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(916) 617-4620
Recreation Center
2801 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4770
Community Center
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West Sacramento, CA 95691
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550 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95605
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PUBLIC WORKS
Operations
1951 South River Road
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4850

July 20, 2016

Honorable Paul Richardson
PO Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

Re: West Sacramento City Council Response to Grand Jury Report—
Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story

Dear Judge Richardson,

The City Council is in receipt of the Grand Jury's report on the Yolo Habitat Conservancy dated June 23, 2016. The report makes three findings (F1, F2 and F3) and two recommendations (R1 and R2). Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05, the Grand Jury requested the City Council respond to Findings F2 and F3 and Recommendations R1 and R2. As requested, the City Council has completed the response form provided by the Grand Jury (see attached), and provides additional support for such responses below.

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

F2. Since its inception, the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan.

The City Council disagrees partially with Grand Jury Finding F2. The City Council concurs with the Grand Jury's finding that the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan, but notes that since the restructuring in 2012, the YHC has made significant progress towards a final plan. Each draft of the plan since then has resulted in necessary refinements at the request of the wildlife agencies, member agencies and advisory committee members to ensure a feasible plan.

F3. The YHC performance over the last 20 years does not justify the time and money spent.

The City Council disagrees partially with Grand Jury Finding F3. The City of West Sacramento, as a member agency, was concerned about the performance of YHC leading up to 2012 and actually pushed for the restructuring. Many of the transparency and accountability measures that were put in place post-2012 were under the guidance and leadership of our Councilmember Chris Ledesma, who sat as chairperson of the YHC Board from August 2013-April 2015.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

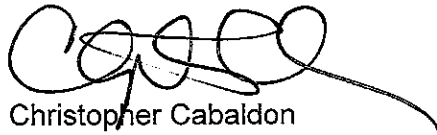
R1. By April 30, 2017 the YHC shall submit the HCP/NCCP final plan for approval.

The City Council has taken action to implement Recommendation R1. On June 15, 2016, the City Council took the steps necessary to complete and execute the USFWS HCP Permit Application for submission by August 1, 2016, as required by USFWS for each member agency participating in the plan.

R2. By September 1, 2016, the YHC shall obtain annual performance audits to measure progress.

Recommendation R2 requires further analysis. The City Council concurs with the Grand Jury's recommendation and will work with other member agencies on the implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cabaldon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Cabaldon
Mayor

Enclosure

cc: Yolo County Grand Jury Foreperson (via email only)

AGENCY'S RESPONSE PROCEDURE

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

The governance of responses to the Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within sixty (60) days, governing bodies (for example, the Board of Supervisors) must respond within ninety (90) days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury Foreperson.

Report Title: Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story

Report Date: June 23, 2016

Response by: City Council, City of West Sacramento Title: Mayor

FINDINGS

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

F2, F3

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations numbered: R1
have been implemented (attach a summary describing the implemented actions).

Recommendations numbered: R2
require further analysis (attach an explanation of the analysis or study, and the time frame for the matter to be prepared by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body where applicable. The time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of the Grand Jury Report).

Recommendations numbered: _____
will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable (attach an explanation).

Date: 7-20-16 Signed: 

Total number of pages attached 2