



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Oak Woodlands Plan Adopted

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Board of Supervisors today adopted the Yolo County Oak Woodlands Conservation and Enhancement Plan. This voluntary program encourages the protection and growth of oak woodlands by providing financial incentives to landowners, establishing public outreach and educational programs, and working with the University of California, Davis to encourage oak woodland-related research in the county.

“This plan is the result of a collaborative process with extensive public input,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada. “Through voluntary participation, it provides another tool in preserving our county’s unique natural landscape.”

Approximately 87% of Yolo County’s oak woodlands are privately owned. The county, the Bureau of Land Management and other public entities own the remainder. As local and regional housing growth increases demand for new infrastructure, regions where oak woodlands are found are threatened. For example, a recent Caltrans proposal to expand Highway 16 in the Capay Valley calls for the removal of at least 339 valley oak trees.

By encouraging the participation of landowners and public entities, the plan will help protect the health and longevity of existing oak woodlands. Through education and outreach strategies, efforts will focus on providing financial incentives to landowners to voluntarily adopt management practices that benefit oak woodlands while promoting economic sustainability of farming and ranching. Another component trains planners and engineers to consider the impact of land conversion, infrastructure expansion or urban and rural residential developments. Conserving and enhancing oak woodlands will have the added benefit of protecting plants and wildlife habitats, contributing to erosion control, water and air quality protection, flood protection, and recreational opportunities.

“I’m excited to see the Oak Woodlands Plan come into being in Yolo County,” said Helen Thomson, Yolo County Supervisor and author of the legislation. “The adoption of this plan allows the county to encourage landowner participation and apply for bond and grant funding.”

Other organizations supporting voluntary oak woodlands conservation measures include: Audubon California Landowner Stewardship Program, Yolo Land Trust, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Conservation Partnership, Putah Creek Council and Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, Cache Creek Conservancy and Tuleyome.

For more information regarding the Yolo County Oak Woodlands Plan, please contact Jill Baty, Assistant Planner, Yolo County Planning, Resources & Public Works at (530) 666-8810.

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