

City of Woodland

CITY COUNCIL

300 FIRST STREET

WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695

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October 4, 2016

Honorable Paul Richardson
PO Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

Re: Woodland City Council Response to Grand Jury Report – Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A
Never Ending Story

Dear Judge Richardson,

The City Council has received and reviewed the Grand Jury's report on the Yolo Habitat Conservancy dated June 23, 2016. 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.

It is true that the YHC has yet to complete the HCP/NCCP plan. However, the City Council finds partial disagreement with this finding as it falls short of recognizing the significant progress that has been made since the restructuring in 2012 and acknowledgement of the Draft Plan that has been prepared and circulated for comment.

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

The City Council disagrees in part with this finding. The time and money invested in the plan is significant. Since restructuring of the Habitat JPA 4 years ago however, the performance and accountability of the YHC has been measurable as evidenced by the continued achievement of plan milestones and the current draft HCP/NCCP that is scheduled for adoption in 2017 upon completion of the environmental impact analysis. The YHC's ability to navigating the complex set of stakeholder issues including federal and state agency reviews, local agency fiscal realities, and diverse community interests has been nothing short of heroic.

Grand Jury Recommendations


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

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

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

The City Council agrees that progress towards completion of the HCP/NCCP, as well as implementation of the plan upon adoption, shall be measured. Further analysis is required to determine the appropriate timing and metrics within the YHC's control. The City of Woodland will continue to actively partner with the other member agencies to appropriately track the YHC's performance.

Sincerely,



Jim Hilliard
Mayor

Enclosure

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