

Yolo habitat conservation plan receives final approval

By **Special to The Enterprise**

The Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan received final approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this week.

The milestone was celebrated Tuesday at a ceremony on the Grand Steps of River Walk Park.

“The Yolo Habitat Plan demonstrates the protection of endangered species can be accomplished hand-in-hand with promotion of a strong farm economy,” said Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza, chair of the Yolo Habitat Conservancy.

The Yolo Habitat Conservancy developed the HCP/NCCP as an innovative alternative to the currently uncoordinated, piecemeal approach to mitigation. The plan will provide streamlined permitting and mitigation for public infrastructure and private development activities for the next 50 years and includes protection for 12 identified sensitive species and their habitat. Other benefits include local control, improved and increased species conservation.

“The Yolo Habitat Plan really is a ground-breaking example of effective conservation in California,” said conservancy board member Chris Ledesma, a member of the West Sacramento City Council. “It protects endangered species through strategic conservation and key partnerships which have already resulted in thousands of acres of protected land.”

The HCP/NCCP is supported by a broad coalition of community leaders, organizations and individuals, including the Putah Creek Council, Yolo Basin Foundation, Capital Avenue Development, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Yolo Audubon Society and Rominger Brothers Farms.

“The conservancy pulled off the nearly impossible feat of coordinating a diverse array of stakeholders and five local jurisdictions to reach agreement on a far-reaching plan that will help preserve Yolo County’s landscapes for future generations,” said Petrea Marchand, executive director of the Yolo Habitat Conservancy. “Our excellent staff team and local partners made it happen.”

Read more: <https://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/county-city-approve-yolo-habitat-conservation-plan/>