023_06	Samuel Carpenter Cottage Historic Building Alteration Permit																■		■			
(16) 2020_02	County Road 41 over Cache Creek 'Rumsey' Bridge Replacement	■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■		■		■		■		■		■	
(17) 2022_14	Davis Express Carwash																■					
(18) 2023_04	335 Russell Blvd.																■					

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*
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*
AMM 13 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of California Tiger Salamander*
AMM 14 *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Western 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-*
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)	1.7	9.9	180.6	68.2	9,910	203	1.8%	33.6%
Grassland	13.3	3.9	73.2	11.4	1,734	28	4.2%	40.8%
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	0.78	--	9.0	--	588	--	1.5%	--
Lacustrine and Riverine	1.8	0.6	3.5	2.6	236	31	1.5%	8.2%
Total Natural Communities [a]	***17.57***	***14.5***	***275.2***	***82.2***	***12,649***	***266***	***2.2%***	***30.9%***

[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 FY22/23

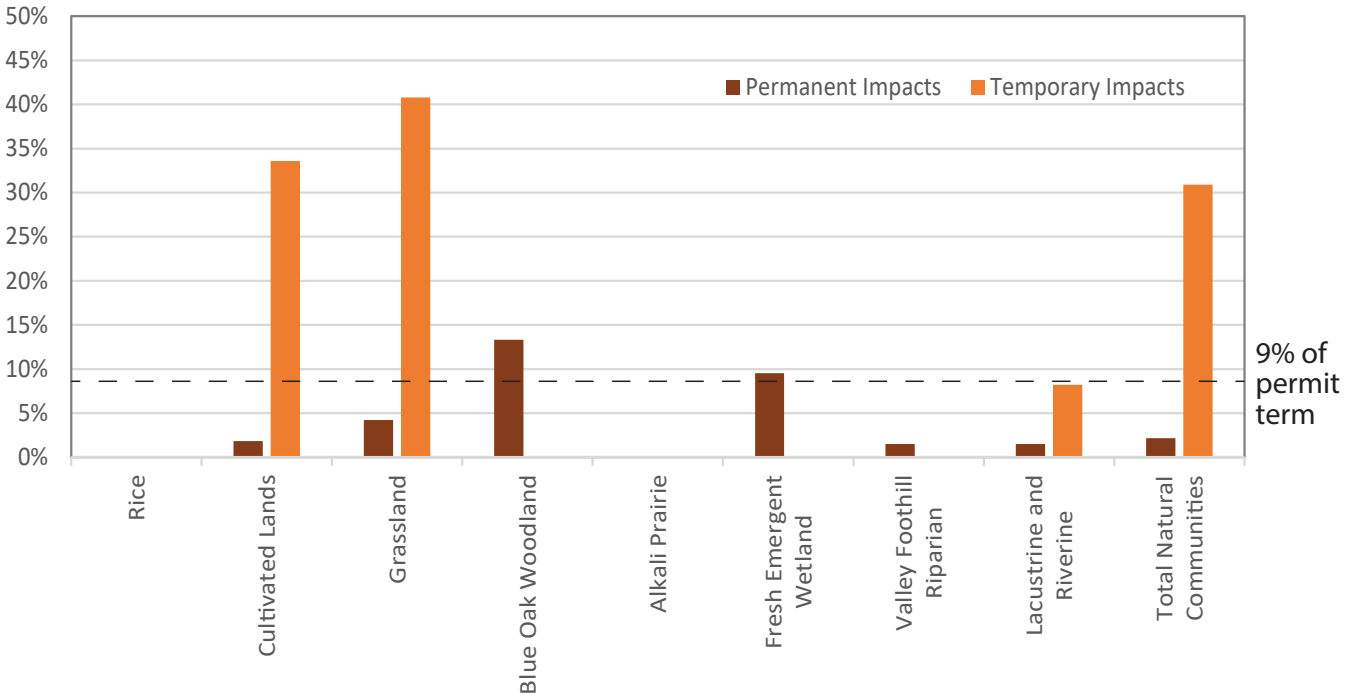


Table 2-4: Permanent and temporary impacts to modeled habitat

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								
Riparian habitat	0.01	--	3.29	--	523.00	--	0.6%	--
Non-riparian habitat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.00	1.00	0%	0%
Total	***0.01***	***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	3.96	0.00	13.26	0.00	398.00	1.00	3.3%	0%
Total	***3.96***	***0.00***	***13.26***	***0.00***	***410.00***	***2.00***	***3.2%***	***0%***
Ponds - seasonal aquatic breeding	0	--	0	--	3	--	0%	--
Western pond turtle								
Aquatic habitat	1.79	0.65	10.02	1.72	369.00	31.00	2.7%	5.5%
Nesting and overwintering habitat	1.14	3.93	26.93	8.44	3,133.00	112.00	0.9%	7.5%
Total	***2.93***	***4.58***	***36.95***	***10.16***	***3,502.00***	***143.00***	***1.1%***	***7.1%***
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	1.62	0.00	2.31	0.51	109.00	1.00	2.1%	51.0%
Freshwater emergent habitat	0.00	--	5.64	--	76.00	--	7.4%	--
Active season upland movement	0.01	0.01	11.04	0.43	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	***1.63***	***0.01***	***19.56***	***0.94***	***1,948.00***	***9.00***	***1.0%***	***11.1%***
Drainage (miles)	0.00	--	0.00	--	57.00	--	0%	--
Swainson's hawk								
Nesting habitat	0.78	--	13.22	--	651.00	--	2.0%	--
Natural foraging habitat	29.22	4.32	86.46	11.54	1,407.00	22.00	6.1%	52.5%
Cultivated lands foraging habitat	1.97	15.91	195.67	39.22	9,399.00	202.00	2.1%	19.4%
Total	***31.97***	***20.23***	***282.13***	***50.76***	***10,806.00***	***224.00***	***2.6%***	***22.7%***
Nest trees	0	--	0	--	20[a]	--	0%	--
White-tailed kite								
Nesting habitat	0.77	--	13.96	--	661.00	--	2.1%	--
Primary foraging habitat	13.30	3.92	69.79	11.14	2,609.00	29.00	2.7%	38.4%
Secondary foraging habitat	19.57	18.61	213.27	41.92	7,969.00	205.00	0.2%	20.4%
Total	***33.64***	***22.53***	***283.06***	***53.06***	***10,578.00***	***234.00***	***2.7%***	***22.7%***
Western yellow-billed cuckoo								
Nesting/foraging habitat	0.01	--	0.28	--	59.00	--	0.5%	--
Western burrowing owl								
Primary habitat	28.94	0.02	81.08	0.53	861.00	1.00	9.4%	53.0%
Other habitat	2.26	12.20	12.83	15.48	2,311.00	218.00	0.6%	7.1%
Total	***31.20***	***12.22***	***93.91***	***16.01***	***3,172.00***	***219.00***	***0.3%***	***7.3%***
Least Bell's vireo								
Nesting/foraging habitat	0.01	--	2.25	--	39.00	--	4.7%	--
Bank swallow								
Nesting habitat	0.00	--	1.90	--	37.00	--	5.1%	--
Tricolored blackbird								
Nesting habitat	0.08	--	9.33	--	86.00	--	10.8%	--
Foraging habitat	0.26	0.00	119.48	21.86	8,942.00	230.00	1.3%	9.5%
Total	***0.34***	***0.00***	***128.81***	***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 FY22/23 a total of 28 sites had been enrolled in the reserve system.

During FY22/23 the Conservancy actively pursued the enrollment of both newly protected lands and pre-permit reserve lands into the reserve system. One pre-permit site and two newly protected land sites were enrolled in the reserve system during FY22/23. The enrollment dates and acreages for the sites enrolled during FY22/23 are included in Table 3-1. 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.

Substantial progress was also made towards the enrollment of five additional newly protected land site and two additional pre-permit site. The Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) conducted five site visits during FY22/23 and recommended four of the five sites that were evaluated for reserve system enrollment. Two sites that were evaluated by the STAC during the previous reporting period (FY21/22) were approved by the Conservancy, CDFW, and USFWS as candidate Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system sites in FY22/23. Two of the sites that were evaluated by the STAC during FY22/23 were approved by the Conservancy, CDFW, and USFWS as candidate Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system sites in FY22/23.

Figure 3-1: Sites enrolled in the reserve system

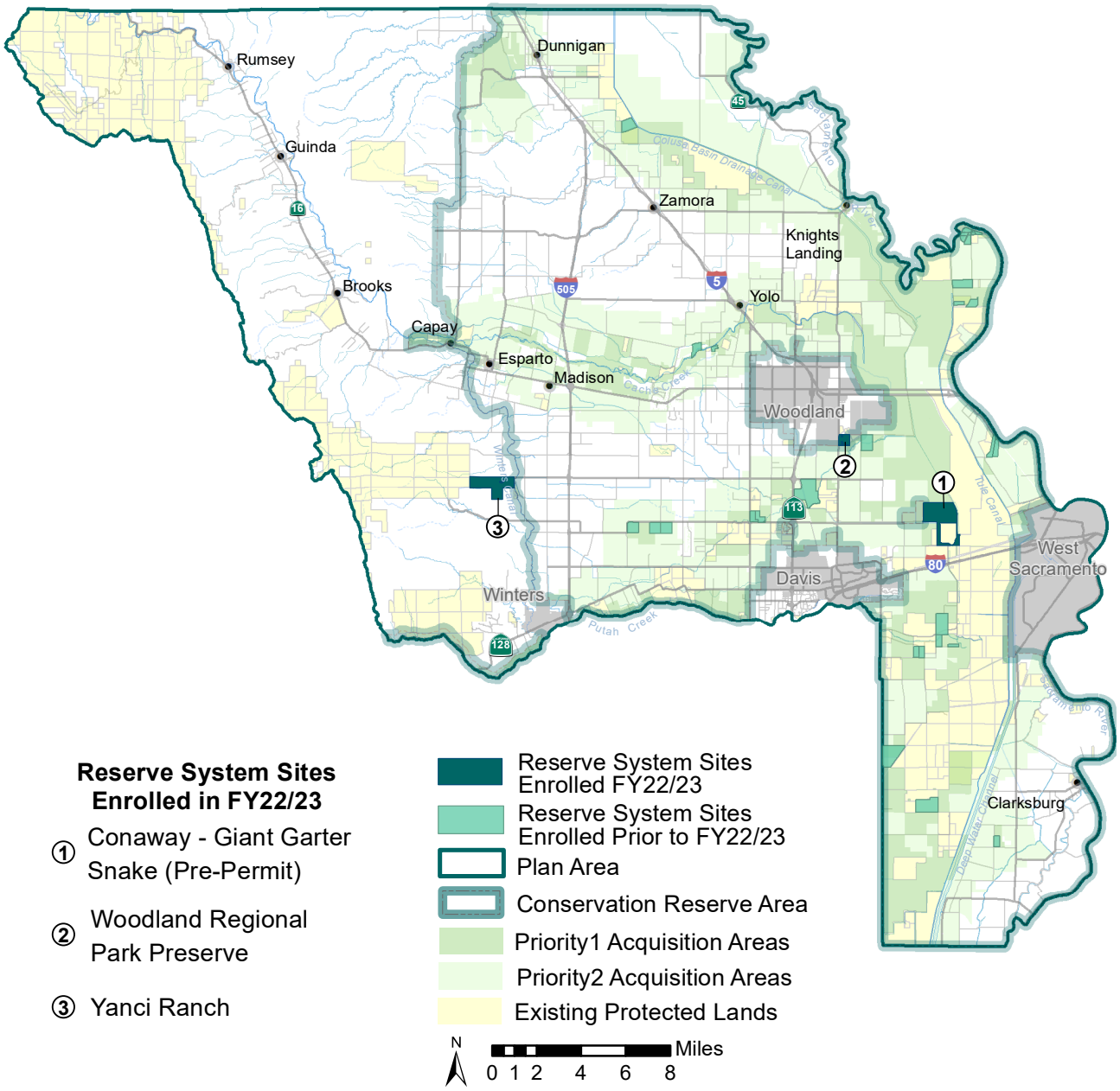


Table 3-1: Sites enrolled in the reserve system in FY22/23

Site Name	Reporting Year	Date Enrolled	Site Type	Total Acres Enrolled	Conservation Acres Enrolled[a]
Conaway - Giant Garter Snake	FY22/23	11/3/2022	Pre-Permit	1,000.00	1,000.00
Woodland Regional Park Preserve	FY22/23	6/26/2023	Newly Protected	153.10	143.63
Yanci Ranch	FY22/23	6/29/2023	Newly Protected	795.35	788.65
	Summary of Conservation Acres Enrolled Through June 30, 2023				
				Pre-Permit Lands Enrolled in FY22/23:	**1,000.00**
				Total Pre-Permit Lands Enrolled:	**4,626.88**
				Newly Protected Lands Enrolled in FY22/23:	**932.28**
				Total Newly Protected Lands Enrolled:	**1,210.08**
				Total Conservation Acres Enrolled:	**5,836.96**

[a] *Conservation land acres are the natural community and semi-natural community land cover acres that are protected or restored and count towards the commitments of the Yolo HCP/NCCP. Areas within easement development envelopes and other land cover types within an easement area are included in the total acres enrolled but do not count towards the Yolo HCP/NCCP commitments.*

[b] *The enrollment date of this property is the date the Swainson's Hawk Pre-Permit Reserve Lands Management Plan was finalized.*

Conaway Ranch - Giant Garter Snake 1 (pre-permit)

The Conaway Ranch Giant Garter Snake 1 conservation easement covers approximately 1,000 acres of Conaway Ranch, located within the eastern portion of Planning Unit 11. The easement is held by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and was explicitely identified in the Plan as site to be enrolled in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system as a pre-permit reserve site once a management plan for the area covering the easement was completed. The management plan for this site was signd by the CDFW Region 2 Manager and enrolled in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system on November 3, 2022. This site primarily consists of rice fields along with associated irrigation canals that are managed to provide consistent aquatic habitat for giant garter snakes and low berms and levees that are maintained in as natural a state as practicable to provide upland and winter refugia habitat for giant garter snakes.

Woodland Regional Park Preserve

The Woodland Regional Park Preserve was enrolled in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system on June 26, 2023, when the conservation easement was recorded. This site is in the southwest portion of the City of Woodland in Planning Unit 19. The conservation easement protects approximately 138 acres of land containing alkali prairie, grassland, valley foothill riparian, and created lacustrine natural communities along with areas identified for the creation of additional valley foothill riparian and fresh emergent wetland habitat. The site provides habitat for a variety of species including the following Yolo HCP/NCCP covered species: palmate-bracted bird's-beak, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, western burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, and western pond turtle. A highlight of this conservation easement is that it protects a previously unprotected population of palmate-bracted bird's-beak and fulfills the Yolo HCP/NCCP's requirement to protect 35 acres of alkali prairie natural community on Woodland Regional Park prior to any loss of this natural community as a result of covered activities (Yolo HCP/NCCP biological objective NC-AP1.1).

Yanci Ranch

Yanci Ranch was enrolled in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system on June 29, 2023, when the conservation easement was recorded. This conservation easement protects approximately 787 acres grassland, blue oak woodland, riparian, and fresh emergent wetland natural communities within Planning Unit 3. The site provides habitat for a variety of species including the following Yolo HCP/NCCP covered species: Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, western burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and western pond turtle. Enrollment of this site in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system assists the Yolo Habitat Conservancy in its efforts to fulfill the Yolo HCP/NCCP conservation requirements for the abovementioned natural communities and covered species. A highlight of this conservation easement is that it protects approximately 43.6 acres of blue oak woodland, fulfilling the Yolo HCP/NCCP's requirement to protect at least 10 acres of blue oak woodland on newly protected land.

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

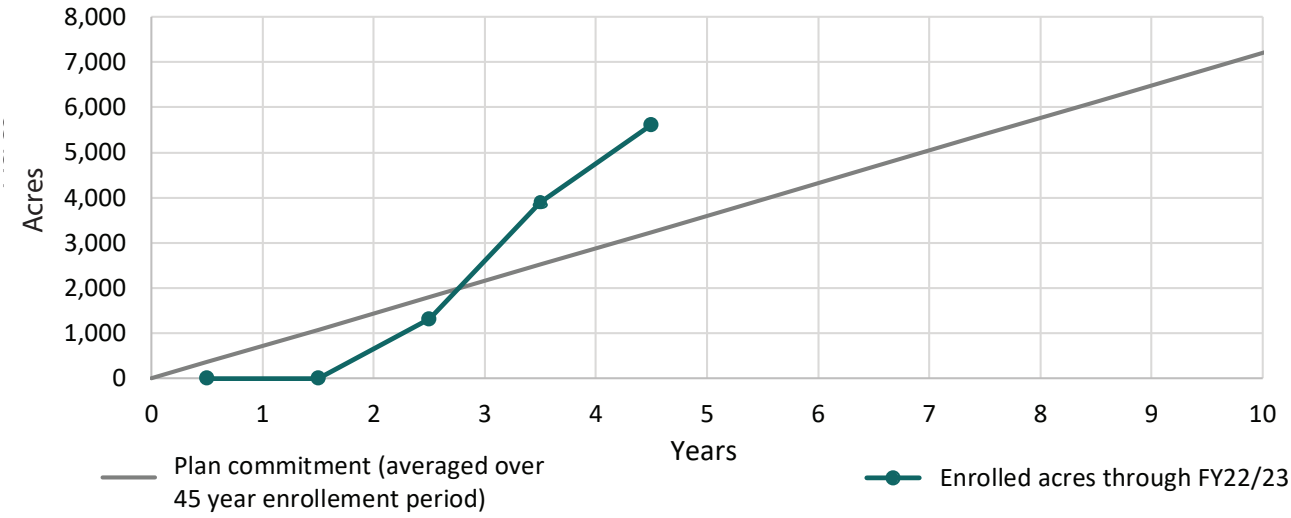


Table 3-2: Natural community land cover acres enrolled in the reserve system

Natural Communities	Total Enrollment Requirements (acres)			Reporting Period Enrollment (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	Pre-Permit	Newly Protected	Restoration/ Creation
Rice	1,775	2,800	--	774.1	0.0	--	883.1	0.0	--	49.8%	0%	--
Cultivated Lands (non-rice)	3,649	14,362	--	0.0	0.0	--	2360.2	238.6	--	64.7%	1.7%	--
Grassland	335	4,430	--	0.0	794.3	--	106.7	806.3	--	31.9%	18.2%	--
Oak Woodland (Valley Oak Woodland+ Blue Oak Woodland)	--	30	--	--	43.7	--	--	43.7	--	--	145.6%	--
Alkali Prairie	--	33.7	--	--	36.7	--	--	36.7	--	--	109%	--
Fresh Emergent Wetland	750	500	8.4 / 88[b]	108.9	3.3	5.6	674.4	5.5	5.6	89.9%	1.1%	67% / 6%
Valley Foothill Riparian	--	1,600	29 / 608[c]	--	21.8	1.3	237.8	32.3	5.0	100%[e]	2%	17% / 1%
Lacustrine and Riverine	--	600	27.5 / 260[d]	35.8	6.4	6.4	82.5	7.8	6.4	100%[e]	1.3%	23% / 3%
Total Natural Communities[f]	***8,000***	***24,406***	***62.6 / 956***	***918.8***	***907.0***	***13.3***	***4,344.8***	***1,171.8***	***17.0***	***54.3%***	***4.8%***	***27.1%***

[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

	Reporting Period Conservation (acres except where noted)		Cumulative Conservation (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**	**Pre-Permit**	**Newly Protected**
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle								
Riparian habitat	0	2	210	13	10	1600	100%	1%
Non-riparian habitat	0	20	36	20	120	20	30%	20
Total	***0***	***22***	***246***	***22***	***130***	***1620***	***100%***	***1%***
California tiger salamander								
Aquatic breeding habitat	0	0	0	0	27	36	0%	0%
Upland habitat	0	0	0	0	340	2,000	0%	0%
Total	***0***	***0***	***0***	***0***	***367***	***2,036***	***0%***	***0%***
Ponds - seasonal aquatic breeding habitat (no. of ponds)	--	0	--	0	--	36	--	0%
Western pond turtle								
Aquatic habitat	757	11	1069	13	2098	2400	51.0%	0.5%
Nesting and overwintering habitat	97	675	679	699	978	3475	69.4%	20.1%
Total	***854***	***686***	***1749***	***712***	***3076***	***5875***	***56.8%***	***12.1%***
Giant garter snake								
Rice habitat	774	0	883	0	1775	2800	49.8%	0%
Aquatic habitat	36	0	66	8	140	420	47.1%	1.9%
Freshwater emergent habitat	109	0	678	2	750	500	90.4%	0.4%
Active season upland movement	1	0	28	25	130	1160	21.8%	2.2%
Overwintering habitat	0	0	10	78	115	2315	9.0%	3%
Total	***920***	***0***	***1666***	***114***	***2910***	***7195***	***57.2%***	***1.6%***
Swainson's hawk								
Nesting habitat	14	6	108	16	215	1,600	50.4%	1.0%
Natural foraging habitat	95	831	177	843	980	4,430	18.1%	19.0%
Cultivated lands foraging habitat	14	0	2,323	290	3,600	14,362	64.5%	2.0%
Total	***123***	***837***	***2,609***	***1,149***	***4,795***	20,392	***54.4%***	***5.6%***
White-tailed kite								
Nesting habitat	14	81	108	92	215	1,600	50.4%	6%
Foraging habitat	109	826	2,144	999	3,330	18,792	64.4%	5%
Total	***124***	***907***	***2,252***	***1,090***	***3,545***	***18,792***	***63.5%***	***6%***
Western yellow-billed cuckoo								
Nesting/foraging habitat[a]	***0***	***0***	***164***	***0***	***135***	***500***	***121%***	***0%***
Western burrowing owl								
Primary habitat	0	88	85	100	330	3,000	25.8%	3.3%
Other habitat	0	0	843	186	770	2,500	109.5%	7.4%
Total	***0***	***88***	***928***	***287***	***1,100***	***5,500***	***84.4%***	***5.2%***
Least Bell's vireo								
Nesting/foraging habitat[a]	***0***	***0***	***186.60***	***0***	***110***	***600***	***169.6%***	***0%***
Bank swallow								
Nesting habitat	***0***	***0***	***1.8***	***0***	--	***50***	***100%***	***0%***
Tricolored blackbird								
Nesting habitat[a]	11	0	265	0	150	200	100%	0%
Foraging habitat	774	794	2,771	1,016	4,000	16,610	69.3%	6.1%
Total	***785***	***794***	***3,036***	***1,016***	***4,150***	***16,810***	***73.1%***	***6.0%***
Palmate-bracted bird's beak								
Habitat	***0***	***37***	***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 prior to Yolo HCP/NCCP, 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 FY22/23, 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 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 so the restoration and enhancement acreages attributed to each site are currently pending and will not be considered final until verified that success criteria have been met after 5 years of post-restoration monitoring.

Table 3-4: Restoration activities conducted through FY22/23

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	2025	--	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	--
Woodland Regional Park Preserve Wetland Restortation[b]	2023[c]	ongoing	pending	5.62	0.38	6.37
			TOTAL:	**5.62**	**5.00**	**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

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. 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. Since initial planting efforts at the site, numerous site visits have been made to establish and monitor the revegetation progress and its overall success. 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 supplemental irrigation, weed control, minimizing herbivory, mowing, and trash removal. During 2023, the fourth year of annual monitoring, 89.1% of the 878 total plants (elderberry and native associates) planted have survived and all but two elderberry transplants have survived. A summary of the status of planting survivorship is provided in Table 3-5. Most mortality has been attributed to consecutive drought conditions experienced in 2021 and 2022. As a result, plantings were provided supplemental irrigation by importing water to the site during very dry periods.

Table 3-5: Woodland Reiff restroration monitoring results for FY22/23 (Year 4)

Planting	Min. # Required to be Planted	Total # Planted	Total # Surviving[a]	% Survival
Blue elderberry	290	327	309	107%
Native Associate Plantings	465	551	364	78%
Overall Total	755	878	673	89%

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

Correll

After enrolling the Correll site into the reserve system in FY21/22, the Conservancy developed a restoration plan for 3.4 acres of the site to provide a blueprint for providing habitat mitigation for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle on the site (VELB mitigation area). During FY21/22, a total of 64 elderberries and 88 native associates were planted within 0.53-acres of the VELB mitigation area to mitigate for impacts associated with two projects that received Yolo HCP/NCCP coverage during FY21/22 (Rivers 202 and Pioneer Village). During FY22/23 two additional projects received Yolo HCP/NCCP permit coverage that required compliance with Avoidance and Minimization Measure 12, Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (Rivers 2 and UCD Orchard Park). These plantings included the planting of 88 additional elderberries and 142 native associates within a 0.95-acre area within the designated VELB mitigation area that was contiguous with the FY21/22 plantings.

A series of significant winter storms during the beginning of 2023 flooded the Correll site, which left the majority of the previously planted VELB mitigation area submerged for several weeks. After the water on the site subsided the Yolo RCD documented plant mortality, which is documented in Table 3-6. The elderberry plantings on the site dropped below the 60% survival threshold so the Conservancy and the Yolo RCD initiated efforts to reconfigure the VELB mitigation area 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. Replanting efforts were conducted in the second half of 2023 and will be summarized in the FY23/24 Annual Report.

Table 3-6: Correll Site restroration monitoring results for FY22/23

Planting	Min. # Required to be Planted[a]	Total # Planted	Total # Surviving	% Survival
Blue elderberry	154	154	25	16%
Native Associate Plantings	206	218	148	72%
Overall Total	360	372	173	48%

Woodland Regional Park Preserve Wetland and Riparian Restoration

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. A new well was drilled on site during FY21/22, equipped with a variable speed pump to provide groundwater with which the pond water level can be raised. This dedicated water supply system is critical to managing late-summer water levels for aquatic and wetland habitat and will be used to help ensure aquatic habitat is available even during periods of drought. During FY22/23, Woodland Regional Park Preserve was enrolled in the reserve system and the well pump was operated such that water was maintained in the constructed wetland for the first time throughout the summer.

At the end of FY22/23 the well pump was being operated to actively manage water levels within the portions of the Woodland Regional Park Preserve graded as permanent wetland (lacustrine) and seasonal wetland (fresh emergent wetland) habitat areas. 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.

4. Management and Monitoring

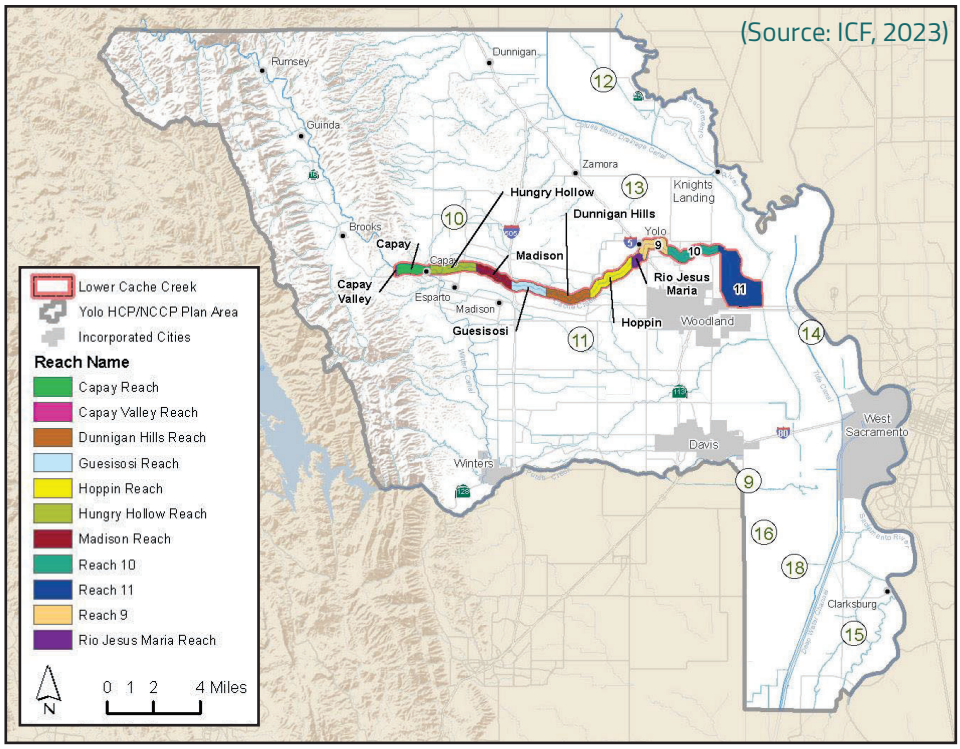
- This chapter summarizes the management, enhancement, monitoring, and research activities the Conservancy and partners conducted within the Yolo HCP/NCCP Plan Area and reserve system lands during the reporting period.

Reserve Management

Lower Cache Creek Reserve Unit Management Plan

The Conservancy completed the Lower Cache Creek Reserve Unit Management Plan in April 2023 to provide a management framework for the Lower Cache Creek Reserve Unit (Reserve Unit), which is composed primarily of riverine, riparian, and other associated natural communities along Lower Cache Creek within Planning Unit 7 (ICF, 2023). Lower Cache Creek provides a vital ecological corridor under the Yolo HCP/NCCP and provides habitat for eight Yolo HCP/NCCP covered species: valley elderberry longhorn beetle, western pond turtle, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, western yellow-billed cuckoo, least Bell's vireo, bank swallow, and tricolored blackbird. The Lower Cache Creek Reserve Unit Management Plan identifies the reserve enrollment and management activities that support implementation of the Yolo HCP/NCCP conservation strategy and was developed in coordination with the Yolo County Natural Resources Division to ensure consistency with existing plans including the Parkway Plan and the Cache Creek Area Plan, of which the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan (CCRMP), Cache Creek Improvement Plan, and Off-Channel Mining Plan are part.

Figure 4-1: Lower Cache Creek Reserve Management Unit



Invasive Species Management

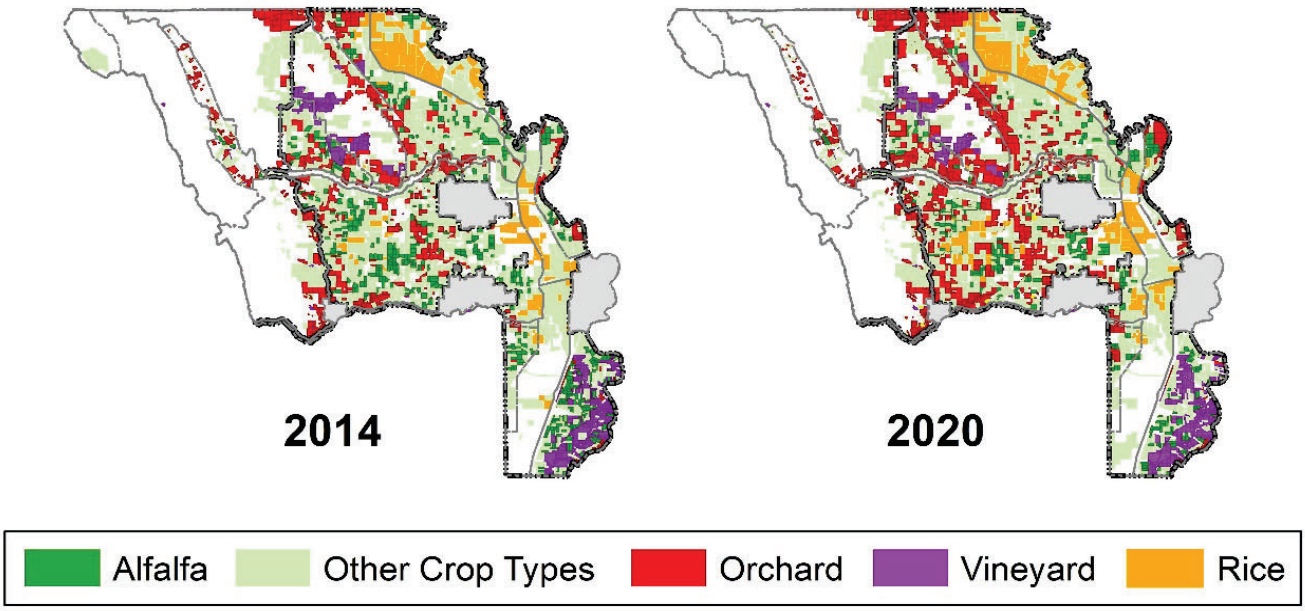
During FY22/23 the Yolo RCD coordinated with Yolo County's Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) program to identify priority EDRR weeds for reserve system sites and to map and treat Russian knapweed (Rhaponticum repens) at Woodland Regional Park.

Landscape-Level Monitoring

Land Cover Mapping Updates

The crop data in the Yolo HCP/NCCP land cover dataset was updated in order to have more accurate and up-to-date information from which to assess the spatial distribution of suitable foraging habitat on cultivated lands in Yolo County. The crop data utilized for the land cover dataset is sourced from the Yolo County Crops 2020 Open Data GIS dataset which was published on March 30, 2021. This particular dataset was used as it was the most current available spatial dataset of crop types within the Yolo HCP/NCCP Conservation Reserve Area at the time that this project was initiated. Once the 2020 crop data was obtained from the County, the crop type descriptors used in the County's dataset were cross-walked with the crop type classifications used in the Yolo HCP/NCCP so that the updated land cover dataset continues to use the same crop type classifications as the original HCP/NCCP land cover dataset. The updated land cover dataset was then used to update the Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite habitat models, which both rely significantly on crop types within the agricultural landscape.

Figure 4-2: Agricultural lands update to land cover dataset



Suitable Nest Tree Mapping

The mapping of potentially suitable nest trees within the Yolo HCP/NCCP Conservation Reserve Area was conducted in FY22/23 using remote sensing tools within ArcGIS Pro that use object-oriented segmentation to isolate individual tree canopies within 4-band CIR (color infrared) National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) aerial photography and generate a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) dataset from input laser point cloud data (LAS) files. The resulting outputs include two feature class datasets. One dataset presents the final output data as polygons which align with the approximate spatial extent of the tree canopy of the trees and tree clusters that were mapped while the other output dataset presents the data as points that are positioned at the approximate center of each tree or tree cluster. This mapping effort was conducted in order for the Conservancy to be able to incorporate current nesting habitat availability, including individual trees, into updated versions of the Yolo HCP/NCCP Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite habitat models and to aid in efforts to prioritize the location of conservation efforts for these species within the Conservation Reserve Area.

Invasive species monitoring

The Yolo RCD performed landscape-level invasive plant species montioring and research using resources from Cal-IPC and the Yolo County Weed Management Area to identify priority weed species in Yolo County that pose current or potential future risk of invasion to reserve system sites.

Reserve System Monitoring

Invasive species monitoring

The Yolo RCD researched previously documented invasive plant species occurrences occurring on reserve system sites using data maintained by Cal-IPC, the Yolo County Weed Management Area, and UC Davis herbarium. Additionally, the Yolo RCD conducted site-specific invasive plant species distribution mapping at the Correll and Woodland Regional Park Preserve reserve system sites. Perennial pepperweed (Lepidium latifolium) and barbed goat grass (Aegiliops triuncialis) were the two species mapped at the Correll site. Perennial pepperweed, Russian knapweed (Acroptilon repens), and whitetop (Lepidium draba) were mapped at the Woodland Regional Park Preserve.

Invasive species mapping at Correll
(Source: Yolo RCD)

Invasive species mapping at Woodland Regional Park Preserve
(Source: Yolo RCD)

Effectiveness monitoring

The VELB mitigation areas previously planted at Woodland Reiff and the Correll site were monitoring during FY22/23 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.

The Conservancy was notified in FY22/23 by the Wildlife Heritage Foundation that they had observed an easement violation associated with the pre-permit conservation easement that the Wildlife Heritage Foundation holds on the Sacramento River Ranch property. They informed the Conservancy that they had discussed the violation with the landowner and that a notice of violation is forthcoming. All other HCP/NCCP reserve system sites were found to be in compliance with the terms of their respective easements during FY22/23.

5. Stay Ahead Compliance and Changed Circumstances

- This chapter also 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

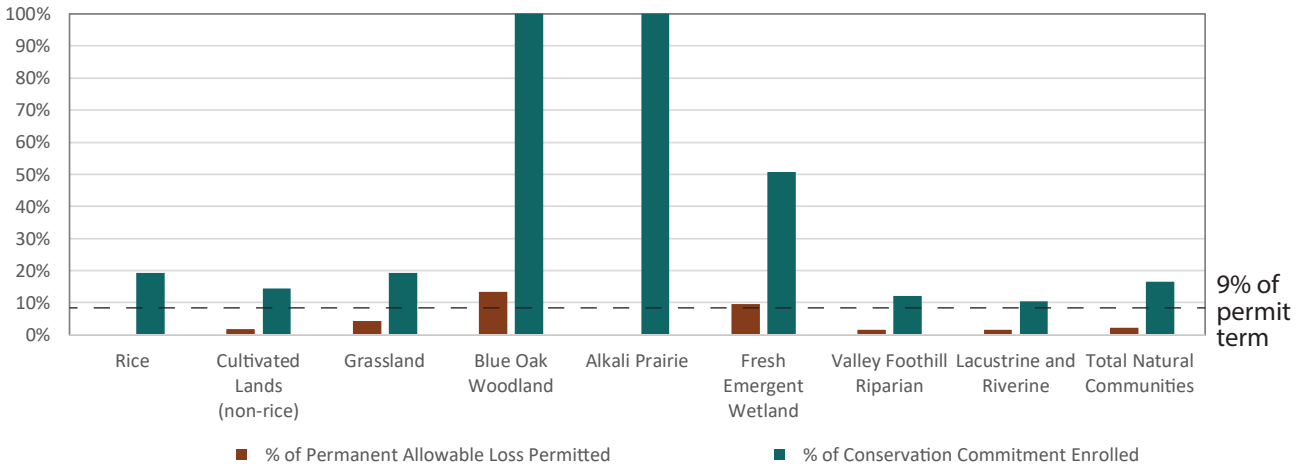
The conservation strategy of an NCCP must be implemented at or faster than the rate at which the loss of natural communities or habitat for covered species occurs so that conservation always stays ahead of effects and rough proportionality is maintained between adverse effects on natural communities 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 FY22/23 was 14.3 percent greater than the percentage of the total allowable permanent impacts that had been incurred by the end of FY22/23, meaning that the overall permanent conservation efforts of the Yolo HCP/NCCP implemented by the end of FY22/23 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 FY22/23. At the end of FY22/23, the stay-ahead provision was met both cumulatively and for each individual land cover type.

Table 5-1: Natural communities impacts and enrollment through FY22/23

Natural Communities	Cumulative Permanent Impacts (% of cap)	Cumulative Reserve Enrollment (% complete)	Difference (%)
Rice	0%	19.3%	19.3%
Cultivated Lands (non-rice)	1.8%	14.4%	12.6%
Grassland	4.2%	19.2%	15.0%
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	1.5%	12.2%	10.7%
Lacustrine and Riverine	1.5%	10.5%	9.0%
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.

On June 18, 2019, the California Fish and Game Commission advanced the state listing status of Crotch's bumble bee (Bombus crotchii) and western bumble bee (Bombus occidentalis occidentalis) as candidate species. The original candidacy determination was challenged in court. Candidacy was temporarily stayed beginning February 2021 following an adverse trial court judgment. The Third District Court of Appeal reversed the trial court judgment and candidacy was reinstated on September 30, 2022. Each of

these species has historic occurrence records within the Plan Area and the Crotch's bumble bee has extant occurrence records within the Plan Area. As candidate species, they receive the same legal protection afforded to endangered or threatened species (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2074.2 & 2085.

A changed circumstance due to new non-covered species listing **did occur** in the reporting period.

The Conservancy will evaluate the potential impacts of covered activities on the Crotch's bumble bee and western bumble bee and conduct an assessment of the presence of suitable habitat in areas of potential effect. The Conservancy will also implement measures to avoid take of the newly listed species, such as advising applicants they need seek separate take coverage for the bees.

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

[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 December value.*

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.

The first portion of FY22/23 included the dry summer months of 2022, which were part of a three-year drought that constituted the driest years recorded in California (DWR, 2023). This was followed by a wetter than normal winter that ended the drought.

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 FY22/23 the amount of high-value agricultural foraging habitat acres fell below the 24,560-acre threshold for the third year in a row, however, total acres of habitat did not fall below the 267,750-acre threshold. The Plan Area experienced drought conditions from 2020 through fall of 2022. 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. Since the amount of high-value cultivated lands foraging habitat was close to the 24,560-acre threshold during FY19/20, the Conservancy proactively 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). If both the high value foraging habitat and total suitable foraging habitat acreages drop below the evaluation threshold during the next reporting period, then the Conservancy will have another Plan Area Swainson's hawk nest survey conducted to determine if further action is needed. Otherwise, the Conservancy will maintain the 5-year survey schedule contemplated in the Yolo HCP/NCCP and have the next Plan Area Swainson's hawk nest survey conducted in 2025.

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

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

Foraging Habitat	Evaluation Threshold (acres)	Reporting Period[a]
High Value Foraging Habitat	24,584	23,782
Total Suitable Foraging Habitat	267,750	268,408

[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.

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 March 27, 2023, 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 2023 are listed below in Table 7-4.

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 FY22/23 on May 16, 2022. Table 7-1 below, provides the adopted budget summary along with actual revenue and expenditures accrued during FY22/23.

Table 7-1: Adopted budget, actual revenue, and actual expenditures for FY22/23

Description	Mitigation Fee Fund	Mitigation Account Fund	Grant Fund	Pre-Permit Endowment	Post Permit Endowment	Other Revenue Fund	Total
Beginning Balance	$3,415,884	$533,968	$29,818	$335,708	$99,814	$69,129	**$4,484,321**
Revenue (Actual)[a]	$824,984	$24,200	$1,361,927[b]	$26,655	$236,545	$34,431	**$2,508,742**
Revenue (Budgeted)	$1,505,000	$2,000	$125,000	$10,000	$44,000	$51,000	**$1,737,000**
Expenditure (Actual)	($1,493,706)	($407,557)	($1,371,388)[b]	($4,271)	$0	$0	**($3,276,922)**
Expenditure (Budgeted)	($4,055,500)	($552,884)	($125,000)	($10,000)	$0	$0	**($4,743,384)**
Actual Revenue vs. Expenditure	($668,722)	($383,357)	($9,461)	$22,384	$236,545	$34,431	**($768,180)**
Closing Balance	$2,747,162	$150,611	$20,357	$358,092	$336,359	$103,560	**$3,716,141**
Revenue Budget to Actual	55%	1210%	1090%	267%	538%	68%	**144%**
Expenditure Budget to Actual	37%	74%	1097%	43%	-	-	**69%**

[a] *Includes accrued interest*

[b] *A total of $1,300,000 in Section 6 funding (F20AP11994-00/WCB Subgrant SG-2202DD) was awarded for the purchase of an HCP/NCCP easement on Yanci Ranch. These funds were provided directly into an escrow account but are included in the Grant Fund to document the increase in easement assets held by the Conservancy and grant fund contributions supporting Yolo HCP/NCCP implementation during FY22/23. The annual audit for FY22/23 inadvertently allocated these funds to the Mitigation Account Fund. They are reported in the correct Fund location in this table.*

Revenue Sources

The Conservancy received revenue from state and federal grants, as well as mitigation fees. Table 7-2 summarizes the state and federal grants that were actively used during FY22/23 and Table 7-3 summarizes the mitigation fee fund revenue and expenditures for FY22/23.

Table 7-2: State and federal grant revenue and expenditures for FY22/23

Funding Source	Funding Entity	Purpose	Amount Awarded	Required Match	Grant Funding Expended in FY22/23	Grant Funding Total Expended Through June 30, 2023
Direct [a]						
NCCP Local Assistance (Q2020101)	CDFW	Mapping and prioritization of cultivated lands habitat	$50,000	$5,000	$29,471	$47,578
NCCP Local Assistance (Q2020102)	CDFW	Cache Creek Reserve Unit Management Plan	$125,000	$46,500	$22,429	$82,808
Indirect[b]						
Non-Traditional Section 6 (F20AP11994-00/ WCB Subgrant SG-2202DD)	USFWS	Easement Acquisitions	$5,000,000	$2,200,000	$1,300,000	$2,133,280
		TOTAL	**$5,816,720**	**$3,153,280**	**$1,351,899**	**$2,263,665**

a. Direct grants: Grant funds reimburse the Conservancy for Yolo HCP/NCCP activities and therefore are included in the Conservancy's budget and financial documents as revenue.

b. Indirect grants: Grant funds are deposited directly into an escrow account for an easement acquisition and are not deposited into any financial accounts held or managed by the Conservancy so they are not documented as revenue in the Conservancy's budget and financial documents.

Table 7-3: Mitigation Fee Fund revenue and expenditures for FY22/23

	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Interest	Expenditures	Closing Balance
Total Balance	3,415,884	732,892	92,092	(1,493,706)	$2,747,162

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.

At the beginning of FY22/23 there was also a Non-Riparian Elderberry Transplant Maintenance Fee. This fee was adopted by resolution after a public hearing conducted by the Conservancy Board on September 20, 2021. The purpose of the Non-Riparian Elderberry Transplant Maintenance Fee was to cover the costs associated with the required five years of monitoring and maintenance of elderberry shrubs transplanted from non-riparian land cover types. Previously there was no established fee for this activity type. On September 22, 2022, the Conservancy Board held a public hearing and adopted a resolution eliminating the per acre non-riparian elderberry transplant maintenance fee and increasing the per acre land cover fee and the valley foothill riparian fee to simplify the overall cost calculations and better account for full cost recovery as described in the Updated Land Cover Fee & Valley Foothill Riparian Fee memo prepared by Robert Spenser of Urban Economics (Urban Economics, 2022).

(B) The amount of the fee.

The Yolo HCP/NCCP fees are updated annually on or about March 15. In FY22/23, the Yolo HCP/NCCP fees were updated on March 27, 2023. The Yolo HCP/NCCP per acre fees, as of the March 2023 update, are shown in Table 7-4.

Table 7-4: Yolo HCP/NCCP fees at the end of FY22/23

Fee Type	Fee Amount (per acre)
Land Cover Fee	$16,202
Wetlands Fee	
Fresh Emergent Wetland	$87,337
Valley Foothill Riparian	$91,814
Lacustrine and Riverine	$70,046

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

See Table 7-3.

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

See Table 7-3.

(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.

References

Estep, J. September 2020. The 2020 Distribution, Abundance, and Habitat Associations of the Swainson's Hawk (Buteo swainsoni) in Yolo County, California. Woodland, California.

ICF. October 2020. Woodland Regional Park Natural Community Restoration Plan. Sacramento, California. Prepared for Yolo Habitat Conservancy, Woodland, California.

ICF. 2023. Yolo HCP/NCCP Lower Cache Creek Reserve Unit Management Plan. April. Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Yolo Habitat Conservancy, Woodland, California

Triangle Properties, Inc. November 2023. Yolo Habitat Conservancy Elderberry Seedlings and Native Associates Planting Project: 4th Year Monitoring Report (2023). Yolo County, California.

Urban Economics. 2022. Updated Land Cover Fee & Valley Foothill Riparian Fee. August 19, 2022 Memorandum prepared for the Yolo Habitat Conservancy.

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