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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1 Purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Element	1-1
1.2 Open Space and Recreation Element Definitions, Open Space Diagram	1-3
1.3 Regional and Local Context	1-4
1.4 Demographics	1-4
1.5 Relationship to Other General Plan Elements	1-5
1.6 Document Organization	1-5
1.7 How to Use the Open Space and Recreation Element	1-6
CHAPTER TWO - YOLO COUNTY OPEN SPACE & RECREATION RESOURCES	2-1
2.1 What are Open Space Lands?	2-1
2.2 Existing Open Space Resources	2-12
2.3 Recreation Patterns and Activities	2-18
2.4 Recreation Opportunities	2-19
CHAPTER THREE - OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ISSUES	3-1
3.1 Growth Pressure and Demand for Open Space and Recreational Lands	3-1
3.2 Open Space, Recreation and Agricultural Compatibility	3-2
3.3 Sustainable Tourism and Its Impacts on Open Space and Recreational Lands	3-5
3.4 Recreation and Tourism as Industry	3-6
3.5 Implementation of a Cache Creek Recreation Plan	3-8
3.6 Community-Based Recreation Programs	3-9
3.7 The Blue Ridge Trail	3-9
3.8 Trail Connections to the Upper Sacramento River	3-10
3.9 Implementation of the Bicycle Transportation Plan	3-10
3.10 Clustering of Development to Preserve Open Space Lands	3-11
3.11 Yolo Bypass Open Space	3-11
3.12 Cache Creek Casino: Its Impact on Recreation	3-13
3.13 Property Acquisition Along Putah Creek	3-13
3.14 Master Planning for Grasslands Regional Park	3-14
3.15 The Sacramento River Greenway Project	3-15
3.16 The Yolo County Natural Communities Conservation Plan	3-15
3.17 Fiscal and Employment Impacts of Open Space Preservation and Enhanced Tourism	3-16

CHAPTER FOUR - THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES	4-1
4.1 Open Space Goals and Objectives	4-1
4.2 Open Space Policies	4-2
4.3 Open Space Implementation Measures	4-4
4.4 Recreation Goals and Objectives	4-5
4.5 Recreation Policies	4-7
4.6 Recreation Implementation Measures	4-9

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Figures
- Appendix B - Calculations of Park Standards

1.0 INTRODUCTION & VISION STATEMENT

Open space, whether public or private, is one of Yolo County's most precious commodities. Once an opportunity to acquire parks and open space is lost, a second chance is seldom possible. Open Space in Yolo County is closely tied to the future of agriculture. Although other forms of open space are extremely important, without the continuation of agricultural enterprise, open space resources will be greatly diminished. The future of open space in Yolo County, therefore, is closely tied to directions and initiatives undertaken to preserve land for agriculture. At the same time, growth pressures will increase demand for open space and recreational lands accessible to an expanding regional population.

If the correct decisions are made, regional growth will be an economic incentive to preserve Yolo County's open space resources. Key to the preservation of open space lands held in private ownership will be creation of non-traditional activities, especially those associated with eco-tourism and agricultural tourism. Any existing policies that would impede these forms of recreation should be reexamined and the County should actively support the development of visitor-serving businesses that complement eco- and agricultural tourism.

If properly marketed and promoted, Yolo County has the potential to become a destination for short vacations and day trips from within the Sacramento/Bay Area region. Visitors will enjoy a variety of outdoor recreational activities utilizing a wide range of natural resources, as well as agriculturally- and educationally-related activities. To establish Yolo County as a destination choice will, however, require development of additional traveler-related infrastructure.

Non-agriculturally-related open space and recreation facilities will be expanded as resources permit. This will continue to include implementation of plans for Lower Cache Creek, the Yolo Bypass, the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lower Putah Creek, the Sacramento River and existing County parks lands and facilities. Implementation will be aided by public/private partnerships and joint activities with other government agencies. The pace of activity and level of County involvement will, however, be limited unless the resource base is expanded. Government and foundation grants will be an important source of funding encouraging the growth of private open space and recreational amenities, which in turn will provide tax revenues that can be used to expand and improve publicly held land and facilities.

In summary, any successful program for open space and recreation lands and facilities in Yolo County must recognize the need to create a strong economic incentive for preservation of farmland, as well as open space for scenic and wildlife purposes. These incentives are embodied both in the development of eco- and agricultural tourism and in the creation of new markets and opportunities for agriculture.

1.1 Purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Element

The primary purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Element is to be a foundation policy document enabling the County to further establish and preserve open space areas, develop further opportunities for recreation tourism, and active and passive open space and recreation areas.

The Open Space Element is one of the seven mandatory elements (which also include land use, circulation, safety, noise, conservation and housing). Consistent with Section 65560 of the Government Code, the Open Space and Recreation Element will address open space for:

- The preservation of natural resources
- The managed production of resources (as related to the Agricultural Element and aggregate mining)
- Outdoor recreation areas having scenic, historic, habitat and cultural value, with and without recreation tourism potential
- Park and recreation areas
- Possible habitat conservation areas
- For health and safety reasons.

This update of the adopted Open Space Element as an Open Space and Recreation Element includes refinement of existing General Plan goals, objectives and policies. New open space, recreation and tourism goals, objectives and policies have also been created. The Open Space and Recreation Element expresses policies, implementing measures and potential programs that will promote and protect the current and future needs for open space areas and related recreation activities. The Element provides clear guidelines for land use decisions in open space and recreation areas.

The Recreation Element is an optional General Plan Element, and not one of the seven mandatory elements. State law offers counties and cities considerable flexibility to adopt “any other elements or address any other subjects, which, in the judgment of the legislative body, relate to the physical development of the county or city.” Adopting a Recreation Element is a public acknowledgment of the importance of recreation to Yolo County. According to the *State General Plan Guidelines* (1998), about one-third of the cities and 40 percent of the counties in California have adopted a parks and recreation element. This number illustrates the importance placed upon parks and recreation facilities by local jurisdictions.

As stated in the *General Plan Guidelines*, public parks, and the passive and active recreation opportunities they provide, are important contributors to a community’s quality of life. Recreation consists of both active and passive use of unimproved open space lands or developed recreational areas. Examples of open space as a passive use include wildlife areas, lakeshores, rivers, streams, and areas of scenic, cultural or historical significance. Recreational areas designed for more active uses include parks, playgrounds, and golf courses.

Yolo County has long been viewed as a special open space and recreation destination: an area of creeks, rivers, and mountains where hiking, rafting, horseback riding, fishing and bicycling are popular pastimes. Yolo County, like all California counties, is faced with population pressures and increased demand for traditional park and recreation services. Adoption of an Open Space and Recreation Element will assist the County in addressing these issues and services in a comprehensive manner.

1.2 Open Space and Recreation Element Definitions

Open Space Diagram

Figure 1-1 is the Open Space Diagram, depicting areas designated for open space and parks and recreation. Definitions are provided in this section for the “Open Space and Public Open Space” and “Parks and Recreation” land use designations.

Open Space and Public Open Space: Open Space and Public Open Space land is any parcel or area of land or water that is devoted to an open space use as listed below:

- Banks of lakes, streams, rivers or lakeshores;
- Flood control bypass or channel;
- Fish, wildlife, and plant habitat;
- Areas prescribed for ecologic or other scientific study purposes, including archaeological sites;
- Areas used for managed resource production, including:
 - Agricultural lands
 - Groundwater recharge areas,
 - Marshes, rivers, lakes, and streams important for fisheries, and
 - Areas containing major mineral deposits, including sand and gravel clays, ores, metals, and oil or gas
- Areas within Scenic Highway Corridors; and
- Areas needed for Public Health and Safety, including:
 - Areas needing special management, mitigation, or avoidance because of hazardous or special conditions such as:
 - Earthquake fault zones
 - Unstable soil areas
 - Floodplains
 - Watersheds
 - Areas of high wildfire risks
 - Areas for protection of water quality
 - Areas for water reservoirs
 - Areas required for protection and enhancement of air quality.

“Public Open Space” is open space land owned by a public agency.

Parks and Recreation: Areas designated Parks and Recreation are used or needed for outdoor recreation, including:

- Areas of outstanding scenic, historic, or cultural value
- Areas currently used for or particularly suited for park and recreation purposes
- Areas for access to lakeshores, rivers, and streams
- Areas linking major recreation and open space reservations, including:
 - Utility easements
 - Banks of rivers and streams

- Multi-Use Trails
- Boat Launching Facilities

1.3 Regional and Local Context

Yolo County includes the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Woodland and Winters, as well as the unincorporated area of the county. Yolo County also includes the unincorporated communities of Capay, Clarksburg, Dunnigan, Esparto, Guinda, Knights Landing, Madison, Rumsey, Yolo and Zamora. This Open Space and Recreation Element, as an element of the Yolo County General Plan, applies only to the unincorporated area. However, Yolo County and its cities have a history of working cooperatively to protect and preserve open space as one of the most important resources in the County.

Yolo County and its cities are part of the six-county region, which is encompassed by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), also including the counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yuba. In the larger geographic sense, the valley portion of Yolo County is part of the Sacramento Valley, which with the San Joaquin Valley makes up the Central Valley of California. Yolo County is also part of the “I-80 Corridor” which extends between Sacramento and the Bay Area.

1.4 Demographics

Population projections for the period 2000 through 2022 prepared by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) in February 1999 for the six-county region including El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties anticipate a population increase of 872,808, an increase of almost 47 percent. Sacramento and Sutter counties, which are adjacent to Yolo County, have projected growth of 442,383 persons (37 percent) and 44,875 persons (55 percent), respectively. Placer County is also growing rapidly, with a projected population increase for the same period of 177,490 (44 percent).

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Yolo County had a resident population of 168,660 as of April 2000. Population projections for the county are 236,110 in 2020 and 242,510 in 2022 (SACOG, 1999). According to the State Employment Development Department (EDD), Yolo County is expected to experience a steady increase in population over this period. The gain in new residents will be approximately 61,300 by 2020, or a little over 37 percent. Based on County land use policies and zoning and Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) policies, it is evident that most of that population increase will occur in the cities, with limited growth in the unincorporated communities. According to information provided by SACOG (2001), only 51 housing units were constructed in the Yolo County unincorporated area in 1999, compared to a total of 1,301 in the incorporated cities. However, approximately 450 parcels in the unincorporated area of Yolo County have been tentatively approved for development of single-family homes. While SACOG anticipates only 12.4 percent growth in the Yolo County unincorporated area, growth in the Sacramento County unincorporated area is projected at over 56 percent, and over 42 percent in Sutter County. With such high rates of growth in the six-county region, increased pressure will be placed on Yolo County. It may be increasingly difficult to maintain the comparatively low growth rate of 12.4 percent.

1.5 Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

Concurrent with adoption of the Open Space and Recreation Element, the County is preparing an Agricultural Element. The Agricultural Element is not one of the seven mandatory General Plan elements, but it is an optional element.

The General Plan and its elements must, by law, be internally consistent. The concept of internal consistency means that no policy conflicts exist, either in the text or diagrams, between the components of the General Plan. All of the elements of a General Plan, including optional elements, must be consistent with one another. Additionally, all elements of the General Plan have equal legal status; that is, Open Space and Recreation Element policies are not superior to the policies of the Agricultural Element.

As stated in the *State of California General Plan Guidelines* (Office of Planning and Research, 1998):

The statutory requirements for the elements overlap and intertwine. For example, conservation of open-space and agricultural land are topics under the open-space and conservation elements as well as the land use element...The important thing is that the elements and issues form an integrated, internally consistent plan of which all parts are equally weighed in their application.

1.6 Document Organization

The Yolo County Open Space and Recreation Element consists of two documents: the Background Report, published under separate cover, and this Policy Document. The Background Report provides a comprehensive overview of the existing data available that addresses open space and recreational resources and issues for Yolo County. Information from the Background Report is summarized in the discussion of issues and incorporated into the goals, objectives and policies, which comprise this Open Space and Recreation Element.

This Policy Document is organized into four chapters. Chapter One, Introduction, provides the context for the Open Space and Recreation Element. It also provides an Open Space Diagram that identifies geographic areas of the county designated for open space and recreation use, and provides definitions for designations used on the Diagram. Chapter Two, Yolo County Open Space & Recreation Resources, provides a brief overview of existing open space resources, recreational facilities and opportunities in Yolo County. Chapter Three, Open Space & Recreation Issues, provides a discussion of facts and findings for a series of open space and recreation issues identified in the course of preparing this Open Space and Recreation Element. Chapter Four, the Open Space and Recreation Element, is the heart of this document. It presents the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures that comprise the Open Space and Recreation Element.

Appendix A includes all the figures referenced in this Element, with the exception of Figure 1-1, the Open Space Diagram. The figures in Appendix A are all contained in the Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report. Appendix B presents the calculation of park standards.

1.7 How to Use the Open Space and Recreation Element

The general public, Board of Supervisors, County Planning Commission and County staff will use the Open Space and Recreation Element to determine County policy on issues affecting, or affected by, open space and recreation. This is useful when reviewing applications for changes in land use (zoning, conditional use permit, subdivision, etc.) or when deciding whether to submit such an application. More significantly, this document is useful to gain perspective on the importance of open space and recreation in Yolo County, not only to the local and regional economy, but also to Yolo County's identity. It provides a vision for Yolo County's future, and how the County and its residents plan to attain that future vision.

**FIGURE 1-1
OPEN SPACE DIAGRAM**

2.0 YOLO COUNTY OPEN SPACE & RECREATION RESOURCES

This Chapter presents an overview of the characteristics of open space lands, existing open space resources, recreation patterns and activities, and recreation opportunities in Yolo County. For additional information, please refer to the Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report.

2.1 What Are Open Space Lands?

Yolo County has abundant open space and numerous recreational opportunities. The open space available for recreation can be categorized into three very specific environments; (1) the grasslands of the central part of the county, (2) the Coast Range to the west, including the Blue Ridge mountains, and (3) water resources the riparian areas, including Cache Creek, Putah Creek, and the Sacramento River.

Physical Characteristics

The landscape of Yolo County is varied and allows for a wide range of recreational activities.

The Delta/Sacramento River. The Delta/Sacramento River is that section of Yolo County following the Sacramento River and Yolo Bypass. The majority of visitor-serving businesses in this area can be found in one of three communities: Knights Landing, West Sacramento and Clarksburg, with West Sacramento by far the largest. Four County parks are located in this area, serving the three communities: Knights Landing Boat Launch, Elkhorn Boat Launch (near West Sacramento), Clarksburg Boat Launch, and Helvetia Oak Grove. Recreational opportunities in the Delta region include boating, fishing, cycling, wine tasting, bird watching, and sightseeing.

Grasslands. The Grasslands area of Yolo County is the relatively flat terrain making up the majority of the county. Most of this area is productive agricultural land. Regional parks make up the majority of the recreational opportunity space and include Grasslands Regional Park. The Cache Creek Nature Preserve is also located in the Grasslands area. The majority of visitor-serving businesses for this Grasslands area are found in Woodland and Davis. Recreational opportunities, besides those commonly associated with park visitation, include cycling, wine tasting, equestrian activities, fishing, bird watching and agricultural tourism.

Blue Ridge Mountains. The Blue Ridge Mountains are within the Putah and Cache Creek drainage and part of the Blue Ridge/Berryessa Natural Area. Bordering Napa, Lake and Solano counties, the Blue Ridge range runs along the west side of the county, with Highway 16 running parallel and through the Capay Valley. Within this area, recreational opportunities include mountain biking, fishing, white water rafting, hiking, camping, hunting, gambling, horseback riding, agricultural tourism and sightseeing along the scenic valley. Most visitor-serving businesses in this area are found in Esparto and Winters, with additional services in Guinda,

Brooks and Capay. County parks in the area include Nichols, Cache Creek Canyon, Esparto and Putah Creek Fishing Access.

Biological Resources

Habitat & Natural Vegetation

Yolo County is currently pursuing a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) to mitigate the loss of biological resources (26 covered species and their habitats) from future urban development. Five primary habitat types were identified for planning purposes, based on the physical and biological descriptions of locations where target species presently occur or are known to occur in Yolo County (see Section 2.2 for additional discussion of the NCCP and the habitat conservation planning process).

- **Riparian.** Riparian habitat includes the entire range of vegetation types and other special elements such as sand or mud that are associated with the watercourses of Yolo County.
- **Wetland.** Wetland habitat types include natural wetland areas, modified creeks and drainage ways, and various artificial impoundments. The primary areas of wetland habitat are located east of Woodland, northeast of Davis, and in the Yolo Bypass.
- **Woodland.** Woodland habitats include a continuously varying series of habitat types dominated in height, if not in area/cover, by trees. Such trees occur as windrows or along roadways, as clumps of trees planted in agricultural or rangeland settings, and individual trees occurring within other non-wooded habitat types or urban areas. The primary area for existing woodland habitats in the NCCP area is between the Colusa Basin Drainage Canal and the City of Woodland.
- **Grassland.** Within Yolo County, grasslands occur almost exclusively on slopes steeper than 2 percent. Grasslands comprise the habitat type that has been most reduced in geographic extent across the Yolo County NCCP area. Grassland is overwhelmingly vegetated by newly introduced non-native annual grasses, which are primarily wild oats, ripgut brome, soft chess, and barleys. A variety of forbs are interspersed among the grasses, and are nearly all exotic species. Grassland can occur within riparian habitat and the oak savannah and occasionally is associated with cultivated lands. Isolated wetlands and widely scattered trees also occur within some grasslands.
- **Agriculture.** Agricultural habitats comprise the dominant habitat type in the NCCP area. Agricultural lands include alfalfa and pasture, annual field crops, vineyards and orchards, and rice. Agricultural lands are intensively used lands that historically supported other Great Valley habitat types. Over the last 150 years, conversion of natural lands to agriculture has steadily increased. Many habitat values of those agricultural lands overlap with those of less intensively modified lands categorized as other habitat types. For example, many of the habitat values of rice fields are similar to those of wetlands due to regular inundation. Dry-farmed or briefly flood-irrigated croplands used to grow cereal crops, tomatoes, and alfalfa share some of the habitat values of grasslands.

Figure 4-1 of the Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report (included in Appendix A of this Element) illustrates the location of the various habitat types within the NCCP area. The Background Report presents a list of the primary habitat types and subtypes identified and mapped for the NCCP, summarizes the qualitative descriptions of the habitats associated with various target species, and presents the occurrence of target species by habitat types and subtypes.

Fish and Wildlife

According to the NCCP, riparian habitat corridors currently support or have the potential to support species such as the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Western pond turtle, Giant garter snake, Cooper's and Swainson's hawks, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Bank swallow, and California yellow warbler. Wetlands support a diversity of species including several grasses, fairy shrimp, California tiger salamander, Western spadefoot, Western pond turtle, Giant garter snake, and several bird species. Woodland habitats support the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, California tiger salamander, Western spadefoot, and Loggerhead shrike, and are particularly important as nesting sites for the Swainson's hawk.

Although native plants are relatively absent from grasslands, grassland habitat is of high habitat value for many native wildlife species. For example, an important non-vegetational habitat element in grassland is the soil that burrowing wildlife species dig for thermal and visual cover and for den or nest sites. These burrows then constitute a crucial habitat element for other species that need them, but are unable to dig them. Ground squirrel burrows and pocket gopher burrows are subsequently used by and are essential for several target species, including the Western burrowing owl and the California tiger salamander.

The most important special habitat elements in agricultural lands usually are the berms and fences that bound many parcels. These edges provide valuable burrow opportunities and perches for species that feed on the insects and rodents that are found on and along the edges of some fields. The regular removal of cover through the harvesting process exposes the resident insect and rodent populations to foraging predators such as the Swainson's hawk.

The biological significance of several of the County parks is noted in the County's *Preliminary Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Draft Master Plan* (1998). The Clarksburg Boat Launch Facility is characterized by riparian habitat. Dominant vegetation species in the canopy layer include cottonwoods, sycamores and Valley oaks, with an understory shrub layer composed of wild grape, wild rose and grasses. This riparian area is rich in the diversity of wildlife species, including ringtail, western yellow-billed cuckoo, and fish species indigenous to the Sacramento River.

Elkhorn Boat Launch Facility is an extremely important dense riparian forest that is publicly accessible. It supports a heron rookery in the tall trees north of the ramp and slough. A western yellow-billed cuckoo has been sited at the park. Helvetia Oak Grove supports oak woodland habitat and common plant species associated with this habitat type. The oak woodland has a mature upper canopy and lacks a middle canopy layer. The low growth vegetation consists

mainly of annual and perennial grass species. The park supports a wide variety of resident and migratory wildlife species.

Grasslands Regional Park supports non-native annual grassland habitat with a heavy infestation of star thistle. Left unchecked, the star thistle infestation will become very difficult to eradicate, and will pose problems as the park moves toward restoring native vegetation. Several wildlife species occupy this park, including burrowing owls and Swainson's hawk. Migrant waterfowl of the Pacific flyway frequent this park site. Another significant feature is a one-half acre vernal pool that supports Colusa grass and Crampton's tuctoria. The vernal pool is actually the extension of a pool located on the adjacent U.S. Air Force site, which supports a large vernal pool complex. Acorn plantings have also resulted in oak seedlings and young trees at the site.

The Putah Creek Fishing Access Areas are situated in some of the most pristine riparian habitat in California, due in part to the year-round water flow in the creek coming from Monticello Dam. Many species commonly found in riparian areas are present in the park, as well as otters, beavers and muskrats. Recent discoveries of Chinook salmon have been documented. The park supports many perennial plant species, including a wide variety of wildflowers in the spring. The Knights Landing Boat Launch Facility contains 800 feet of riverfront access and is situated in dense riparian habitat.

Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park is considered culturally, historically, geologically, biologically and recreationally significant. It contains important wildlife features, including bald eagles, deer, and other birds and animals. The park also supports several habitat types, including grasslands, riparian, mixed chaparral, chamise-redshank chaparral, and oak woodlands. Many individuals and organizations have documented and preserved the historical resources of the area.

Streams and Riparian Corridors

Riparian habitat includes the entire range of vegetation types and other species elements such as sand or mud that are associated with the watercourses of Yolo County. Key riparian habitat corridors in the county include Cache Creek, Putah Creek, Willow Slough/Willow Slough Bypass, Union School Slough, Dry Slough, Chikahominy Slough, the Colusa Basin Drain, the Sacramento River, Oat Creek, Sycamore Slough and Buckeye Creek. Enhancement of these key riparian corridors that connect important habitats in the county will facilitate the movement of small mammals and provide for genetic interchange between species populations to ensure their long-term viability. Potential riparian corridors are illustrated in Figure 4-2 of Appendix A.

Other Environmental Factors

Areas Required for Ecologic & Scientific Study Purposes

The Draft NCCP identifies ecological features in the NCCP plan area that were identified by local Yolo County conservationists during the community involvement process. These ecological features, shown in Figure 4-3 of Appendix A, are considered important to an understanding of the ecology of Yolo County.

Rivers, Streams, & Other Watercourses

Clear Lake is the source of water for Cache Creek. According to the *Interim Report Cache Creek Investigation* (Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 20, April 1958), the major portion of the water supply from the main stem of Cache Creek originates as rainfall in the Upper Clear Lake-Cache Creek Basin:

Since runoff is largely from rainfall, it is closely allied with the duration and intensity of storms during the winter period. The seasonal runoff pattern is varied, with large flows occurring in the winter and early spring, meager flows occurring in the summer and fall, and both supplemented by limited flow from perennial springs. In addition to variations within the season, runoff fluctuates widely from season to season...Under the present method of operation, runoff from the Clear Lake Basin is partially regulated by Clear Lake Impounding Dam, located on Cache Creek about 5 miles below the natural outlet of Clear Lake. The Grigsby Riffle, a natural restriction in the channel about 2 miles below the natural lake outlet, limits, under certain conditions, the regulating effect of the dam.

According to the *Cache Creek Area Plan*, Cache Creek has changed extensively over the past 100 years, generally becoming narrower, faster, deeper, and carrying higher volumes of water. Overall, the area of Cache Creek has decreased by over two-thirds, from 5,000 acres in 1905 to just under 1,600 acres today. The factors leading to this condition are detailed in the Plan, but generally relate to removal of large areas of native riparian vegetation, expansion of farmland onto former floodplains, water diversions for irrigation, construction of levees for flood protection, construction of bridges, and gravel mining.

The Indian Valley Reservoir, completed in the early 1970s, is located just north of the Yolo County line at the source of Cache Creek. Although its primary function is to serve as a water storage facility for irrigation, it also collects much of the runoff water from the northern end of the valley that would normally run into Cache Creek, thus limiting flooding in the region. The Tehama-Colusa Canal starts in Red Bluff in Tehama County and carries water from the Shasta Dam area through Colusa County and into Bird Creek in Yolo County for irrigation purposes.

Wetlands, Sloughs & Vernal Pools

Many examples have been provided elsewhere in this Open Space and Recreation Element of public and private lands characterized by wetlands and riparian areas. Babel Slough extends between Road E-9 – the South River Road (at the Sacramento River) and the Deep Water Ship Channel. Chickahominy Slough is located in the southwestern and south central portion of Yolo County.

A portion of Yolo County is within the Solano-Colusa Vernal Pool Region, as described by the California Wetlands Information System, and as shown on Figure 4-4 of Appendix A. According to the California Wetlands Information System, The Solano-Colusa Vernal Pool Region is a relatively large area covering the majority of Solano County and ranging northward

from the low lying plains adjacent to the Suisun Marsh and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through the Colusa Basin of western Sacramento Valley to the vicinity of Princeton, Glenn County. According to the System's website:

Vernal pools are seasonally flooded depressions found on ancient soils with an impermeable layer such as a hardpan, claypan, or volcanic basalt. The impermeable layer allows the pools to retain water much longer than the surrounding uplands; nonetheless, the pools are shallow enough to dry up each season. Vernal pools often fill and empty several times during the rainy season. Only plants and animals that are adapted to this cycle of wetting and drying can survive in vernal pools over time.

These specialized plants and animals are what make vernal pools unique. As winter rains fill the pools, freshwater invertebrates, crustaceans, and amphibians emerge. Vernal pool plants sprout underwater, some using special floating leaves and air-filled stems to stay afloat. Some of these plants even flower underwater! Birds arrive to feed on the vernal pool plants and animals.

[The Solano-Colusa Vernal Pool Region] is best known for its excellent examples of Northern Claypan pools between Highway 113 and Travis Airforce Base... This is the only known region to contain the Federal threatened Delta green ground beetle and the grass *Tuctoria mucronata*, both serve to distinguish it biologically from any other region...

The website notes that, within Yolo County, some protection is afforded to vernal pools on Department of Defense (Air Force) land south of Davis. Grasslands Park, which abuts the Air Force site, contains vernal pools that mingle with or start near the boundary with the Air Force property. The Air Force site is anticipated to become a County park property. A cooperative vernal pool protection project with the Air Force is being developed through the County Parks and Resource Management Division. The website also notes that the City of Woodland has agreed with The Nature Conservancy to protect some rare plant populations, although these are not naturally occurring vernal pool sites (old rice fields).

Watersheds & Groundwater Recharge Areas

Cache Creek, Putah Creek, and the Sacramento River are the main watersheds in Yolo County. The principal watersheds in the county, their subbasins and the acreage for each are shown on [Figure 4-5](#) of Appendix A. These watersheds are exceptional natural resources in Yolo County, which lend themselves to a combination of habitat, preserved open space and interpretive recreational uses. The upper northwest end of Cache Creek is adjacent to 50,000 acres of BLM wilderness with access through existing County park property. According to the *Cache Creek Area Plan*, Cache Creek is located in a groundwater basin that is generally defined by the Coast Range to the west, the Sacramento River to the east, the Colusa Basin watershed to the north, and the Putah Creek watershed to the south (see [Figures 4-5](#) and [4-6](#) of Appendix A). This Plan reports that the availability of groundwater data, especially with regard to water quality, is poorly developed and unorganized.

According to the *Clear Lake-Cache Creek Basin Investigation* (Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 90, March 1961):

The valley floor lands in the Clear Lake-Cache Creek Basin are underlain by water-bearing materials of considerable storage capacity, particularly in the Cache Creek Service Area. Water pumped from underground storage serves nearly all the lands irrigated within the Clear Lake Basin, and meets a substantial portion of the water requirements for irrigation and domestic uses within the Cache Creek Basin...Percolation of precipitation and stream flow are the most important sources of ground water replenishment, while percolation of the unconsumed portion of applied irrigation water and of losses from canals and laterals constitutes a secondary, although significant, source of replenishment...Ground water in the Cache Creek Service Area is, for the most part, free or unconfined, but many deep wells show "semiconfined" effects...The Cache Creek Basin is underlain by folded and faulted consolidated sedimentary rocks of Cretaceous and Tertiary age which contain little useable ground water. These older rocks are overlain by the following water-bearing formations: Tehama formation and related continental sediments of Plio-Pleistocene age; older alluvium and terraces of Pleistocene age; and stream channel, terrace, flood plain, and other alluvial deposits of Recent age.

The depletion of groundwater resources has been a major concern in the county. According to the *Agricultural and Tourism Targeted Industry Analysis Final Report* (agAccess Information Service, 1996), in the past, the overdraft of groundwater has been a severe problem in the Upper Cache Creek watershed and the Dunnigan Hills region. According to the EIR for the Yolo County General Plan (1983), recharge to groundwater in Yolo County is by deep percolation of rainfall, irrigation, return waters, and leakage from irrigation canals. The EIR states that this overdraft results from increased pumping for agriculture, combined with restricted opportunities for recharge. The importing of surface waters by canals such as the Hungry Hollow canal and the Tehama-Colusa canal has helped to relieve the problem. Furthermore, the above-cited sources report that groundwater in the entire county is adequately recharged during the wet years to offset drought period overdrafts.

Areas of Outstanding Scenic, Historic & Cultural Value

Yolo County has several transportation routes that are considered scenic highways and corridors due to the natural and agricultural settings in their immediate vicinities. Sections of Highway 16 and 128 are located alongside chaparral, woodland, and grassland areas. Furthermore, unusual rock formations are evident among canyon walls located along these scenic highways. County Roads 16, 116, and 117 make up what is known as the Sacramento Northern River Scenic Route. The Sacramento South River Scenic Route runs from Barge Canal to Sutter Slough. Both routes offer extensive views of the Sacramento River and adjacent agricultural lands.

According to the *Yolo County General Plan*, there are several areas of cultural and historical significance. The Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report provides a brief

description of these cultural and historical areas. In addition, Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park has been described in the *Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan* as “culturally, historically, geologically, biologically and recreationally significant.”

Identification of Areas with Hazardous or Special Conditions

Geologic Hazards. According to the *Yolo County General Plan*, Part I, there are two major fault zones within Yolo County, the Midland Fault Zone and the area surrounding Capay Valley. The maximum expected earthquake intensity for Yolo County ranges from moderate to high. No serious earth movements have been generated in Yolo County, although one of the ten most severe earthquakes in California had its epicenter in the vicinity of Berryessa Dam. The 1891 shock was serious and caused damage to the towns of Winters, Davis, and Woodland.

The Midland Fault Zone is located between the City of Winters and the Coast Range in the southwestern portion of the County. Two concealed faults lie within this zone. It was in this zone that the 1891 quake was centered.

Two major faults border the valley in the Capay Hills. The Sweitzer Fault is located just below the ridgeline of the Capay Hills, paralleling the valley. The Eisner Fault is located at the upper end of the Capay Valley just below the Sweitzer Fault. The existence of the Eisner Thrust Fault and Sweitzer Fault make western Yolo County a seismically hazardous area; otherwise, the county is geologically quite stable.

The remainder of the known faults are located in the vicinity of the western and northwestern border of Yolo County, in the Blue Ridge and Rocky Ridge Hills. Subsurface faults of varying significance are discovered in the logs of gas wells drilled in the county. No known faults are located under any of the major inhabited areas of the county.

Major faults lie to the west along the Pacific Coast in the San Andreas Fault Zone, whose movement could affect Yolo County. Other faults are to the east along the Sierra Nevadas in the Bear Mountain and Melones Fault Zones.

Other seismic type activity occurs from seiches, which are earthquake induced waves in contained bodies of water. They would most likely occur in the Yolo Bypass (when filled), Lake Berryessa, the Sacramento River, and the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel.

The major populated areas within Yolo County, including the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Woodland, and Winters, are located on the Valley floor. While this area is less susceptible to seismic activity than the hills, as evidenced by the 1891 earthquake, significant groundshaking and associated damage can occur in the valley. However, except within the small unincorporated communities, the County generally does not allow urban development in the unincorporated area, therefore not subjecting large numbers of people and property to potential seismic damage.

Flooding Hazards. Flooding is the most significant natural hazard in Yolo County. Areas most subject to periodic flooding are the Sacramento River and Cache Creek. The Yolo Bypass, which runs parallel to the Sacramento River, is a flood basin that receives water from both the

Sacramento River and Cache Creek. At Clarksburg, channels of the river create islands in the Delta. Merritt Island in Yolo County is created by Elk and Sutter Sloughs. According to the *Cache Creek Area Plan*, Cache Creek is a violent watercourse, subject to severe flood events. Changes in the capacity of the creek over the last 50 years have created new flooding problems for the community of Yolo and the City of Woodland. The technical studies performed for that Plan estimate that the creek may meander as much as 700 feet in a single flood event, threatening to erode levees and significantly changing the geomorphology of the Creek. Flooding is minimized by a dam on Putah Creek (Monticello) and two on Cache Creek (Indian Valley on the north fork and the Clear Lake Dam.)

Levees have been constructed along the western bank of the Sacramento River throughout Yolo County. A breach of the levee system, depending upon where it occurred, could cause serious damage to people and property in the county. The most widespread damage would occur if the breach affected populated area of the City of West Sacramento.

High Wildland Fire Hazard Areas. According to the Natural Hazard Disclosure Map for Yolo County, the western portion of the county west of Esparto and Winters is designated as a wildland area that may contain substantial forest fire risks and hazards (see [Figure 7-2](#) of Appendix A). This area includes the unincorporated communities of Guinda and Rumsey. There are no Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone areas in Yolo County.

Areas Needed to Maintain Air Quality. Yolo County is in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin. Yolo County and the northeast area of Solano County make up the Yolo-Solano Air Pollution Control District. The District has its own regulations applying to all stationary sources to control pollution emissions. These regulations have to coincide or coordinate with the regulations of the State and federal governments in addition to the requirements of the Sacramento Valley Air Pollution Coordinating Council. The local district has primary responsibility for controlling stationary emission sources.

The major sources of air pollutants in Yolo County are: motor vehicle emissions, other hydrocarbon sources, agricultural activities, and related industries. Each new industry or subdivision is reviewed for its impact on air quality and all existing emission sources are being brought into compliance with the regulations. Recent changes in agricultural burning practices and regulations, along with public demand, have brought about an improvement in air quality throughout the county.

No areas have been identified in Yolo County that are necessary for the maintenance of air quality; however, it is important for Yolo County to continue to maintain and create development patterns that minimize impacts to air quality. Development patterns that are beneficial to air quality also assist in the preservation of open space and recreational opportunities.

Contaminated Sites. Due to its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, hazardous waste may do either of the following: cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; and/or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.

Hazardous waste includes products commonly used in residences and local businesses. Hazardous waste includes, but is not limited to pesticides, herbicides, paints, lacquers, varnishes, motor oil and fluids, household cleaning supplies, photographic chemicals, and certain building materials.

Aside from minimizing the use and exposure to hazardous materials, it is essential to identify contaminated sites. In some sites in the unincorporated area of Yolo County, hazardous wastes have been improperly disposed of or surface impoundments have possibly contaminated groundwater supplies. Contaminated sites have been identified within the unincorporated area during a search of the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Information System (LUSTIS) database. The Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report lists the site name, location, and contaminating substance.

Legal Context

State General Plan Guidelines for Open Space & Recreation Elements and Related Statutory Requirements

Government Code Section 65560 et seq., outlines the relevant issues to be addressed in an Open Space Element including, but not limited to, open space for the preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, recreational use, and public health and safety. The Open Space Element overlaps with the Land Use, Conservation and Safety Elements. State law mandates an ambitious and detailed planning effort for open space, comparable only to the requirements for the Housing Element (*California Land Use and Planning Law, Fifth Edition*, Daniel J. Curtin, Jr., 1995).

According to the State *General Plan Guidelines*, the open space element guides the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of “open space land”, defined as any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to open space use. In addition to the subject areas listed above, the Open Space Element must address demands for trail-oriented recreational use, retention of all publicly-owned corridors for future use (i.e., abandoned rail line, utility corridors, or easements), and the feasibility of integrating city and county trail routes with appropriate segments of the California Recreational Trails System. According to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, information on the California Recreational Trails System dates from the 1970s and is in the process of being updated. No map or description of the system is currently available that would allow the County to determine the feasibility of linkages (Ken McKowen, State Department of Parks and Recreation, pers. comm., June 2001).

According to the *General Plan Guidelines*, the subjects covered in a parks and recreation element and the level of detail at which they are addressed vary greatly among jurisdictions. This variation can be attributed to the size of the jurisdiction, its level of urbanization, location, and funding base, as well as the user base and the demands on park and recreation facilities. County issues often include regional parks, open space or habitat preserves, watershed management, trail systems, and river parkways. Cities tend to focus more on neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and recreational facilities and programs, although such issues also apply to the county's unincorporated communities.

Definition of Open Space

The following definitions are provided as background and legal context for the Open Space and Recreation Element:

Open Space Land. As defined in Section 65560(b) of the Government Code, “open space land” is any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use. State law provides that the Open Space Element must address the following topics, to the extent that they are locally relevant:

- Open Space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecological and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lakeshores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.
- Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber; areas required for recharge of ground water basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.
- Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, floodplains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.
- Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to:
 - Areas that require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, floodplains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.
 - Open space areas designed for fuel break and fuel reduction zones, helispots, and fire access. Open space fire safety standards and policies can be implemented by the adoption of open space zoning regulations. Such regulations would help eliminate the

owner-by-owner agreements and public agency financing now necessary for construction and maintenance.

- Identify location of historic natural hazards boundaries such as, inundation areas, landslide paths, debris flows, past wildfires, and earthquake faults.
- Demands for trail-oriented recreational use (Public Resources Code §5076). Cities and counties must consider such demands in developing specific open space programs.
- Retention of all publicly-owned corridors for the future use: i.e., abandoned rail line, utility corridors, or easements.
- The feasibility of integrating city and county trail routes with appropriate segments of the California Recreational Trails System (Public Resources Code §5076. See the California Recreational Trails Act, commencing with Public Resources Code §5070.)

2.2 Existing Open Space Resources

Figure 2-1 of Appendix A is a composite of public and private open space lands in Yolo County. It includes County lands and easements, Yolo Land Trust and other private easements, California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands and easements, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands and other federal lands and easements. It also includes the Yolo Bypass, County parks, City of Davis acquisitions and the Cache Creek Nature Preserve.

Public Lands

Section 2.4 of this Element includes an inventory of park and recreation lands. The lower park site of the County's Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park is adjacent to 50,000 acres of BLM property which supports recreational opportunities that include hiking, biking, fishing and horseback riding. The County has a cooperative Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM, in which both agencies work to expand recreational and interpretive experiences of the area.

Private Open Space/Agricultural Lands

By far the largest areas of open space for managed production of resources in Yolo County are the agricultural areas. The California Department of Conservation has classified Important Farmland in Yolo County by the following categories:

- Prime Farmland – Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term production of agricultural crops.
- Farmland of Statewide Importance – Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or with less ability to hold and store moisture.
- Unique Farmland – Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops.

- Farmland of Local Importance – Land of importance to the local agricultural economy, as determined by each county’s board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.
- Grazing Land – Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock.
- Urban and Built-up Land – Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least one unit to one and one-half acres, or approximately six structures to a ten-acre parcel.

The categories are shown in [Figure 5-1](#) of Appendix A. The Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report shows a loss in total net acreage from 1996 to 1998 of 6,982 acres. During that same period Urban and Built-Up Land showed a total net increase of 1,114 acres.

The Background Report presents Important Farmland conversion figures for Yolo County compiled by the Department of Conservation for 1996-1998. Given the zoning patterns in Yolo County, some of this conversion may be related to development in the four incorporated cities. The relatively high conversion figure for 1996-1998 is primarily attributed to the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which is classified by the Department of Conservation as almost 4,000 acres of “Other Land.” The “Other” category includes wetlands not used for grazing, grazing lands less than 40 acres in area, lands used for surface mining, regional parks, rural residential areas, steep slopes and other miscellaneous uses.

The Department of Conservation defines Prime Farmland as farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term production of agricultural crops. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields.

Yolo County has approximately 270,403 acres of prime agricultural land (Class I, II and selected Class III), which account for 48 percent of the agricultural land in the county (Farmland Conversion Report). Yolo County has the lowest absolute loss in prime farmland compared to other counties in the state, and is second lowest to Kings County for percentage loss of prime farmland. A number of factors allow Yolo County to withstand the pressures of urbanization, which can threaten agriculture, including restrictive land use policies, the high amount of land enrolled in the Williamson Act, and the natural barrier of the Yolo Causeway.

[Figure 5-2](#) of Appendix A shows the location and extent of the various agricultural zones in Yolo County. The Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report presents approximate acreages within each zone. As shown in the figure, A-P is the most extensively applied zone in the county, encompassing 477,218 acres, followed by 128,336 acres in the A-1 zone. [Figure 5-3](#) of Appendix A shows the areas within the A-P zone that are also in contracted California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) agricultural preserves. Approximately 449,621 acres are in contracted agricultural preserves in Yolo County. Owners of approximately 21,142 acres have filed notices of nonrenewal, a 10-year process by which parcels are removed from the Williamson Act. Although some of these parcels are in proximity to cities, there is no readily apparent trend or conclusion to be drawn regarding the reasons the nonrenewals were filed, except in the Cache Creek area, where cancellations are largely attributable to mining operations.

Non Profit Organizations and Public/Private Partnerships

In 1988, the Yolo Land Trust was established in Yolo County. The Yolo Land Trust is a private, nonprofit corporation whose stated purpose and function is to:

- Acquire land or conservation easements on land of agricultural, habitat, historical, recreational, educational, scenic, ecological, or other environmental value within and surrounding Yolo County in a manner designed to assist in the preservation of such land for the benefit of the public.
- Provide education and disseminate information concerning the values and benefits of land conservation.
- To encourage the benefits of sound land use planning for Yolo County.

The Yolo Land Trust has assisted in the permanent preservation of over 3,512 acres of prime agricultural land in the county.

The Land Trust is responsible for the creation of the following land trust easements in Yolo County as of October 2000:

- Rumsey Rancheria Easement – 84 acres located northwest of Woodland
- John Williamson Easement – 403 acres located northeast of Davis
- Davis Golf Course Easement – 75 acres located west of Davis
- Los Rios Farms Easement – 780 acres located southeast of Davis
- Delta Sugar Easement – 61 acres located north of Clarksburg
- Longview Ranch Easement – 113 acres west of Winters
- Cache Creek Easements – 1,997 acres north of Woodland

The three easements in the vicinity of Davis were created in partnership with the City of Davis, which provided local matching funds.

In February 2000, the Yolo Land Trust received the largest State grant for agricultural protection ever awarded. The Trust received \$1.5 million to purchase nine conservation easements covering 1,997 acres of prime farmland owned by six landowners. In a report posted on the Land Trust Alliance website, the land has some of the "...highest quality of agricultural soil seen in the world," noted Yolo Land Trust Executive Director Kathryn Kelly. "The land has a history of family farming and some has been in the ownership of these families for many generations." In addition, the easement area includes more than three miles of frontage along Cache Creek. Each landowner donated a portion of the value of the easements to provide the necessary monetary match for the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Conservation Program grant.

In addition, Yolo County owns and/or holds easements on a number of lands along Lower Cache Creek, as follows:

- Solano Concrete Easement, 60 acres
- Teichert Construction Easement, 121 acres

- Correll Preserve, 30 acres
- Millsap Preserve, 17 acres
- Cache Creek Nature Preserve, 130 acres

As various mine reclamation projects are completed along Lower Cache Creek, new land and wetland habitat will be dedicated to Yolo County, adding another 600 acres of public open space. Although the County does not currently maintain a land trust, future consideration may be given to the creation of a “Legacy” trust to assist other groups in the preservation of open space along Lower Cache Creek and other similar areas, including Putah Creek.

Other nonprofit organizations in Yolo County with missions related to the preservation of open space include the Putah Creek Council, the Sierra Club Yolano Chapter, the Yolo County Audubon Society, the Cache Creek Conservancy, and the Yolo Basin Foundation (described below).

Wildlife Preserves

The Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area is located on I-80 at the Yolo Causeway between Davis and Sacramento. It is the largest public/private restoration project west of the Florida Everglades, in which 3,700 acres in the Yolo Bypass floodway have been restored to wetlands and other associated habitats. Recently, an additional 12,808 acres was added to Wildlife Area as a result of a purchase by the State Department of Fish and Game. The original area was dedicated in November 1997. The approximate 25,500-acre area is managed by the Department of Fish and Game to promote an increase in waterfowl and other bird populations. It is considered a model of a public-private partnership that shows that wildlife, flood control and agriculture can co-exist in a largely urban setting. According to the Yolo Basin Foundation website:

The establishment of the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area and the work of the Foundation have been widely regarded as a model for planning and completion of other wetland projects in the Yolo Bypass. The bypass is a key component of the habitat restoration planned as part of the Cal/Fed Bay Delta Accord process now underway, and is a vital element of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture’s habitat restoration goals.

The Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF) was founded in 1990 as a community-based organization to assist in the establishment of the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area. A principal goal of the Foundation is facilitating environmental education within the Wildlife Area in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game. YBF provides the interpretation and education programs in the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area. The YBF concentrates its work in two areas: education and restoration of the Yolo Bypass region of the North Delta and the Pacific Flyway. The YBF is currently working with other organizations to plan the building and operation of a Pacific Flyway Visitor Center near the Wildlife Area.

The Cache Creek Nature Preserve is also shown on Figure 2-1 of Appendix A. The 130-acre property includes a former mining pit that has been turned into a wetlands area, a portion of Cache Creek, and forest. It was dedicated by A. Teichert and Son Inc. and is managed by the

Cache Creek Conservancy. The site represents one of the least-disturbed areas along Lower Cache Creek. The Preserve also includes the Cache Creek Ag History Center. The stated mission of the Cache Creek Nature Preserve is to provide a natural environment where children and adults can explore and discover the relationships between humans and the historical, natural, agricultural and industrial uses of the area. The Cache Creek Conservancy is funded, in part, by a fee from four aggregate companies based on tons of gravel sold. This funding source is secured for 30 years through development agreements with Yolo County.

Although not commonly thought of as a wildlife preserve, Grasslands Regional Park (Figure 2-1 of Appendix A) consists of 320 acres, most of which are undeveloped. The park possesses considerable wildlife habitat value, hosts burrowing owls and harrier hawks, and provides foraging habitat for Swainson's hawks.

Other preserves exist within the incorporated cities and on the campus of the University of California, Davis, including the City of Davis South Fork Preserve and Davis Wetlands.

Open Space for Flood Control

Figure 7-1 of Appendix A shows 100-year and 500-year flood zones in Yolo County, as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

Flooding is the most significant natural hazard in Yolo County. Areas most subject to periodic flooding are the Sacramento River and Cache Creek. The Yolo Bypass, which runs parallel to the Sacramento River, is a flood basin that receives water from both the Sacramento River and Cache Creek. At Clarksburg, channels of the river create islands in the Delta. Merritt Island in Yolo County is created by Elk and Sutter Sloughs. According to the *Cache Creek Area Plan*, Cache Creek is a violent watercourse, subject to severe flood events. Changes in the capacity of the creek over the last 50 years have created new flooding problems for the community of Yolo and the City of Woodland. The technical studies performed for that Plan estimate that the creek may meander as much as 700 feet in a single flood event, threatening to erode levees and significantly changing the geomorphology of the Creek. Flooding is minimized by a dam on Putah Creek (Monticello) and two on Cache Creek (Indian Valley on the north fork and the Clear Lake Dam.)

Levees have been constructed along the western bank of the Sacramento River throughout Yolo County. Levees have also been built along much of the Yolo Bypass and a portion of Lower Cache Creek. A breach of the levee system, depending upon where it occurred, could cause serious damage to people and property in the county. The most widespread damage would occur if the breach affected populated area of the City of West Sacramento.

Yolo Bypass

According to California Flood Management: *An Evaluation of Flood Damage Prevention Programs* (Department of Water Resources Bulletin 199, September 1980):

A bypass is an auxiliary channel used to pass floodwaters. Bypass systems are used in flood protection projects when the potential high flow is larger than the capacity of the existing river channel and a reasonable amount of leveed flood plain...The bypass is usually leveed in whole or in part. Its major purpose is to carry enough floodwater so that the normal stream channel capacity is not exceeded...Larger bypass systems may be as complicated as that in the Sacramento River Flood Control Project...As the Sacramento River flows southward from Shasta Dam near Redding, natural overflow areas and two fixed weirs, Moulton and Colusa, permit floodwater to escape from the river into the Butte Basin. This basin is a natural flowage area that has not been drained and developed, as have similar basins to the west and south. Waters in the Butte Basin move into the upstream end of the Sutter Bypass. At Tisdale Weir, additional water can be diverted from the Sacramento River directly into the Sutter Bypass. The Feather River system, which drains the east side of the Sacramento Valley, enters the Sutter Bypass directly. The Sutter Bypass and the Sacramento River join just above the Fremont Weir. This weir divides the joint flow of the river-bypass system, limiting flow into the Sacramento River channel to its capacity and permitting the excess flow to cross the river and enter the Yolo Bypass. It is the only weir in the system with gates that can be operated to vary the ratio of water leaving the river and the amount staying in the river. This enables management of water levels in the river at Sacramento, thereby giving added protection to the city and adjacent areas. The overflow area is used for agriculture during the summer and fall months and is valuable wetland during the flood season, supporting a significant waterfowl population.

Although restricted by flood easements, lands reserved for the bypass system can be used for agriculture, wildlife management, recreation (including hunting and fishing), and other compatible uses at non-flood season times, as they are in Yolo County. It is important that areas such as the Yolo Bypass and Sacramento Bypass remain designated as open space areas rather than designated for future development due to the flooding hazards they may pose. These and other open space areas along Yolo County waterways work as buffer areas to prevent flooding from endangering the public.

State & Federal Open Space & Conservation Programs

In 1995, the Yolo County Draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), a voluntary plan, was initially prepared for local, State and Federal agencies including the Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland, Yolo County, California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The HCP plan area included all of Yolo County east of Highway 16 from Winters and Dunnigan westward. Based on a recent presentation to the "Gaining Ground" Committee by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the County is now pursuing a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) for the same area, a program with a broader biological/habitat approach than an HCP alone.

The purpose of the Yolo County NCCP is to mitigate impacts of urban development on the 26 covered species by conserving and enhancing the habitat value of these species in Yolo County.

In addition, the NCCP will establish a long-range strategy or framework for habitat conservation and enhancement to occur at a countywide level. In assuming buildout of the general plans for Woodland, Winters, West Sacramento, and Davis, and the community plans for Knights Landing, Esparto, Dunnigan and Clarksburg, urban development would result in the loss of approximately 11,672 acres of habitat to be mitigated by the NCCP. This acreage includes a small amount of development associated with agricultural operations of up to 1,000 acres on agricultural land in unspecified locations in the unincorporated area that is also covered by the NCCP.

In most cases, the NCCP will require that 1 acre of mitigation land be acquired for each acre of impact (1-to-1 habitat mitigation ratio). However, there are several habitat types (e.g., riparian forest) for which higher mitigation ratios have been established, with compensation ranging from 2:1 to 3:1. The majority (approximately 79 percent) of mitigation habitat will be agricultural conservation easements that maintain existing agricultural and biological values for the species of concern, with the remainder associated with riparian, wetland, grassland and woodland habitats.

Please refer to the above description of wildlife preserves for additional information on State and federal open space and conservation programs.

2.3 Recreation Patterns and Activities

Recreation Providers

Most recreation programs and opportunities in the unincorporated area of Yolo County are organized by private, nonprofit entities such as the Yolo Audubon Society and the Yolo Basin Foundation. Many are also educational in nature. Other popular programs, such as rafting, are operated by private concessionaires. Informal programs, such as hikes described on the Yolo Hiker website, are also prevalent. Most of what would be regarded as “traditional” recreation programs (sports, day camps, etc.) operate in the cities of Yolo County.

Other less formal “traditional” recreation operating in the unincorporated area includes hunting and fishing occurring on both private and public lands. Hunting clubs for waterfowl and upland game are especially prominent in rice land and field crop areas of the County, including lands within the Yolo Bypass. Much of this type of hunting is fee based and generates additional income for farmers. Fishing enthusiasts are attracted to waters within and adjacent to the County, including Putah Creek, the Sacramento River and Lake Berryessa.

Bird watching (“birding”) is an important activity in Yolo County, enjoyed by both County residents and those from outside the area. The Yolo Audubon Society, a local chapter of the National Audubon Society, conducts outings on almost a weekly basis. They also host two special events each year: California Duck Days in February, and the Christmas Bird Count every December.

The Yolo Basin Foundation offers weekend field trips for the general public led by experienced Yolo Audubon members or other wildlife experts. They focus primarily on the natural history of

the area. The Yolo Basin Foundation is currently working with other organizations to plan the building and operation of a Pacific Flyway Visitor Center near the Vic Fazio Wildlife Area.

People who take advantage of parks, trails, bikeways, open space and Yolo County's other recreational opportunities do not limit their visits to those activities alone. They also eat, sleep, shop and buy gas while they are undertaking these primary activities. Therefore, the category of recreation providers must include more than primary attractions typically listed. Visitor serving industry categories in particular also include accommodations, restaurants, retail, drinking places, attractions of many types, and transportation and travel services (the California Division of Tourism list includes over 225 different types of establishments considered to be wholly or partially tourist-serving businesses). In addition, local residents using local attractions frequent these establishments. There are 1,270 establishments in the county that wholly or partially serve visitors.

2.4 Recreation Opportunities

County Parks

The *Draft Yolo County Parks and Facilities Master Plan* (1998) classified parks in Yolo County as follows:

Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood parks are generally 2 to 10 acres in size and primarily serve children walk-to and bike-to recreation needs. Facilities include children's play equipment, turf areas, casual ball fields and limited picnic facilities.

Community Parks: Community parks are generally 10 to 30 acres and provide a focal point and gathering place for the whole community. Facilities are for all sectors and age groups and may include tennis courts, community centers, group picnic areas, and lighted ball fields.

Regional Parks: Regional parks generally range from 30 up to 10,000 acres and incorporate natural resources such as lakes and hills that serve a region involving more than one community. Facilities can include marinas, swimming beaches, aquatic centers, sports centers, museums, golf courses, tennis complexes, major group picnic sites, camping and hiking, biking, and equestrian trails.

State and National Parks, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Lands: Generally several hundred to several thousand acres, these parks are natural resource-based and often include a high amount of undeveloped open space. Activities include camping, fishing, boating, hiking, equestrian trail use, or mountain climbing.

Inventory of Park & Recreation Lands

Yolo County owns and maintains eleven park/recreation facilities covering approximately 1,320 acres, with 25 percent of these parks considered to be fully developed. The location of these parks is shown on Figure 2-1 of Appendix A. An inventory and general description of these facilities

follows (excerpted from the *County of Yolo Parks and Recreation Facilities Draft Master Plan, 1998*):

- **Clarksburg Boat Launch Facility**, 3.95 acres (approx.)
- **Elkhorn Regional Park**, 48 acres
- **Helvetia Oak Grove**, 11 acres
- **Yolo County Grasslands Regional Park**, 320 acres
- **Airport Park**, 1.6 acres
- **Camp Haswell Park**, 5 acres
- **Esparto Community Park**, 4 acres
- **Knights Landing Boat Launch**, 5 acres
- **Vernon A. Nichols Park**, 25 acres
- **Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park**, 752 acres
- **Putah Creek Fishing Access Areas**, 83 acres

The Clarksburg Boat Launch Facility, owned by the State Department of Fish and Game, is located approximately 18 miles south of Sacramento and 2.6 miles south of Clarksburg near the Sacramento River. The County Parks Department provides operation and maintenance through a cooperative agreement with the State that expires in 2003. The facility provides access for boats and other recreational watercraft, and also contains areas designated for public fishing. The majority of its users are from Clarksburg, Hood, Isleton and south Sacramento vicinity. In 1997, annual visitor days were estimated to be fewer than 25,000. According to the Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan, the acute alignment of the ramp in relationship to the river causes heavy siltation every year. Boat ramp facilities are anticipated to be upgraded to reduce siltation problems. The park also has a documented history of public safety problems (vandalism, transient activity, vagrancy) and environmental health concerns (illegal refuse dumping). Use of the park is generally limited to sport fishing, jet skiing, and water skiing.

Elkhorn Regional Park, owned and operated by Yolo County, is located directly east of Woodland near the Sacramento River. The park is situated in a riparian forest between the riverbank and the levee on the Sacramento River, and contains picnic areas and a boat ramp. The park is predominantly used for public fishing and watersports and as a mitigation site for Split-Tail. In 1995, annual visitor days were estimated to be 31,000.

Helvetia Oak Grove is located just 2.5 miles south of Elkhorn Regional Park near the Sacramento River on an undeveloped oak preserve. Access to the park is no longer available. Public access to the park once acquired may allow the site to be developed as a natural park use area. The site contains no improvements or amenities. Current management practices include harvesting fallen oak limbs for sale as firewood at Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park. The site is patrolled monthly by the Parks Department for litter, refuse collection and monitoring.

Grasslands Regional Park, owned and operated by Yolo County, is located approximately 3.5 miles south of Interstate 80. Its main access is from Mace Boulevard/County Road 104 south of the City of Davis. At the present time, only the 52-acre area leased by the Yolo Bowmen Club is developed and maintained by the County (the current lease expires in 2004 and is renewable). Very little development exists outside the lease area. The Park is home to a variety of birds,

raptors and owls, plus several vernal pools. The major portion of the park is being returned to oak trees and native grasses. The current predominant uses of the site are archery, horseshoe pitching, flying model gliders (The Sacramento Valley Soaring Society also has a lease on the site expiring in 2004), birding, and hiking. In 1996, annual visitor days were estimated to be 1,500.

Airport Park, owned and operated by Yolo County, is located at the Yolo County Airport (County Road 95 and County Road 29). The park consists of open grassland and several oak species, and is considered a passive open space area intended to be a day use facility for general aviators visiting the airport. Annual visitor days are estimated at less than 50.

Esparto Community Park, owned and operated by the County, is located along State Highway 16 near the community of Esparto and is primarily used by residents of Esparto and the Capay Valley. Approximately 1.6 acres of the park is fully developed and contains picnic tables, playground equipment, and public restrooms. Although not owned by Yolo County, the town of Knights Landing contains a park and soccer field owned and maintained by the local school district. The County also anticipates developing plans for a playground on County owned property with the Dunnigan community.

The communities without parks include Zamora, Yolo, Rumsey.

The Putah Creek Fishing Access Areas are owned by the Wildlife Conservation Board and maintained and operated under an agreement by Yolo County. The access areas consist of five sites and seven parking lots that are located along Highway 128 near the City of Winters. These areas are situated in riparian habitat that allows for a number of recreational activities ranging from birding to fishing. The Department of Fish and Game stocks the creek annually with fish. In 1996, there were 40,000 estimated visitor days.

The Knights Landing Boat Launch Facility is another site owned by the Wildlife Conservation Board and operated by the County. It is located adjacent to State Highway 45 in the community of Knights Landing and has fishing areas, a boat ramp and parking for trailered vehicles. The facility is used for sportfishing boats, powerboats for waterskiing, and other recreational watercraft. It is known as a haven for salmon, striped bass, catfish and sturgeon. A 1995 survey estimated annual visitor days at 31,000.

Vernon A. Nichols Park, owned by the County, is located just east of the community of Guinda adjacent to Cache Creek and County Road 57. Estimated annual visitor days is 7,200. The park has been identified as a riparian area, but much of the native vegetation was removed by storm events in the 1990's. The park is primarily used for fishing, swimming, picnicking and sunbathing, and as a mitigation site for the Elderberry Bush.

Camp Haswell Park, owned by the County, is also located adjacent to Cache Creek just north of the community of Rumsey along Highway 16. With the exception of an 1,100 square foot building shell, the park is basically unimproved. The park is used as a camping site for the Boy Scouts of America, as a picnicking and day-use activities, and a take-out site for rafting concessions. During the summer months, rafting use is the predominant activity. There is

approximately one acre of beach front with various trees; the center of the property is free of vegetation.

Another park located north of Rumsey along State Highway 16 is Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park. At approximately 752 acres, Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park is the largest park in Yolo County, and includes almost two miles of Cache Creek frontage. Although the total acreage is large, 500 acres is buffer land, with only approximately 60 acres considered developed. The park is divided into three developed sites: the upper park, middle park, and lower park site. The Upper Park site contains a parking area, a public beach and a put-in point for rafters. The Middle Park site is the main center of recreational activity for the entire Yolo County park system. This site consists of 48 campsites, a mobile home for parks hosts, public beaches, a parking lot, a recreational meadow area, and a playground and picnic area. The Middle Park site heavily used for cycling, hiking and birding, in addition to overnight camping.

The Lower Park site contains a parking area, two picnic areas, and a public beach. The Lower Park is used for rafting, hiking, biking, fishing, and horseback riding. The site also provides additional recreational opportunities from hiking, biking, fishing, and horseback riding on 50,000 acres of adjacent BLM property, County trails, and Frog Pond via County Road 40. The County has a cooperative Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM in which both agencies work to expand recreation and interpretive experiences of the area. There is an equestrian facility located approximately 200 yards south of the low water bridge that stages rafting concession operations during the summer months. Adjacent to the equestrian facility is the Blue Ridge Trail, which leads to spectacular views of four neighboring counties.

In 1995, estimated annual visitor days were 61,000. Rafting activities have dominated recreational usage. County staff has marketed special recreational use programs during the week and the off-season, with some success.

As noted above, the County is responsible for providing maintenance and operations under contract to three State-owned public recreational facilities. The arrangements typically involve a long-term maintenance and operations agreement in exchange for funds for capital improvements and to offset operations costs. However, according to the Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, these maintenance funds represent only approximately 20 percent of the total annual maintenance costs required; the balance is borne by the County Parks Department, or work simply does not get done. The Draft Plan has indicated that closing the revenue gap must occur if the County is to (1) meet even basic safety conditions for these sites, (2) reduce the flow of revenue from other parks and facilities to these sites, and (3) address costly capital replacements.

Existing and Proposed Trails

A variety of trails exist within or partially within Yolo County. The following trails are managed cooperatively by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Department of Fish and Game:

- Blue Ridge Trail

- Fiske Creek Trail
- Frog Pond Trail
- Judge Davis Trail

All four trails are within the Cache Creek Recreation Area. The Cache Creek Recreation Area is managed as a primitive area to protect wildlife and rare plants. Access is limited to foot traffic, equestrian use and mountain bikes; Blue Ridge Trail is hiking only.

In addition, the Yolo Hiker website has identified the following trails/hikes in Yolo County:

- Putah Creek Trail, near Davis
- Rayhouse Road Hike

Tourism

Yolo County’s tourism slightly decreased from 1998-1999 at a time when tourism in small counties increase 11.5 percent. In addition, Yolo’s tourism growth rate is slower than tourism growth in Solano, Sacramento and Napa counties. This includes both business and leisure travels. At 7.5 visitors per capita, Yolo County’s visitor-serving sector is less prominent than California as a whole at 8.7 visitors per capita. This information suggests the county has an opportunity to increase visitor spending.

Nevertheless, the county attracts about 1 million visitors per year on average, most of whom visit Davis, Woodland, or West Sacramento. These visitors spent \$212.6 million of the \$962.8 million total spending on accommodations, eating, drinking, food stores, retail sales, service stations and travel. For instance, spending on hotels and motels in unincorporated areas was \$983,000 in 1998, which is 7 percent of total lodging spending countywide. Tourism accounted for 2,420 jobs in 1998 countywide, most in the restaurant (760), recreation (480), retail sales (460) and lodging (380) categories. That same year tourism also brought \$310 million in direct sales, personal income for employees and value added (employee spending).

The Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report has identified the following tourism recreational opportunities and attractions for the three regions in Yolo County:

The Delta/Sacramento River Recreational Opportunities and Attractions

Eating and Drinking Establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None in Clarksburg • 1 Restaurant in Knights Landing
Shopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few stores available, mainly small, general markets
Main Recreational Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating • Sightseeing • Fishing • Cycling
Cultural Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine tasting

Lodging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No lodging available
Vehicle Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gas stations• Auto Repair

Source: Applied Development Economics, 2000

Grasslands Recreational Opportunities and Attractions

Eating and Drinking Establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centered in the towns of Woodland, Davis, Madison, Dunnigan, Esparto, and Capay
Shopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few stores available, mainly small, general markets
Main Recreational Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Cycling • Agricultural tourism • Birding • Ballooning • Fishing • Archery • Model soaring • Parachuting • Horse racing
Cultural Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine tasting, Festivals, Museums
Lodging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to Woodland, Davis and Dunnigan
Vehicle Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several service stations located in Dunnigan and nearby cities

Source: Applied Development Economics, 2000

Blue Ridge Mountains Recreational Opportunities and Attractions

Eating and Drinking Establishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casino, few in towns
Shopping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few stores available, mainly small, general markets
Main Recreational Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking • Mountain biking • Hiking • Birding/Wildlife viewing • White-water rafting • Swimming • Camping • Horseback riding • Ballooning • Hunting • Fishing
Cultural Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaming
Lodging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campground
Vehicle Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 station near Brooks and Casino

Source: Applied Development Economics, 2000

Scenic Driving

While none of the roads in the county are designated by the State of California as scenic byways, much of the county does offer considerable opportunities for scenic driving.

Running through the Capay Valley and next to Cache Creek, Highway 16 offers scenic beauty for any traveler. Views of local farms, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and Cache Creek, draw visitors to pass through here year after year. Stores in Esparto, Brooks, and Guinda, with fuel in Brooks, provide services to travelers who want to get away from the city, or are just passing through. Increased traffic on State Highway 16 traveling to and from the Cache Creek Casino has created problems for local residents and businesses (such as farmers moving equipment), and alternative forms of travel (bicyclists, pedestrians).

A State designated scenic highway that is adjacent to Yolo County is Highway 160, which runs through the Delta. Passing on the opposite (east) side of the Sacramento River from Clarksburg, Highway 160 is a heavily traveled road that follows the Sacramento River from Sacramento to the Bay Area. A separate and parallel roadway, South River Road (County Road E-9), exists on the west bank of the River and possesses attributes similar to Highway 160. The potential of Highway 160 is available to the Delta region as a whole, and is an asset on which Yolo County may be able to capitalize by being part of the Delta “community.” .

Elsewhere in the county, most roads are rural, and except for those interested solely in agricultural land, not suitable for scenic driving. The exception to this is Highway 128 leading up to Lake Berryessa and into Napa County. Paralleling Putah Creek, Highway 128 may attract some leisure traffic, especially those heading to view the dam or a scenic route to/from Napa County. More narrow and winding than Highway 16, Highway 128 has less potential for developing scenic use.

White Water Rafting

There are three separate concessionaires operating river-rafting trips along Cache Creek. Running from late April until early September, they are the only organized outdoor recreation providers in Cache Creek/Capay Valley (equestrian facilities and horseback riding open to the public have been available in the past, but currently operate from Lake County. This is a recreational opportunity that could be expanded in Yolo County).

Very little is available to rafting participants in the form of visitor-serving businesses except what is offered by the concessionaires. At various take-out points, rafters are offered cold drinks and snacks from streamside vendors, but this is very limited.

Rafting is also located in the same area with the greatest abundance of hiking trails. The popular Blue Ridge Trail trailhead is located near the Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park, where primitive camping is also available. In addition, this area caters to mountain biking and bird and wildlife viewing.

Wineries

Each year about 10.7 million people visit California wine growing areas, generating more than \$1.2 billion in tourism expenditures for restaurants, hotels and other retail establishments. Wineries and vineyards are the second most popular tourist destination in California after Disneyland. Wine growing also enhances the environmental beauty as it preserves its highly valued open spaces and rich agricultural heritage. The most visited wine region in the state is Napa Valley (*California Wine Industry Statistical Highlights*, Wine Institute, 2000).

Like Napa County, Yolo County is primarily agriculturally based, with a good deal of its wealth and jobs related to the thriving grape growing business. What separates Napa from Yolo is that many of the jobs are also related to wine making.

There are four wineries in Yolo County with tasting rooms. There are three designated viticulture areas with a total of 158,640 acres, centered in the Delta region and the Dunnigan Hills. The largest winery in the region, RH Phillips, is the 25th largest winery in California in terms of production. With so few wineries in a county that produces so many wine grapes, the ability to draw visitors exclusively for wine tasting is limited. Instead, those that do visit the wineries in Yolo County are either attracted there by serendipity or by making a specific winery a destination. At the larger wineries, on a typical weekend, they will host anywhere from 40 to 80 visitors a day (interviews, September 2000). Because there are few visitors to the wineries, the percentage of total sales generated through the tasting rooms is small. But since many have made the winery a destination, sales are usually large, with one winery reporting average sales of close to \$100 per person.

There are regional winery associations, generally either associated by county or appellation. While Yolo County wineries no doubt participate in some of these associations, no association exists solely for those operating in Yolo County. Like many of the attractions in Yolo County, the wineries are unknown to visitors. Attracting more wineries into Yolo County would help to bolster both Yolo County's image and attract visitors.

Existing Market Trends

The visitor-serving market encompasses a number of uses catering to overnight leisure visitors, business travelers, and day travelers. A fully developed visitor-serving business base should include a representative mix of the following business types: lodging, recreation/amusement services, transportation services, eating and drinking places, food stores, and other retail (Dean Runyan Associates, *California Travel Impacts by County: 1992-1997*).

With its close proximity to Sacramento and other major urban areas, the County of Yolo is in an ideal position to develop visitor-serving businesses. As defined by the California Tourism Marketing Act, there are 1,270 visitor-serving businesses in Yolo County (California Government Code, Chapter 2.2, *California Tourism Marketing Act*. Number of businesses from InfoUSA Inc., businessUSA 2000, 1st Edition dataset). Currently, the majority of visitor-serving businesses exist along the two major corridors that run through and near the County, Interstates 80 and 5. Two other thoroughfares, State Routes 16 and 505, have comparatively little in the

way of visitor-serving businesses. Unfortunately, Yolo County itself has been overlooked as a destination. However, with abundant open space, close proximity to major areas of water recreation/activities and a growing winery business, Yolo County is in a position to capitalize on recreational opportunities in a growing region.

- Currently, there are three campgrounds in Yolo County. One is located in Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park and two private campgrounds are located in the West Sacramento area. There are 57 motels/hotels in Yolo County, with most centered in Davis, Woodland and West Sacramento. Only three are located in unincorporated area (InforUSA Inc., business USA 2000, 1st Edition dataset.)
- Yolo County has a growing visitor-serving economy that generated approximately \$213 million in spending in 1998, up from \$158 million in 1992 (*California Travel Impacts by County: 1992-1998*).
- Yolo County hosted approximately one million visitors in 1998, with 300,000 for business and 700,000 for leisure (*Domestic Travel Report, Year End 1998*, California, prepared for California Tourism, D.K. Shifflet & Associates, June 1999.)
- While the number of visitors has not increased in Yolo County over the past several years, visitor spending has increased 4.3 percent annually.
- Yolo County's existing visitor-serving businesses are clustered near the major interstates in Davis, Woodland and West Sacramento, with only a small percentage located in unincorporated areas.

Numbers of Visitors

Yolo County hosted approximately 900,000 visitors in 1999, with 200,000 for business and 700,000 for leisure (*Domestic Travel Report, Year End 1998, California*, prepared for California Tourism, D.K. Shifflet & Associates, June 1999). Small county visitation in California showed an increase of 11.5 percent from 1998 to 1999, but Yolo County is estimated to have had a small decrease (small counties, as defined by D.K. Shifflet & Associates, include: Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, San Benito, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba). For the years 1996-1998, Yolo County averaged 1.1 million visitors. This is on par with other small counties, matching Tuolumne and Placer (*California Domestic Travel Report, Year End 1999*, D.K. Shifflet & Associates, 2000). With the Yolo County population estimated at 133,311, this represents 7.5 visitors per capita. For California as a whole the count is 8.7 per capita, which means that Yolo County's visitor-serving sector is less prominent than the industry as a whole throughout the rest of the state. Yolo County's visitations, although volatile from year to year, have remained fairly constant between 900,000 and 1,300,000 person-trips per year since 1994. This is in contrast to the state as a whole, which has seen a total increase in visitations of approximately 8.5 percent.

While Yolo County has seen visitation remain constant for the 1994-1999 period, visitation in surrounding areas has increased. The three surrounding counties of Sacramento, Solano and Napa have similar recreational opportunities and are potential sources of visitors to Yolo County.

Sacramento County, with a 1994 high of 15.4 million visitors, has had a steady increase in visitation from 1995 to 1998, increasing 5 percent annually (Frequently Requested County Visitor Volumes, <http://gocalif.ca.gov/research/countyvolume.html>). Sacramento County is considered part of the Gold Country region of California by the California Trade and Commerce Agency, along with Sierra County and portions of Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, and Madera counties. Together, this region receives approximately 5.4 percent of all travel volume for California.

Napa County, drawing double what Yolo County does, has seen an annual increase in visitation from 1995 of about 1 percent. The Bay Area as a whole, which includes Napa and western Solano counties, represents about 10 percent of total visitor volume for California.

3.0 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ISSUES

3.1 Growth Pressure and Demand for Open Space and Recreational Lands

In 1998, the *Draft Yolo County Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan* was published. Its purpose was to identify the future open space needs of Yolo County. The Parks Division staff felt that land should be acquired throughout the County. A community's boundaries have little relationship to the needs and resources for regional park development. As the region becomes more urbanized, the need for parks becomes greater.

To provide the County with direction in their acquisition of open space acreage in Yolo County, the *Draft Yolo County Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan* recommended the following:

- 1) Acquire additional acres of varied recreational opportunities for County residents.
- 2) Acquire sections of wooded areas adjacent to the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- 3) Achieve the most effective use of land. Land adjoining existing parkland should be acquired when the adjoining land affects the scenic character, or when future development is contemplated, compatible designs should be incorporated.
- 4) Expand outdoor recreational activities by providing public access to the Sacramento River, Cache Creek, and Putah Creek. A partnership could be developed for construction of wetlands, ponds and lakes for water-based recreational activities.
- 5) Because open space lands are of great benefit to County residents, those undeveloped lands which are least accessible, least easy to service, and least desirable for residences should be left in their natural state. Marginal lands, including the upper Blue Ridge area, wetlands, and floodplains should remain in open space. Acquisition of these areas would result in the protection and preservation of Yolo County's natural resources.

Non-agriculturally-related open space and recreation facilities will be expanded as resources permit. This will include implementation of plans for Cache Creek, the Blue Ridge Mountains and existing County parks. Implementation will be aided by public/private partnerships and joint activities with other governmental agencies. The pace of activity and level of County involvement will, however, be limited unless the resource base is expanded. Government and foundation grants will be an important source of funding encouraging the growth of private open space and recreational amenities, and also provide tax revenues that can be used to expand and improve publicly held land and facilities. Improvement in the fee structures for resident and non-resident use fees for certain recreation facilities should also be done.

The Open Space and Recreation Element provides for the County to establish and/or maintain partnerships with Cache Creek Conservancy, Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, the Yolo Bypass Working Group and the Sacramento River Conservation Area for creation of open space along Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, the Sacramento River and within the Yolo Bypass. The Element also calls for the County to encourage and support efforts by State and

federal agencies, cities, special districts, and nonprofit and conservation organizations to protect lands containing open space resources, including but not limited to the use of conservation easements and land trusts.

To respond to growth pressure and demand for open space and recreational lands, the Open Space and Recreation Element includes policies that call for the County to provide adequate and diversified recreational opportunities and facilities to meet the demands of an expanding population, including application of parkland to population standards in new development, and creation of mechanisms for funding park acquisition and development, as well as the ongoing costs of park maintenance and recreation services.

Because most urban development in Yolo County occurs within incorporated cities, the County cannot expect to generate County revenues (e.g., Quimby fees, park impact fees, sales tax, property tax, transient occupancy tax) sufficient to fund greatly expanded recreational facilities and programs alone. The Open Space and Recreation Element provides for the County to partner with private businesses, whenever practicable, to individually and collectively supervise and manage adjacent and nearby public facilities, to lower long-term public costs and enhance public security. The Element also provides for the County to work with the cities of Yolo County to facilitate development of a regional sports park at an appropriate location between population centers.

3.2 Open Space, Recreation and Agricultural Compatibility

Open space in Yolo County is closely tied to the future of agriculture. Although other forms of open space are extremely important, without the continuation of agricultural enterprise, open space resources will be greatly diminished. The future of open space in Yolo County, therefore, is closely tied to directions and initiatives undertaken to preserve land for agriculture. At the same time, growth pressures will increase demand for open space and recreational lands accessible to an expanding regional population.

If the correct decisions are made, regional growth will be an economic incentive to preservation of Yolo County open space resources. Key to the preservation of open space lands held in private ownership will be creation of non-traditional activities, especially those associated with eco-tourism and agricultural tourism. Any existing policies that would impede these forms of recreation should be reexamined and the County should actively support the development of visitor-serving businesses that complement sustainable eco and agricultural tourism.

In its broadest sense, sustainable tourism is people enjoying a natural outdoors that is managed to be ecologically sustainable. “Ecotourism” is one form of sustainable tourism. The International Ecotourism Society defines ecotourism as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people.”

According to the *Agricultural and Tourism Targeted Industry Analyses Final Report*:

Agri-tourism is an even more recent phenomena [than eco-tourism], which is built on a strong family focus. Entrepreneurial growers and ranchers have opened their

farms for day visits, overnight stays and weeklong “working” vacations with foods prepared from seasonally available produce and cooked in the kitchens of host farms. Roadside fruit and vegetable stands, farmers markets and you-pick-em gardens are all part of the movement that began among organic growers to come into direct contact with the ultimate consumers of their produce.

The report points out that, while agri-tourism can bring outside revenues into the county, it is not labor-intensive and therefore does not generate significant additional employment. The report also notes that farm operators may be reluctant to increase traffic through areas where they live and work. The report presents the following “keys” to developing agri-tourism in Yolo County:

- **Involving Organic Farmers:** Organic farmers are motivated to market their produce directly to the public. Agri-tourism extends their opportunities to do this by bringing additional consumers to the farm rather than forcing farmers to seek out consumers. If this is successful, it will generate new revenues from tourists paying to visit or stay on farms while increasing sales of produce. Additionally, using Napa and Sonoma Valley wineries as examples, some of these farms can establish small restaurants featuring foods prepared from the fresh produce grown on the farm. Again, a significant, sustained promotional effort is needed to realize the full potential of this concept.
- **Involving UC Davis:** The University of California Davis is one of the nation’s most important agricultural learning and research institutions. Involving it in agri-tourism activities would create significant additional employment and revenue-generating opportunities because of the reach and depth of its programs and reputation. Visits to the campus could be merged and coordinated with on-farm visits, educational workshops and classes to demonstrate new techniques and technologies. Given the positive relationship that exists between the University and the county, it would seem possible to coordinate a continuing cross-promotional campaign to the benefit of both entities.

A recent article in the Sacramento Bee (“Seeds of Change: Agri-tourism Grows as Farms Try to Boost Their Revenues,” August 14, 2000) reports on agri-tourism in Yolo and other Sacramento Valley counties. The article featured the Yolo Land & Cattle Co. in Winters, at which visitors can observe and participate in some activities of a 7,500-acre working cattle ranch. “Impossible Acres,” a pick-it-yourself farm outside the City of Davis, features peaches, plums and cherries, and a pumpkin patch in the fall. Certain activities that fall within the definition of agri-tourism require permits under the County’s Zoning Ordinance. In the County’s predominant agricultural zones, bed and breakfasts and lodges require approval of either a Minor Use Permit or a Major Use Permit, depending on the zone.

While Yolo County itself may not have the capacity to attract large numbers of visitors for extended stays, it does have the opportunity to attract both regional and local visitors. The greatest potential for Yolo comes in pulling visitors from the surrounding regions. Within an approximate 90 minute driving time of Yolo County, the total population is approximately 6.9 million, some of which could potentially be attracted as day visitors. The three counties compared to Yolo in the analysis above – Sacramento, Solano, and Napa - either share similar attractions or are in close enough proximity that visitors would take the time to experience Yolo

County. Those visiting Napa for wine tasting may wish to visit Yolo for the same thing, or those visiting Sacramento may wish to travel to Yolo to experience something not available, such as hiking or white water rafting. Instead of promoting individual activities or attractions, it is recommended that Yolo County participate with local visitor-serving businesses and attractions in creating a countywide identity.

Another opportunity that Yolo County may wish to explore would be something akin to a “farm trail” or other visitor serving activity in which visitors spend time moving between attractions with the same or similar theme. Currently the Putah-Cache Bioregion Project, based at UC Davis, promotes a circumdrive that traverses the Putah-Cache Creek watershed encompassing parts of Yolo and surrounding counties. In Fresno County, the Blossom Trail is touted as an auto/motorcycle/bicycle trail that highlights the region’s agriculture and historical points of interest. In the community of Camino in Placer County, Apple Hill is a popular destination with numerous farms, orchards and wineries, which hosts events and maintains an organization to attract visitors. The almond festival in Esparto could be an incubator for a similar type of organization in Yolo County.

An example of how this can be done is being undertaken in Sonoma County, where food product businesses have begun to band together to “brand” their products with the slogan “Sonoma Select” as a means to identify a unified theme of high quality and broad product group identification. The logo is being placed on packaging, local menus and in stores. Early indications of this program are that it is boosting local sales.

As part of its effort to support agriculture by developing a logo and slogan for produce and processed foods from this area, the County could help develop a plan for a Capay Valley certified kitchen where jams, dried fruits, roasted nuts, olive oil, cheeses, syrups, etc. are prepared. The County could also assist in developing a large local farmers’ market, where both processed foods and fresh produce would be available to both residents and visitors. The old railroad station in Esparto or a facility in Madison are possible locations for both or either of these facilities, since they could draw visitors from both Highway 16 and Interstate 505.

The County may also assist in implementing and operating a Yolo County Farm Trails Guide, similar to those of El Dorado and Sonoma Counties, with maps and pertinent information that would help tourists find and buy from local producers, if they preferred an on-the-ground experience. There could be arranged tours, in buses, which would help minimize impacts on traffic.

Tourists frequent places with available linked activities around a core destination/attraction. That is, during a trip they eat, shop, refuel, are entertained and stay overnight. All of these opportunities need to be present within a reasonable distance.

If properly marketed and promoted, Yolo County has the potential to become a destination for short vacations and day trips from within the Sacramento/Bay Area region. Visitors will enjoy a variety of outdoor recreational activities utilizing a wide range of natural resources, as well as agriculturally- and educationally-related activities. To establish Yolo County as a destination choice will, however, require development of additional traveler-related infrastructure.

In summary, any successful program for open space and recreation lands and facilities in Yolo County will recognize the need to create a strong economic incentive for preservation of farmland, as well as open space for scenic and wildlife purposes. These incentives are embodied in the concepts of eco- and agricultural tourism and the development of new markets and opportunities for agriculture. The Open Space and Recreation Element calls for clearly demarcated boundaries between public open space and private agricultural lands, and maintenance of appropriate zoning categories and standards to ensure land use compatibility, protection of agricultural lands, and consistency with the General Plan when visitor and tourist-oriented activities locate in Yolo County. Several policies in the Element provide for the County to encourage and support the development of private recreational facilities that preserve scenic and environmentally sensitive resources and that do not create land use conflicts with agricultural operations.

3.3 Sustainable Tourism and its Impacts on Open Space and Recreational Lands

Yolo County has abundant open space and numerous opportunities to support sustainable tourism. In its broadest sense, sustainable tourism is people enjoying a natural outdoors that is managed to be ecologically sustainable. “Ecotourism” is one form of sustainable tourism, often more narrowly interpreted. Defining Ecotourism has proven difficult given all the different players trying to define it. The International Ecotourism Society defines Ecotourism as: “responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people.” Sustainable tourism should certainly include education and interpretation of the natural environment. Unincorporated Yolo County should not use its resources to develop large-scale attractions or urban recreation facilities. The County should instead focus on drawing visitors to its existing outdoor and open space attractions, and should encourage clustering of new public and private attractions and linked services.

The open space available for outdoor recreation in Yolo County can be categorized into three very specific geographic regions based on topography, natural features, and visitor use opportunities:

The Cache Creek, Putah Creek and Blue Ridge Mountains. This region contains wetland grasses, shrubland, cottonwoods, oaks, etc.

The Blue Ridge Mountains are within the Putah and Cache Creek drainage, and part of the Blue Ridge/Berryessa Natural Area. The area is currently enjoyed by thousands of visitors who appreciate the rustic beauty as well as the remoteness of the area. Recreational opportunities for visitors include wildlife and wildflower viewing, picnicking, mountain biking, fishing, white water rafting, hiking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, and sightseeing along the scenic Capay Valley. Stores in Winters, Madison, Esparto, Brooks, and Guinda, with fuel in Winters, Madison, and Brooks, provide services to travelers. Development in this area should be carefully considered so that it does not conflict with agriculture, the region’s main economic base and livelihood. The County should promote access to public land without infringing on private property rights.

The Sacramento River. The Delta/Sacramento River is that section of Yolo County following the Sacramento River. The majority of visitor-serving businesses in this area can be found in one of three communities: Knights Landing, West Sacramento and Clarksburg, with West Sacramento being by far the largest. Four County parks serve the river: Knights Landing Boat Launch, Elkhorn Boat Launch, Clarksburg Boat Launch, and Helvetia Oaks Park. Recreational opportunities in the Delta region include: boating, fishing, cycling, wine tasting, and sightseeing. A more complete listing can be found in the Background Report for this Element.

The Grasslands of the Central County. The Grasslands section of Yolo County can be considered the flat terrain making up the majority of the County. Most of this area is productive agricultural land. Regional parks make up the bulk of recreational opportunity space with the majority of visitor-serving businesses found in Woodland and Davis. Recreational opportunities, besides those commonly associated with park visiting, include: cycling, wine tasting, and agri-tourism.

The County should also acknowledge, try to capture, and provide supporting facilities for the more common rural visitor, the family who is merely driving through, has time for only one or two stops lasting between 5 minutes and two hours before moving on, and is typically not physically adventurous. These travelers do not stray from the highway without good directional signage and the promise of a free adventure. Typical activities include scenic driving, wine tasting and touring, picnicking, using the restroom, buying a snack or drink, refueling the car, walking the length of a small downtown, buying souvenirs, visiting a roadside stand or farmers market, and stopping at turnouts.

The Open Space and Recreation Element provides for creation of a tourism marketing program for Yolo County focused on recreational opportunities. The Element also calls for the County to support the location of additional recreational and traveler service facilities in unincorporated communities, so that these facilities do not significantly harm agricultural operations or open space values. Policies provide for the County to promote and support the growth of individual and collective private-sector agri-tourism and eco-tourism operations of all sizes that benefit from wide expanses of open space and agricultural land.

3.4 Recreation and Tourism as Industry

Recreation and tourism opportunities in Yolo County are not well known. If the County takes direct action to improve its tourism offerings and its marketing, tourism growth could increase, with the potential by 2005 for 110 new jobs, and almost \$100 million in new spending, including \$2.7 million in the unincorporated areas.

Yolo County is in a good position to dramatically increase visitor spending in the unincorporated areas if it takes some basic actions. Those actions include improving County recreational facilities, improving County roads, encouraging the expansion of existing private sector visitor-serving establishments, establishing a joint cooperative marketing program, and linking attractions through co-locating them and through marketing.

Most importantly, the County can enhance visitor spending by linking multiple visitor attractions. This can be done in three ways:

- Physically, by siting multiple facilities in adjacent locations, or by linking them through transit arrangements. Concentrated downtowns, food courts and a regional sports complex are three examples of co-locating multiple facilities.
- Temporarily, by sharing facilities at different times, such as parking lots, meeting rooms, restaurants, kitchens, etc.
- Conceptually, by creating the concept of closeness through marketing.

Locals and leisure travelers appreciate the ability to choose among multiple options in a small area, their stays are lengthened and their spending increases. For example, both Clarksburg and the Delta, and Esparto and the Capay Valley already have many of these options, and could develop more through revitalization and planning efforts. Optimally, on a single trip people appreciate the chance to:

- Actively recreate (e.g. raft, hike, horseback ride, swim, fish, bicycle ride, off-road vehicle use, etc);
- Passively recreate (e.g. take driving tours, look at historic buildings, visit museums, watch sporting events, tour wineries, picnic, watch movies, star gazing etc.);
- Eat and drink – at many types of restaurants (e.g. walk-up kiosks, mobile caterers, fast food, destination restaurants, saloons, soda fountains, pizza, ice cream, cafes);
- Shop (e.g. souvenirs, gifts, foods, sundries). Farmers markets, roadside stands, tasting rooms, etc. are an excellent opportunity in the Esparto area;
- Fill service needs (e.g. groceries, banking, post-office, auto repair, gasoline, auto parts, etc.);
- For those staying more than a day, alternative lodging (e.g. motels, campgrounds, bed and breakfasts, farm stays).

The Open Space and Recreation Element calls for provision of a fully developed visitor-serving business base in the county that includes a mix of lodging, recreation/amusement services, transportation services, eating and drinking establishments, food stores and other retail, as well as creation of a Yolo County identity that will promote the county's recreational opportunities and assist in attracting visitors. A side benefit will be improvement of the County tax base and local economy. The Element further provides for the County to support the development of visitor-serving businesses that retain and complement its rural character, particularly in the Delta region and the Capay Valley, and to promote and support the clustering of commercial/recreational opportunities to provide "linked" activities for tourists. Other policies call for the County to support the development of lodging in unincorporated communities, events that showcase Yolo County products such as wine and produce, and development of critical services for travelers where needed, such as public restrooms, mini-marts, and service stations. The Element further provides for the County to support the marketing of Yolo County as a destination for vacations and day trips, through creation of a local and regional marketing program.

3.5 Implementation of a Cache Creek Recreation Plan

The Cache Creek Nature Preserve is shown on Figure 2-1 of Appendix A. The 130-acre property includes a former mining pit that has been turned into a wetlands area, a portion of Cache Creek, and forest. It was dedicated by A. Teichert and Son Inc. and is managed by the Cache Creek Conservancy. The site represents one of the least-disturbed areas along Lower Cache Creek. The stated mission of the Cache Creek Nature Preserve is to provide a natural environment where children and adults can explore and discover the relationships between humans and the historical, natural, agricultural and industrial uses of the area. The Cache Creek Conservancy is funded, in part, by a fee from four aggregate companies based on tons of gravel sold. This funding source is secured for 30 years through development agreements with Yolo County.

Figure 6-1 of Appendix A illustrates proposed recreation nodes on Cache Creek. The Off-Channel Mining Plan has designated these six areas for recreational use. These areas are conceptual in nature, and will serve to set aside land for future consideration as recreational areas. Sites are located at regular intervals of approximately two miles along Cache Creek, and generally located within the proximity of existing access, in order to function as trailheads or staging areas for a possible future system of bicycle, pedestrian, hiking, and/or equestrian paths. Recreational areas are also sited on lands included for mining, where proposed reclamation is to permanent ponds. This ensures that no additional farmland will be lost, while taking advantage of the amenities associated with the bodies of water to be reclaimed through mining.

Frontage on County roads and State highways is another important consideration, to ensure that the public would have adequate access. Also, a variety of sites were included in order to provide a range of potential recreational uses. The three easternmost areas would be located near reaches proposed for habitat restoration, and may be suitable for passive activities, such as hiking, birdwatching, horseback riding, and educational exhibits. The three westernmost sites will be located in areas of the creek that contain more open space and may be appropriate for intensive activities, including non-motorized boating, catch and release fishing, bicycle riding, and picnic grounds. Active recreational uses in the western sites would directly benefit the nearby communities of Madison, Esparto, and Capay, and could serve as a future basis for expanded tourism opportunities and economic benefits.

The Open Space and Recreation Element provides for the County to establish and maintain a partnership with the Cache Creek Conservancy for creation of additional public open space and access along Cache Creek, and to support the efforts of the Cache Creek Conservancy to preserve open space and improve scenic resources within and along Cache Creek. The Open Space Diagram identifies general locations for future public open space and access, consistent with the policies in this Element.

The Open Space and Recreation Element also calls for the establishment of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities along Cache Creek, and includes policies that provide for the creation of a continuous corridor of natural open space along Cache Creek, with provision for limited access at specific locations to recreational and educational uses from a County road or highway. Policies further provide that only those recreational uses that are creek-dependent,

such as fishing, canoeing, boating, and nature observation are to be located on Cache Creek. The Element also calls for recreational uses to be clustered, to minimize habitat disturbance and provide efficient and cost-effective management by the County. All access, whether by road or trail, must be through an entry point that can be controlled.

3.6 Community-Based Recreation Programs

Most recreation programs and opportunities in the unincorporated area of Yolo County are organized by private, nonprofit entities such as the Yolo Audubon Society and the Yolo Basin Foundation. Many are also educational in nature. Other popular programs, such as rafting, are operated by private concessionaires. Informal programs, such as hikes described on the Yolo Hiker website, are also prevalent. Most of what would be regarded as “traditional” recreation programs (sports, day camps, etc.) operate in the cities of Yolo County.

Bird watching (“birding”) is an important activity in Yolo County, enjoyed by both County residents and those from outside the area. The Yolo Audubon Society, a local chapter of the National Audubon Society, conducts outings on almost a weekly basis. They also host two special events each year: California Duck Days in February, and the Christmas Bird Count every December.

The Yolo Basin Foundation offers weekend field trips for the general public led by experienced Yolo Audubon members or other wildlife experts. They focus primarily on the natural history of the area.

The Open Space and Recreation Element includes, as a goal, the creation of community-based recreation programs, and as an objective, access to County-sponsored recreation programs in all major unincorporated communities. The Element provides for the County to prepare and adopt a Parks Master Plan showing how all county communities are to be served with adequate amounts of parkland, and calling for the county to work with these communities to develop adequate recreational infrastructure and facilities.

3.7 The Blue Ridge Trail

According to the Yolo Hiker website:

The Sierra Club Yolano group conceived the Blue Ridge Trail in the 70’s. So far, 8 miles of trail have been built, from Cache Creek to the end of the main tract of public lands above Fiske Creek. Ultimately, the trail would extend all the way to Monticello Dam, allowing one to hike or horseback ride from Putah to Cache Creek.

So far, the trail is either built or there is an easement at the beginning and ending portions of the trail. The middle section is all that needs access. When the trail is completed it will be approximately 30 miles long that would run the spine of the Napa and Yolo County border, along the ridge. Views from the top of the ridge are *spectacular*.

The Open Space and Recreation Element addresses the Blue Ridge Trail. It calls for the County to support efforts by the Blue Ridge Working Group to provide public access and trail improvements within the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Element also calls for the County to work closely with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), adjacent counties and other landowners to establish needed facilities and access in order to make the Blue Ridge Mountains available for mountain biking, hiking, wilderness experiences, equestrian activities and wildlife viewing. Implementation measures call for the County to seek opportunities to acquire or participate in acquisition of land in the Blue Ridge Mountains for trailheads, an equestrian center, and other recreational experiences. However, no acquisition of land is expected to occur unless it is with a willing seller.

3.8 Trail Connections to the Upper Sacramento River

The Open Space and Recreation Element calls for creating expanded public access to the Sacramento River, creation of public open space along the Sacramento River, and enhancing and improving public access to the Sacramento River Conservation Area. The Element also provides for the County to establish a variety of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities along the Sacramento River for use by the public. A continuous corridor of natural open space is called for along the Sacramento River, with provision for limited access at specific locations to recreational and educational uses from a County road or highway, and possible bicycle access to select areas. Such corridors would be established through cooperation with willing landowners. The Element calls for recreational uses to be clustered at locations along the river, to minimize habitat disturbance and provide efficient and cost-effective management by the County. All access, whether by road or by trail, must be through an entry point that can be controlled.

3.9 Implementation of the Bicycle Transportation Plan

Bicycling has been very popular in Yolo County, both as a recreational sport and for commuting to work or school. The flat terrain and relatively short distances between cities make condition favorable for bicycling. The University of California, Davis with its student population of approximately 24,600 students (1998 enrollment), is one of the main generators of bicycle traffic.

Yolo County has developed a Bicycle Transportation Plan (adopted in 1999), which outlines long-term goals and policies for achieving a countywide bikeway network. The plan proposes a system of bike routes that upon completion would encourage more bicycling in the County.

Yolo County currently has five designated bikeways in the unincorporated areas of the County, as shown in [Figure 3-1](#) of Appendix A. They are designated as either Class I or Class II bikeways. Class I bikeways are bike paths separated from roadways, and Class II bikeways are bike paths located on roadways. The County bikeways are as follows:

- A route from Davis to West Sacramento (consisting of a Class I Caltrans -constructed bike path along the I-80 causeway over the Yolo Bypass, and Class I and II sections of County Road 32A.

- A bike lane along County Road 102 from Knights Landing to the eastern portion of Woodland, and on to Davis (Class II).
- A bike lane along County Road 99 from the southern city limits of Woodland south approximately 3.5 miles to County Road 27.
- A bike lane along County Roads 31 and 93A west from Davis to County Road 32 (Class II).
- A bike path along County Road 32 west from Davis to County Road 95A.

The County's existing bikeway system is somewhat fragmented since the above-mentioned routes do not adequately connect cities in the County. A number of the routes are lacking adequate signage. In addition, bicyclists must often travel on narrower County roads that do not have bike lanes. The proposed bikeway system is shown in [Figure 3-2](#) of Appendix A.

The Open Space and Recreation Element provides for the County to work with interested groups to complete construction of a bicycle trail system, and to ensure that bicycle access is an integral part of future recreational facility design and facility operations.

3.10 Clustering of Development to Preserve Open Space Lands

The concept of “clustered development” is the concentration (or “clustering”) of development (usually residential) at permitted densities into one portion of a larger property, with the remaining land reserved for open space or agriculture. This concept is not particularly applicable in Yolo County, which for the most part does not permit urban or rural residential uses in agricultural areas of the county. The Yolo County Agricultural Element includes a policy that encourages farm dwellings to be clustered to minimize the conversion of agricultural lands to other uses. The Open Space and Recreation Element provides for clustering of residential development when parcels are adjacent to agricultural or open space lands. This Element also calls for recreational uses to be clustered when located near rivers and creeks, to minimize habitat disturbance and provide efficient and cost-effective management by the County.

3.11 Yolo Bypass Open Space

The Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area is located along I-80 at the Yolo Causeway between Davis and Sacramento. It is the largest public/private restoration project west of the Florida Everglades, in which approximately 25,500 acres in the Yolo Bypass floodway are being restored to wetlands and other associated habitats. The Area was established in November 1997, and is managed by the Department of Fish and Game to promote an increase in waterfowl and other bird populations. It is considered a model of a public-private partnership that shows that wildlife, flood control and agriculture can co-exist in a largely urban setting. According to the Yolo Basin Foundation website:

The establishment of the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area and the work of the Foundation have been widely regarded as a model for planning and completion of other wetland projects in the Yolo Bypass. The bypass is a key component of the habitat restoration planned as part of the Cal/Fed Bay Delta Accord process now

underway, and is a vital element of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture's habitat restoration goals.

The Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF) was founded in 1990 as a community-based organization to assist in the establishment of the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area. A principal goal of the Foundation is facilitating environmental education within the Wildlife Area in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game. YBF provides the interpretation and education programs in the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area. The YBF concentrates its work in two areas: education and restoration of the Yolo Bypass region of the North Delta and the Pacific Flyway. The YBF is currently working with other organizations to plan the building and operation of a Pacific Flyway Visitor Center near the Wildlife Area.

Portions of the Yolo Bypass also fall within the jurisdiction of the Delta Protection Commission, which is a regional land use planning agency with planning and limited regulatory authority over the Primary Zone of the Delta. For lands within the Delta, the County must ensure that its General Plan is consistent with Commission's Land use and Resource Management Plan. The County has integrated the Commission's Plan into its General Plan through previous adoption of the following policy:

The Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta adopted by the Delta Protection Commission is incorporated herein by this reference and shall apply in those areas designated with such Plan.

The Delta Protection Commission maintains a number of policies regarding recreation and access within the Primary Zone of the Delta with a focus on safety and policing, maintenance and use of existing recreational support facilities in lieu of new construction, and multiple use of Primary Zone lands.

The Open Space and Recreation Element calls for creation of expanded public access to the Yolo Bypass, and establishing and maintaining partnerships with the Yolo Bypass Working Group to preserve open space and improve scenic resources within the Yolo Bypass. The Element provides for the County to encourage and support efforts by State and federal agencies, cities, special districts, and nonprofit and conservation organizations to protect lands containing open space resources, including but not limited to the use of conservation easements and land trusts. The Element further provides that lands reserved for bypass systems such as the Yolo Bypass and Sacramento Bypass shall remain designated as open space in order to prevent flooding hazards, as shown in the Open Space Diagram. Recreation policies also call for establishment of a variety of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities within the Yolo Bypass for use by the public. The Element provides for creation of a continuous corridor of natural and agricultural open space within the Yolo Bypass with provision for limited access at specific locations to recreational and educational uses from a County road or highway.

3.12 Cache Creek Casino: Its Impact on Recreation

The Cache Creek Casino is among the larger Indian casinos in California. It is clearly the most significant tourism attraction in Yolo County. It is also one of the county's largest employers. Facilities include gaming operations, three restaurants, and two large parking lots (one for autos, one for buses). The Cache Creek Indian Casino web site states that the casino has 1,100 year-round employees, pays \$20 million per year in salaries and benefits, sells almost \$4 million in food and beverages (based on \$300,000 in sales tax to the state), and buys \$12 million in supplies from local and regional vendors. The casino also covers the cost of all or part of the following local services: sheriff, fire, library, hospital, health clinic, cultural arts, and the high school.

By working closely with the casino operator, the County could help develop beneficial cooperative arrangements such as use of the parking lot for rafting or tour group staging, arranging catered meals for outdoor users through the restaurants, etc.

The Open Space and Recreation Element calls for the County to support and participate in the formation of a cooperative Yolo County visitors and tourism council, including the various cities and communities, the casino, merchants, restaurants, wineries, motels, campgrounds, water attractions, museums and wildlife areas, agricultural exhibits and other visitor destinations.

The Cache Creek Casino facilities provide restaurant and fuel services to Capay Valley recreational tourists. Most other visitors who come to the Cache Creek Casino are there for the gaming opportunities, and do not generally participate in the outdoor recreational (more family-oriented) activities available in the area. An increase in the number of visitors to the Cache Creek Casino has resulted in increased traffic volumes on Highway 16 between Brooks and the City of Woodland. The increased volumes can make it more difficult for dual use of the Highway by bicyclists i.e., annual Davis Century Race that passes through the Capay Valley, and local farmers who need to move equipment on the road.

The Capay Valley is an area where groundwater depletion is recognized by the County as a severe problem. To the extent that the Cache Creek Casino affects the available groundwater supply in the Capay Valley, it is in the County's interest to work with the Casino to preserve a long-term water supply for agricultural production in the Capay Valley.

3.13 Property Acquisition Along Putah Creek

As described in Chapter Two, the Putah Creek Fishing Access Areas are owned by the Wildlife Conservation Board and maintained and operated under an agreement by Yolo County. The access areas consist of five sites and seven parking lots that are located along Highway 128 near the City of Winters. These areas are situated in riparian habitat that allows for a number of recreational activities ranging from birding to fishing. The Department of Fish and Game stocks the creek annually with fish. In 1996, there were 40,000 estimated visitor days.

According to the 1998 Draft Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, in recent years, the park has fallen into disrepair. First, measurable annual visitor days have declined. This can be

directly attributed to the maintenance practices of Caltrans along State Highway 128. Caltrans has over the years enlarged the pull off sites in various sections. This practice of grading larger pull off sites has made it economical for park patrons to park along the highway shoulders and enter the park. Second, fencing was removed along the highway. This has caused patrons free access and poses a safety hazard as well. As patrons exit their vehicles, they are exposed to the dangers of speeding traffic. Third, the absence of park patrons has caused revenues to fall below levels of fiscal self-sufficiency. The County is subsidizing basic park operations from general fund money that should be derived from user fees. The Element calls for improved communication between Caltrans and the State Department of Fish and Game, which owns a portion of the property, and the County to resolve the problems.

The Open Space and Recreation Element includes, as a goal, provision of expanded public access to Lower Putah Creek and, as an objective, establishing and maintaining partnerships with a variety of groups and entities such as the Putah Creek Council, the City of Winters, the City of Davis and the University of California, Davis for creation of public open space, preserving open space and improving public access to Lower Putah Creek. The Element provides for the County to encourage and support efforts by State and federal agencies, cities, special districts, and nonprofit and conservation organizations to protect lands containing open space resources, including but not limited to the use of conservation easements and land trusts. In addition, Yolo County should consider the creation of a Yolo Legacy Trust for the purpose of open space land preservation along Putah Creek and similar open space resource areas. Recreation policies call for a continuous corridor of natural open space to be created along Lower Putah Creek with provision for limited access at specific locations to recreational and educational uses from a County road or highway. Recreational uses are to be clustered at locations along the creek to minimize habitat disturbance and provide efficient and cost-effective management by the County.

The Open Space and Recreation Element also addresses issues related to creation of mechanisms for funding park acquisition and development, as well as the ongoing costs of park maintenance and recreation services. All access points, whether by road or by trail, must be through an entry point that can be controlled.

3.14 Master Planning for Grasslands Regional Park

Grasslands Regional Park (Figure 2-1 of Appendix A) consists of 320 acres, most of which are undeveloped. The park possesses considerable wildlife habitat value, and hosts burrowing owls and harrier hawks, and provides foraging habitat for Swainson's hawks.

The 1998 *Draft County of Yolo Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan* includes, as a goal, development of a site master plan for Grasslands Regional Park that is reasonable to implement.

According to the Draft Master Plan, the park has been in County ownership since 1974, and only 40 acres have been developed. As outside funding sources dwindle, there will be fewer financial opportunities for capital improvements. The opportunity to protect and preserve the natural resource elements of the site may be lost. In addition to the interpretive/educational potential of

the site, it offers an opportunity to generate revenue for capital improvements, ongoing operations and maintenance.

The Draft Master Plan reports that there has been pressure from the National Park Service to develop the park in accordance with the conditions of the transfer, or impose a property reversion clause on the County. There has also been pressure from neighboring communities that would benefit from regional recreational use of the park, and from other governmental agencies to protect endangered and threatened species. The County has identified several funding sources that would allow incremental or phased development of the park.

The Open Space and Recreation Element calls for creation of mechanisms for funding park acquisition and development by the County, as well as the ongoing costs of park maintenance and recreation services. The Element also provides for the County to complete preparation of the Parks Master Plan, including Grasslands Regional Park, to identify needed recreation infrastructure and facilities, as well as funding sources.

3.15 The Sacramento River Greenway Project

In 1992, Yolo County entered into an agreement with the City of West Sacramento, the City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento to protect and preserve the Sacramento River and to evaluate public/private projects that may arise in the project area.

Yolo County currently operates two park/recreational sites along the Sacramento River: Elkhorn Regional Park and Clarksburg Boat Ramp. The County also provides access to the river from the Knights Landing boat launch facility (see Chapter Two for a description of these facilities). There are many nonprofit organizations that support a contiguous parkway that offers both active and passive recreational facilities.

The Open Space and Recreation Element calls for creating expanded public access to the Sacramento River, creation of public open space along the Sacramento River, and enhancing and improving public access to the Sacramento River Conservation Area. The Element also provides for the County to establish a variety of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities along the Sacramento River for use by the public. A continuous corridor of natural open space is called for along the Sacramento River, with provision for limited access at specific locations to recreational and educational uses from a County road or highway, and possible bicycle access to select areas. The Element calls for recreational uses to be clustered at locations along the river, to minimize habitat disturbance and provide efficient and cost-effective management by the County. All access, whether by road or by trail, must be through an entry point that can be controlled.

3.16 The Yolo County Natural Communities Conservation Plan

In 1995, the *Yolo County Draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)*, a voluntary plan, was initially prepared for local, State and Federal agencies including the Cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland, Yolo County, California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Based on a recent presentation to the “Gaining Ground” Committee

by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the County is now pursuing a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP), a program with a broader biological/habitat approach than an HCP alone.

The purpose of the Yolo County NCCP is to mitigate impacts of urban development on the 26 covered species by conserving and enhancing the habitat value of these species in Yolo County. In addition, the NCCP will establish a long-range strategy or framework for habitat conservation and enhancement to occur at a countywide level. In assuming buildout of the general plans for Woodland, Winters, West Sacramento, and Davis, and the community plans for Knights Landing, Esparto, Dunnigan and Clarksburg, urban development would result in the loss of approximately 11,672 acres of habitat to be mitigated by the NCCP. This acreage includes a small amount of development associated with agricultural operations of up to 1,000 acres on agricultural land in unspecified locations in the unincorporated area that is also covered by the NCCP.

In most cases, the NCCP will require that 1 acre of mitigation land be acquired for each acre of impact (1-to-1 habitat mitigation ratio). However, there are several habitat types (e.g., riparian forest) for which higher mitigation ratios have been established, with compensation ranging from 2:1 to 3:1. The majority (approximately 79 percent) of mitigation habitat will be agricultural conservation easements that maintain existing agricultural and biological values for the species of concern, with the remainder associated with riparian, wetland, grassland and woodland habitats. The Open Space and Recreation Element supports the adoption of the proposed NCCP.

3.17 Fiscal and Employment Impacts of Open Space Preservation and Enhanced Tourism

Recreation and tourism activities have significant impacts on regional economies. The money tourists spend in a community is a benefit not only in terms of direct spending, but other benefits including improved recreation facilities, expanded cultural and social opportunities, and pride in one's community. Tourist dollars are spent on food, recreation, retail sales, lodging, ground transportation, etc., and also benefit sectors throughout the community, including those not directly connected to tourism such as the construction industry.

The fiscal impacts of tourism come in three different forms. In addition to the direct spending noted above, indirect and induced effects also contribute to the local economy. Direct effects are the total amount of money spent by visitors that is circulated into the local economy. Indirect effects are the changes in sales, income or jobs in sectors within the region that supply goods and services to the recreation/tourism sectors. For example, increased linen supply sales to motels is an indirect effect of visitor spending. Induced effects are the increased sales within the region from household spending of the income earned in the tourism and supporting sectors. For instance, motel or park employees spend their income on housing, utilities, and groceries.

In 1998, tourism in Yolo County generated 2,420 direct jobs and \$212.6 million in direct sales, plus another \$31.2 million in indirect and \$66.6 million in induced effects. Assuming a reasonable growth rate of 3 percent per year, an additional \$99.8 million in total spending could be generated by 2005. Of this, \$3.6 million in spending and taxes would be generated in the

unincorporated areas. As described in more detail in Section 8.2 of the Open Space & Recreation Element Background Report, if the County acts to increase its market share, reaching an achievable 8 percent annual growth rate, it would mean another \$2.7 million in the unincorporated areas.

Visitor Spending

The California Trade and Commerce Agency estimates that travel expenditures in Yolo County totaled \$213 million in 1998. Beginning in 1992, with total visitor spending estimated at \$158 million, visitor spending has been increasing at an annual rate of 5.1 percent (*California Travel Impacts by County: 1992-1998*). The largest percentage of visitor spending is attributed to retail sales, with a little more than \$70 million, followed by eating and drinking establishments at more than \$30 million. Accommodations contributed approximately \$18 million, followed by food stores with \$17.7 million, and service stations with \$15.3 million. Total taxes generated in Yolo County by travel spending increased from \$11.1 million in 1992 to \$15.3 million in 1998. The local share of these taxes increased from \$2.3 million in 1992 to \$3.1 million in 1998.

The annual rate of growth for visitor expenditures in Yolo County has stabilized at about 3.9 percent for the past two years. The 5.1 percent rate from 1992 to 1998 is the result of more rapid growth rates of 7 to 9 percent in the early 1990s. Napa County has also stabilized in the past two years, but at a higher, eight percent per year growth rate. Solano County saw a peak of spending growth in 1997, but dropped back to 3.8 percent in 1998. In contrast, Sacramento County has seen its spending levels accelerate, increasing from about four percent per year in 1995 and 1996 to nearly eight percent in 1998.

Yolo County has seen slower growth in lodging revenues than have the surrounding counties. With the majority of Yolo County's accommodations located within the cities of Davis, Woodland and West Sacramento, most people staying in Yolo County are probably either staying or visiting for an "event" (e.g., commencement at U.C. Davis) or because of location (e.g., it may be less expensive to stay in West Sacramento than in the City of Sacramento).

Within Yolo County, the unincorporated area has seen slower lodging revenue growth than any of the cities.

For Yolo County, total spending for those staying in hotels/motels in 1998 was \$55.4 million. This is an 11 percent increase over 1992, much less than the 34.5 percent growth in total spending. Day travel has seen the greatest change in the amount spent, with an increase of 92.1 percent. Vacation home visitors' spending increased 54.5 percent, but reached only \$1.7 million in 1998.

Spending by day travelers actually saw its greatest increases in the 1990s, and since has followed a more moderate trend. In contrast, hotels/motels dipped between 1992 and 1995, and have been on an upswing since. There are two private campgrounds in Yolo County, both near Dunnigan, from which visitor spending has been negligible. The public campground, located near Rumsey in the Cache Creek Regional Park, has seen no increase from visitors staying there.

Based on the number and location of businesses in Yolo County, it is estimated that \$7.3 million of total spending in 1998 was spent in the unincorporated areas. This represents approximately 3.5 percent of all visitor spending in Yolo County. Of this amount, \$983,450 was spent on lodging, or 13.5 percent. This is a higher proportion than in the incorporated cities, where lodging accounted for 7 percent. With about 5 percent of all lodging available located in the unincorporated area (centered in Dunnigan along I-5), lodging expenditures there represent about 6.6 percent of the county total. In general, however, the unincorporated parts of Yolo County are characterized by a lack of facilities, forcing visitors to either stay or shop in the cities.

Economic Impact of Tourism Spending

Visitor spending generates a number of economic benefits, including jobs, income and tax revenues. Retail sales have the largest impact in terms of money spent and earnings garnered, with approximately 51 percent of direct sales resulting in personal income (personal income includes wages and salary income and proprietor's income). Recreation and eating and drinking establishments provide 33 and 31 percent, respectively, to personal income, and accommodations provide approximately 29 percent. Food stores provide 14 percent to personal income, and ground transport approximately 4 percent. Value added impacts, which are the total sales minus the costs of all non-labor inputs, had a total of \$31 million, with eating and drinking establishments providing the largest contribution with 44 percent of the total. The other major contributors were accommodations and retail with 26 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

Using employment as an indicator for assessing the visitor-serving business base, Yolo County added 200 jobs generated by travel spending in the five-year period from 1993 to 1998. Employment generated by visitor spending in Yolo County has been increasing at an annual rate of approximately 1.8 percent, compared to the 2 percent annual growth rate for all employment in the county during the same period. For the state, the employment generated by visitor spending has grown at an annual rate of approximately 2.6 percent.

Market Projections

Yolo County has a number of opportunities to expand its visitorship and related spending. Studies show that 94.5 percent of people in the United States participate in some form of outdoor recreation. These studies also indicate that demand for outdoor recreational opportunities in the United States is expected to increase into the foreseeable future. Federal land and water resources are a major source of outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the nation (*Local Employment and Income from Outdoor Recreation at Selected Bureau of Land Management Sites*, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 1996). In addition to its own attractions and resources, Yolo County's proximity to such attractions as Lake Berryessa mean that the county can receive economic benefits from those moving through the county on their way to such places.

Although the number of visitors to Yolo County has remained flat in recent years, surrounding counties and regions have seen increases. A key opportunity for Yolo County would be to attract day visitors from both the Bay Area and Sacramento. A current example of a Yolo County day tour is "Combines, Bovines and Fine Wines," which features three local attractions: the Heidrick

Agricultural History Center, the Yolo Land & Cattle Company and the R.H. Phillips Winery. Over time, visitors to day tours will utilize additional lodging facilities to extend their stays. Based on the growth trends in the surrounding region, it is estimated that Yolo County should be able to increase its visitorship by three percent per year. Over five years, this would bring Yolo County nearly up to the state average in visitorship per capita.

The county has already enjoyed an increase in visitor spending of about five percent per year over the past 6 years. While this growth has slowed down a bit recently, with increased promotion and development of visitor-serving facilities, the five percent rate of growth should be sustainable. Combined with a growth rate of three percent per year in the number of visitors, total spending could increase by as much as eight percent per year or more. Napa County has seen this rate of growth through a concerted effort to give visitors the opportunity to extend their stays and increase their spending. Yolo County, and particularly the unincorporated area, has even more room to grow in terms of spending potential than does Napa, which is already considered one of the premier visitor destinations in the world.

The Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report provides an indication of the dollar values of this growth potential, as well as the new job creation opportunities. The projections in the table are not forecasts assuming existing conditions continue, but rather projections of the potential growth resulting from a proactive effort by the County to add visitor facilities and to promote the county's visitor attraction. Similarly, the time frame is illustrative only. The actual pace of growth would depend on the rate of progress toward improving visitor services in the county.

With an eight percent growth rate, total visitor spending in the county could be increased by nearly \$100 million per year in five years. This would represent nearly a 50 percent increase over the reported spending levels in 1998. Based on its current market share, the unincorporated area would expect to see about 3.5 percent of the increased spending. This level of market growth would support only minimal new development of lodging and restaurant/retail facilities in the unincorporated area.

However, if the unincorporated area were to develop more on a par with the cities in Yolo County, it should nearly triple the gross revenue it captures from tourists. This scenario would see the unincorporated area double its lodging and triple its restaurant and retail business from travelers and visitors. Assuming the growth in sales has a direct impact on employment, as many as 110 new jobs would be created, and the County government would receive \$142,000 per year in transient occupancy tax (TOT) and sales taxes, in addition to increased revenue it would receive from businesses located within the cities.

While Yolo County has many recreational opportunities, it is clear that its potential is much greater than what currently exists in attracting visitors. Interviews with visitor-serving businesses confirm this. Many rely on word-of-mouth for their customer base, with few visitors appearing through happenstance. The recommendations below are based on these interviews and the economic potential of the region.

Improving Conditions for Existing Businesses

Those businesses interviewed shared common concerns regarding attracting visiting customers. The largest single concern was that of signage. Most businesses have been restricted in their use of signs to attract visitors. All felt the County's assistance in either allowing signs to advertise their business or changing current regulations regarding signs would greatly aid in attracting business.

Other common concerns were those of amenities and infrastructure. Many of the businesses interviewed exist in rural areas where road conditions are poor and drainage insufficient, causing roads to flood in winter.

Business Development and Attraction

The other major concern of businesses interviewed was the availability of other visitor-serving businesses. Most, if not all, the businesses interviewed appreciated the rural character that exists in Yolo County. Yet all felt the need for restaurants and lodging to be available in the rural areas that have the most potential for attracting visitors. All felt the presence of bed and breakfasts and boutique eateries would greatly enhance the visitor experience in Yolo County, while maintaining its rural characteristics. It was generally agreed that such establishments would have the greatest appeal in the Delta region and the Capay Valley.

Visitor Attraction

While Yolo County can help facilitate visitors by addressing the concerns of the visitor-serving businesses, its greatest assistance would come in the form of helping to attract visitors in the first place. Businesses interviewed generally saw themselves as either part of a region (i.e. The Delta) or on their own. While many expressed an affinity with the Central Valley and the rural character of Yolo County, none felt part of a Yolo County identity. The creation of such an identity would go a long way in promoting the recreational opportunities in Yolo County, and aid in attracting visitors/customers to visitor-serving businesses.

While Yolo County itself may not have the capacity to attract large numbers of visitors for extended stays, it does have the opportunity to attract regional visitors and those more localized. The greatest potential for Yolo comes in pulling visitors from the surrounding regions. Within an approximate 90 minute driving time of Yolo County, the total population is approximately 6.9 million, some of which could potentially be attracted as day visitors. The three counties compared to Yolo in the analysis above – Sacramento, Solano, and Napa - either share similar attractions or are in close enough proximity that visitors would take the time to experience Yolo County. Those visiting Napa for wine tasting may wish to visit Yolo for the same thing, or those visiting Sacramento may wish to travel to Yolo to experience something not available, such as hiking or white water rafting. Instead of promoting individual activities or attractions, it is recommended that Yolo County participate with local visitor-serving businesses and attractions in creating a countywide identity.

Another opportunity that Yolo may wish to explore would be something akin to a “farm trail” or other visitor serving activity in which visitors spend time moving between attractions with the same or similar theme. Currently the Putah-Cache Bioregion Project, based at UC Davis, promotes a circumdrive that traverses the Putah-Cache Creek watershed encompassing parts of Yolo and surrounding counties. In Fresno County, the Blossom Trail is touted as an auto/motorcycle/bicycle trail that highlights the region’s agriculture and historical points of interest. In the community of Camino in Placer County, Apple Hill is a popular destination with numerous farms, orchards and wineries, which hosts events and maintains an organization to attract visitors. The almond festival in Esparto could be an incubator for a similar type of organization in Yolo.

An example of how this can be done is being undertaken in Sonoma County, where food product businesses have begun to band together to “brand” their products with the slogan “Sonoma Select” as a means to identify a unified theme of high quality and broad product group identification. The logo is being placed on packaging, local menus and in stores. Early indications of this program are that it is boosting local sales.

Tourists frequent places with available linked activities around a core destination/attraction. That is, during a trip they eat, shop, refuel, are entertained and stay overnight. All of these opportunities need to be present within a reasonable distance.

Potential enterprises for agricultural and nature tourism in Yolo County are presented in the Open Space and Recreation Element Background Report.

Summary of Recommendations for Fiscal and Employment Impacts of Open Space Preservation and Enhanced Tourism

Recreation and tourism opportunities in Yolo County are not well known. This is only partially a function of limited facilities, such as motels. Much awareness will be generated through cooperative marketing, which allows counties, communities and businesses to leverage their limited marketing dollars into larger campaigns. Preliminary conclusions indicate that Yolo County:

- Should encourage more lodging and campsites to develop within established communities in unincorporated Yolo County. Currently, there are three campgrounds with 147 sites and 57 motels/hotels in Yolo County, with most centered in Davis, Woodland and West Sacramento and three located in unincorporated areas.
- Should develop a countywide tourism marketing campaign targeted to visitor segments in Sacramento and the Bay Area. Cities, chambers of commerce, local businesses and the county should all participate.
- The County should take actions to help local businesses expand and develop new business, including more flexible signage requirements, road and drainage improvements.

- Facilitate events showcasing Yolo County's products, such as wine, produce, and arts and crafts.

One of the simplest ways to promote Yolo County and its attractions would be through a brochure, available at local visitor-serving establishments, showcasing recreational opportunities and cultural attractions. Sponsored by local businesses, with a foldout map highlighting activities and locations, Yolo County could promote things that are generally unknown in the county. Locations of hiking trails, rafting, wine tasting, museums, seasonal events, etc. could all be highlighted to give a general overview of what is available in Yolo County.

Another consideration would be to include business links on the County web site, along with a reproduction of the brochure with more information made available about attractions and recreational opportunities in the county.

Finally, a countywide commission or organization to promote Yolo County should be organized. This group would be able to make recommendations for how to best promote business and organize events. It would also facilitate networking among existing groups, including chambers of commerce, the Economic Development Council and county businesses, establishing a cross-section of compatible business interests (e.g., wineries hosting art showings by local artists).

Yolo County has the potential to develop its visitor-serving market. The most pressing need is making attractions known, and secondly, supplying facilities for users. The rural charm of Yolo County can only be enhanced by many of these recommendations, since it is generally not feasible that any large-scale tourist attractions will be developed. This is also due to the fact that most of the attractions and recreational opportunities available in the county are low impact and specialized. Also, many of the pursuits are distributed throughout the county. By implementing the above recommendations, Yolo County will be able to tap into the market potential that currently exists without the need to create a market for itself.

The Open Space and Recreation Element includes, as a goal, to encourage by various means, including marketing, the potential for growth in visitor spending. Creation of a tourism marketing program for Yolo County focused on recreational opportunities is one of the Element's objectives, along with creation of a Yolo County identity and provision of a fully developed visitor-serving business base in the County, all of which is aimed at improvement of the County tax base and the local economy. The Element also calls for the County to support downtown revitalization in unincorporated communities as an integral component of increased visitor spending. The Element provides for the County to support and promote a variety of programs and facilities to increase visitor attraction and spending in Yolo County.

4.0 THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

4.1 Open Space Goals and Objectives

This section presents the goals and objectives of the Open Space Element. By definition, a “goal” is a general expression of community values which sets a direction or ideal future end, condition, or state. An “objective” represents a specific end condition which is viewed as an intermediate step toward attainment of a goal. Each objective below is cross-referenced to its corresponding goal.

The numbering system for goals and objectives, and in subsequent sections policies and implementation measures, is based upon the subject area (O for Open Space) and type of statement. The following abbreviations are used.

- Goal (OG)
- Objective (OO)
- Policy (OP)
- Implementation Measure (OI)

Goals:

OG-1: Preserve open space lands utilizing a variety of land use controls and regulations.

OG-2: Preserve agricultural land as the principal component of the local open space program.

OG-3: Ensure a harmonious relationship between open space users and agriculture.

OG-4: Protect and manage local water resources.

OG-5: Preserve and enhance existing biological resources.

OG-6: Preserve cultural resources.

OG-7: Preserve aesthetic resources and values.

OG-8: Create a continuous open space corridor along Lower Cache Creek and provide expanded public access to the Yolo Bypass, Lower Putah Creek, Willow Slough, the Sacramento River, and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Objectives:

- OO-1: Creation and maintenance of regulatory framework that places a high priority on preservation of public and private open space lands. (OG-1)
- OO-2: Maintenance of Urban Boundaries to direct urban growth into existing towns and cities to protect open space and agricultural lands. (OG-2)
- OO-3: Avoidance of conflicts with agricultural activities. (OG-3)
- OO-4: Clearly demarcated boundaries between public open space and private agricultural lands. (OG-3)
- OO-5: Provision for open space corridors within existing and future development. (OG-4, OG-7)
- OO-6: No net loss of wetland and/or riparian habitat. (OG-5)
- OO-7: Maintenance of unique or sensitive plant or animal habitat. (OG-5)
- OO-8: Protection of identified areas of unique historical or cultural value within the county and preservation of those sites for educational, scientific and aesthetic purposes. (OG-6, OG-7)
- OO-9: Identification and preservation of scenic corridors and viewsheds. (OG-7)
- OO-10: Development of partnerships with local stakeholder watershed organizations to expand existing public open space along Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, the Sacramento River and within the Yolo Bypass. (OG-8)

4.2 Open Space Policies

This section presents the policies of the Open Space Element. A policy is a specific statement to be used in guiding decision making, based on Open Space Element goals and objectives.

- OP-1: Urban uses shall be restricted to those areas defined and mapped for such use in the countywide General Plan and urban/community plans as adopted and/or amended.
- OP-2: Open space lands shall be protected from urban uses by limiting the extension of services, particularly sewers.
- OP-3: New schools shall be linked to residential areas by open space corridors where possible.
- OP-4: The County shall encourage and support coordinated efforts by State and federal agencies, cities, special districts, and non-profit and conservation organizations to protect lands containing open space resources.

- OP-5: The County shall utilize the CEQA process to identify significant impacts on open space and shall require new development to implement county-approved mitigation measures that minimize such impacts.
- OP-6: The County shall utilize the following objective criteria when considering conversion of open space lands to other uses:
- The use is directly related and essential to an otherwise approved open space, agricultural or recreational activity; and
 - Lack of suitable locations in Yolo County prevent the use from locating within an area not designated for open space uses; and
 - The site is not located in a conservation easement, contracted agricultural preserve, Farmland Security Zone, flood control bypass or channel, or earthquake fault zone; and
 - The use will not diminish or prevent open space, recreational or agricultural use on adjoining lands; and
 - The use can be developed without impairing the open space experience, managed resource production and other open space uses and activities in the vicinity; and
 - The use does not conflict with any adopted local, State or federal plans for protection of open space resources.
- OP-7: Development shall be directed away from naturally occurring riparian areas and wetlands.
- OP-8: Open space buffer areas shall be utilized to separate incompatible uses from areas of unique biological or agricultural importance.
- OP-9: The County shall require evaluation and protection of archaeological resources discovered in the course of construction and development.
- OP-10: Areas subject to flooding shall be avoided when proposing new development unless appropriate protective measures are incorporated.
- OP-11: Clustering of dwelling units shall be encouraged when parcels are adjacent to agricultural or open space lands.
- OP-12: Within agriculturally designated areas, non-agricultural development (i.e., residences, mining, and non-agricultural industry) shall be directed to marginal agricultural lands, avoiding more productive farmland.

- OP-13: Lands reserved for bypass systems such as the Yolo Bypass and Sacramento Bypass shall remain designated as open space in order to prevent flooding hazards.
- OP-14: The County shall support the efforts of the Cache Creek Conservancy and the Yolo Bypass Working Group to preserve open space and improve scenic resources within and along Cache Creek and within the Yolo Bypass.
- OP-15: The County shall support the efforts to preserve open space and improve public access to Lower Putah Creek.
- OP-16: The County shall support efforts to enhance and improve public access within the Sacramento River Conservation Area.
- OP-17: The County shall support efforts to provide public access and trail improvements within the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- OP-18: The County, in conjunction with the cities in Yolo County, shall endeavor to adopt a Natural Communities Conservation Plan that protects wildlife resources, open space and agricultural production.

4.3 Open Space Implementation Measures

This section presents the implementation measures for the Open Space Element. Implementation measures are actions, strategies and directives which carry out Open Space policies. For each implementation measure, a lead agency, timing, and funding source are identified.

- OI-1: Utilize all General Plan policies, together with specific plans, zoning ordinances, the Williamson Act, Farmland Security Zones, property assessment practices, coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and any other similar means to preserve all lands defined as “Open Space”.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
 Timing: Ongoing
 Funding Source: General Fund, Grants (federal, state and private foundations)

- OI-2: Develop an open space corridor plan(s) that integrates drainage ways, streams, river frontage, and open space adjoining schools and other public lands.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
 Timing: Within three years of Plan adoption
 Funding Source: General Fund

- OI-3: Establish and maintain over time well-defined natural or human-created boundaries between urban growth areas and open-space areas.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: General Fund

OI-4: Coordinate planning decisions/actions involving agricultural/open space lands with the four cities, adjoining counties, and other public agencies involved in conservation, preservation and protection of natural resources.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: General Fund

OI-5: As part of an adopted Natural Communities Conservation Plan, establish a habitat mitigation-banking program through which environmental mitigation fees can be used to purchase open space for the protection of sensitive habitat.

Lead Agency: Board of Supervisors
Timing: Concurrently with HCP adoption
Funding Source: General Fund and Mitigation Fees

OI-6: Establish a nonprofit Yolo Legacy Trust for the purpose of open space land preservation.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Department
Timing: Within three to five years of Plan adoption
Funding Source: General Fund, grant funds

4.4 Recreation Goals and Objectives

This section presents the goals and objectives of the Recreation Element. By definition, a “goal” is a general expression of community values which sets a direction or ideal future end, condition, or state. An “objective” represents a specific end condition which is viewed as an intermediate step toward attainment of a goal. Each objective below is cross-referenced to its corresponding goal.

The numbering system for goals and objectives, and in subsequent sections policies and implementation measures, is based upon the subject area (R for Recreation) and type of statement. The following abbreviations are used.

- Goal (RG)
- Objective (RO)
- Policy (RP)
- Implementation Measure (RI)

Goals:

- RG-1: Provide infrastructure to support community-based recreation.
- RG-2: Establish and maintain sufficient parkland to serve all segments of the population.
- RG-3: Utilize recreational opportunities to attract a greater number of tourists and visitors to Yolo County.
- RG-4: Ensure the compatibility of recreational activities with surrounding land uses.
- RG-5: Design recreational facilities to maintain privacy and security and minimize impacts to surrounding property owners.
- RG-6: Develop new facilities to attract tourists and visitors, including entertainment facilities, restaurants, lodging and shopping, clustered in areas already urbanized, or in areas designated by the General Plan for such uses.
- RG-7: Encourage by various means, including marketing, the potential for growth in visitor spending.

Objectives:

- RO-1: Access to county-sponsored recreation programs in all major unincorporated communities. (RG-1)
- RO-2: Establishment of a variety of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities along Lower Cache Creek, the Sacramento River, Lower Putah Creek, and within the Yolo Bypass for use by the public. (RG-1)
- RO-3: Provision of adequate and diversified recreational opportunities and facilities to meet the demands of an expanding population. (RG-1, RG-2)
- RO-4: Maintenance and application of parkland to population standards in new development. (RG-2)
- RO-5: Creation of mechanisms for funding park acquisition and development, as well as the ongoing costs of park maintenance and recreation services. (RG-2)
- RO-6: Creation of a tourism marketing program for Yolo County focused on recreational opportunities. (RG-3)
- RO-7: Provide for development of a visitor-serving business base in the county that includes a mix of lodging, recreation/amusement services, transportation services, eating and drinking places, food stores and other retail. (RG-3)

RO-8: Creation of a Yolo County identity that will promote the county's recreational opportunities and assist in attracting visitors. (RG-3)

RO-9: Maintenance of appropriate zoning categories and standards in order to ensure land use compatibility, protection of agricultural lands and consistency with the General Plan when visitor and tourist oriented activities locate in Yolo County. (RG-4, RG-5, RG-6)

RO-10: Improvement of the County tax base and local economy through attraction of visitor and tourist related businesses. (RG-7)

4.5 Recreation Policies

This section presents the policies of the Recreation Element. A policy is a specific statement to be used in guiding decision making, based on Open Space Element goals and objectives.

RP-1: Open space and wildlife conservation areas shall be combined with parks and trails where appropriate.

RP-2: Parks shall be developed and utilized to buffer wildlife areas from development that would impact wildlife habitat.

RP-3: The County shall ensure that the signage allowance in rural areas is adequate to assist businesses in attracting visitors.

RP-4: The County shall support the development of visitor-serving businesses that retain and complement its rural character such as bed and breakfast facilities and eateries, particularly in the Delta region and the Capay Valley.

RP-5: The County shall promote and support the clustering of commercial/recreational opportunities in an effort to provide "linked" activities for tourists (i.e., activities tourists can link together in a single trip, such as eating, rafting, gaming, shopping, lodging, gas stations, wine tasting, visiting a museum, etc.)

RP-6: The County shall support the development of tourist services in the unincorporated areas along I-5 (at Yolo and Zamora), in Clarksburg, Dunnigan, Esparto and Knights Landing .

RP-7: The County shall support and facilitate events that showcase its products such as wine, produce, and arts and crafts.

RP-8: The County shall encourage and support the development of private recreational facilities that preserve scenic and environmentally sensitive resources and that do not result in the creation of land use conflicts.

RP-9: The County shall work with all unincorporated communities to develop adequate recreational infrastructure and facilities.

- RP-10: The County shall work with willing landowners to create a continuous corridor of natural open space along Lower Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, the Sacramento River and within the Yolo Bypass with provision for limited access at specific locations to recreational and educational uses from a County road or highway. The County shall also consider establishing bicycle access to select areas.
- RP-11: Only those uses that are river- or creek-dependent, such as fishing, canoeing, boating, and nature observation shall be directly located on Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, and the Sacramento River. More active uses, including parking, restrooms, and picnic areas shall be located in areas away from sensitive habitat.
- RP-12: Recreational uses shall be clustered at locations along Cache Creek, Lower Putah Creek, and the Sacramento River, in order to minimize habitat disturbance and provide efficient and cost-effective management by the County. All access, whether by road or by trail, shall be through an entry point which can be controlled.
- RP-13: Recreational uses that tend to be land and water intensive (such as golf courses) shall locate in areas with adequate infrastructure, with the potential for multiple uses (e.g. hiking, equestrian, retreat conference centers, etc.) and shall not conflict with agricultural and other open space activities.
- RP-14: Airport related commercial uses such as flying services shall be located at the Yolo County Airport. Visitor-serving facilities to support such activities should be encouraged in the Airport vicinity.
- RP-15: The County shall endeavor to coordinate the activities of all county, federal and state agencies and of private operators to manage recreational activities so that such activities do not interfere with agricultural operations, infringe on private property, or harm existing wildlife and vegetative habitat.
- RP-16: To lower long term public costs and enhance public security, wherever practicable the County shall partner with private businesses to individually and collectively supervise and manage adjacent and nearby public facilities (for instance, local parks, creek and river access, overlooks, piers, picnic areas, and parking areas).
- RP-17: The County shall support improved access for bank fishing where safe and adequate parking can be provided and with acquisition of proper rights-of-access from the landowner. Adequate policing, garbage cleanup, sanitation facilities, and fire suppression for such access shall be provided.
- RP-18: The County shall support the location of additional recreational and traveler service facilities in unincorporated communities, so that these facilities do not significantly harm agricultural operations or open space values.
- RP-19: Downtown revitalization in unincorporated communities shall be supported as an integral component of increased visitor spending.

RP-20: The County shall target development in those areas currently under-served to fill specific gaps in visitor serving and retail services. Encourage development of critical services for travelers where needed, such as public-access restrooms, mini marts, first aid centers and gasoline stations.

RP-21: Through policy and leadership, the County shall support the marketing of Yolo County as a destination for vacations and day trips.

RP-22: The County shall work with interested groups to complete construction of a bicycle trail system. Ensure that bicycle access is an integral part of future recreational facility design and facility operations.

RP-23: The County shall work closely with BLM, adjacent counties and other landowners to establish needed facilities and access in order to make the Blue Ridge Mountains available for mountain biking, hiking, wilderness experiences, equestrian activities, possible Off Road Vehicle activities, and wildlife viewing.

RP-24: The County shall promote and support the growth of individual and collective private-sector agri-tourism and eco-tourism operations of all sizes that benefit from wide expanses of open space and agricultural land, including overnight agricultural adventures (staying overnight and working on a farm), other lodging, markets and farmers markets, restaurants, wineries, bird watching, fishing and hunting lodges and clubs and equestrian centers. The County shall work with those operators to encourage regional marketing programs and to ensure that public and private efforts are complementary.

RP-25: The County shall encourage development of small-scale/niche visitor services and attractions such as wineries, bed and breakfasts, cafes, etc. in areas that would cater to interested travelers.

RP-26: The County shall encourage and work with the cities of Yolo County to facilitate development of a regional sports park at an appropriate location between population centers.

4.6 Recreation Implementation Measures

This section presents the implementation measures for the Recreation Element. Implementation measures are actions, strategies and directives which carry out Recreation policies. For each implementation measure, a lead agency, timing, and funding source are identified.

RI-1: Adopt a Quimby Ordinance and park impact fees to establish funding mechanisms for park acquisition and development.

Lead Agency:	Board of Supervisors
Timing:	Within one year of Plan adoption
Funding Source:	General Fund, Developer Fees, Impact Fees

RI-2: Direct a review and update of the County’s sign ordinance for off-site signage provisions.

Lead Agency: Board of Supervisors
Timing: Within one year of Plan adoption
Funding Source: General Fund

RI-3: Work with local businesses to promote the development of a marketing program and advertising campaign that promote the county’s recreational opportunities and cultural attractions.

Lead Agency: Board of Supervisors
Timing: Within one year of Plan adoption
Funding Source: General Fund, Transient Occupancy Tax

RI-4: Complete the preparation of a Parks Master Plan. This Plan would identify needed recreation infrastructure and facilities and potential funding sources.

Lead Agency: Board of Supervisors
Timing: Within one year of Plan adoption
Funding Source: General Fund, Transient Occupancy Tax

RI-5: In order to attract more visitors to Yolo County, improve funding for ongoing maintenance at the County’s various recreational facilities and catch up on deferred maintenance items. Evaluation of fee structures for resident and non-resident use fees for certain recreation facilities shall be conducted including the appropriate recommendations.

Lead Agency: Parks Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various

RI-6: Fully support and participate in the formation of a cooperative Yolo County visitors and tourism council, including the County, the various cities and communities, the casino, merchants, restaurants, wineries, motels, campgrounds, water attractions, museums and wildlife areas, agricultural exhibits and other visitor destinations.

Lead Agencies: Board of Supervisors, Economic Development Coordinator
Timing: Immediate
Funding Source: Cooperative, including general fund, special funds and private

RI-7: Identify and participate with other groups and organizations to establish new and promote existing programs for tourism (e.g. “Duck Days”, “A Day in the Country,” a “Blossom Trail,” etc.)

Lead Agencies: Parks Department, Economic Development Coordinator

Timing: Within two years of Plan adoption
Funding Source: Cooperative, including General Fund, special funds and private

RI-8: Seek cooperative state and federal funding for tourism promotion, and for enhancing park and visitor facilities. Further develop a use fee structure for resident and non-resident users of recreation services and facilities where possible

Lead Agencies: Parks Department, Economic Development Coordinator
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various, including grants

RI-9: Join multi-county and regional tourism programs.

Lead Agency: Economic Development Coordinator
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various

RI-10: Develop necessary infrastructure for park users (e.g. restrooms, pumpout facilities, trash containers, oily waste disposal facilities and other facilities to meet the needs of boaters). Include opportunities for concessions where practicable. Enhance security and public safety at County parks.

Lead Agency: Parks Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various, including grants

RI-11: Support continued acquisition of open space by land trusts, government agencies and conservancies that are consistent with this Element and where efforts have been coordinated with the County.

Lead Agencies: Board of Supervisors, Parks Department, Planning and Public Works Department
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Various, mostly through the trusts and conservancies

RI-12: Identify and improve key road segments, including provision of flood protection. Improve road name and directional signs.

Lead Agency: Planning and Public Works Agency, Board of Supervisors
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: Road Fund

RI-13: Seek opportunities to acquire or participate in acquisition of land in the Blue Ridge Mountains for trailheads, an equestrian center, and other recreational experiences.

Lead Agency: Parks Department

Timing: As soon as practicable
Funding Source: To be determined

RI-14: Meet with the cities of Yolo County to identify potential sites and funding sources for a regional park/sports park. Possibilities include a regional soccer tournament complex.

Lead Agency: Parks Department, Economic Development Director
Timing: Ongoing
Funding Source: To be determined