

# **Appendix I**

**Notice of Interest - Caltrans**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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April 26, 2006

Chris Alford  
Yolo County Planning and Public Works Department  
292 West Beamer Street  
Woodland, Ca 95695  
(530) 666-8038

Dear Ms. Alford,

Thanks for taking the time to explain the process for allowing Caltrans to present options for the property disposal decision for the Davis Communication Site (310.26 acres) in Yolo County to Jeff Swindle, of my staff, on March 29, 2006. The following information is supplied to express our interest in participating in this process as identified in the "Notice of Available Public Land and Building at Davis Communications Site Yolo County, CA". The following is the information requested as part of the initial expression of interest:

**1. A description of the proposed purposes to which the property or facility will be used.**

Caltrans is interested in utilizing the Undeveloped Areas for mitigation required for impacts caused by future transportation projects. The Davis Communication Site is recognized as a Core area of the Solano-Colusa vernal pool region by the USFWS in their "Recovery Plan for the Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon" (2005). The preservation and restoration of this site is recognized as having significant value in the recovery of the vernal pool ecosystem. There are also several endangered species, threatened species, and species of special concern that might also benefit from restoration efforts (Swainson's Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Solano grass, and Colusa grass).

To further the recovery effort Caltrans is interested in funding a project or even multiple projects that can be utilized for transportation project mitigation. Caltrans would be interested in supplying the funding for preservation and restoration efforts if another agency can be identified that will be able to manage the property and protect it in perpetuity. That entity would have to satisfy the requirements of the appropriate regulatory agencies and would also have to be an agency to which Caltrans can supply the funding. There are statutory requirements that do not allow Caltrans to work directly with a non-profit organization. If Yolo County is going to hold the property there shouldn't be an issue.

**2. Information about the physical and support service requirements necessary to carry out the proposed program or purpose and a listing of potential buildings that meet those requirements.**

No buildings are required.

Caltrans would require another agency to take over the long term monitoring and management of the preserve area. Caltrans can either contract the restoration work or provide funding to support another agencies' contract for the work being done.

**3. A description of the group or individual(s) that is submitting the notice, including its capacity for carrying out the program and its financial plan for the program's implementation.**

The State of California, Department of Transportation. Caltrans has the ability to secure the funding for individual mitigation projects by including the mitigation cost in individual transportation construction projects. There is also the potential to develop individual mitigation projects with the assistance of the Federal Highway Administration that are not directly tied to any specific transportation project but can used for future mitigation needs.

**4. List the conveyance method being sought, if any.**

Caltrans is interested in obtaining mitigation values, instead of actually acquiring the property, by either creating/preserving habitat on site or contracting to create/preserve the habitat. Caltrans would prefer to purchase, if needed, the property in another qualified agencies' name instead of taking ownership of the parcel directly. A form of protection (ie. Agreement Declaring Restrictive Conveyance (ADRC) or a Conservation Easement (CE)) would be required to protect the property in perpetuity.

**5. An assessment of the time required to carry out the plan.**

The time to develop and build the project or projects is highly dependent on the method of funding and the Regulatory Agency cooperation but would expect to be completed within two years. It sounds as though there have been baseline biological studies completed on the site but these would need to be acceptable to the Resource Agencies. If additional surveys are required it may take an additional year due to time constraints on species surveys. Vernal pool creation can be completed in one season but the planting and success criteria may take several years to complete. Monitoring of the site may take up to 10 years to determine success and then monitoring of the site in perpetuity will be required to insure the continued success of the site. Because of Caltrans' consistent funding stream we have the ability to phase the work on any of the of the restoration/creation projects.

Ms. Chris Alford  
April 27, 2006  
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**6. A point of contact, address, and phone number.**

Jeff Swindle, California Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 911, Marysville, CA 95901.  
(530) 741-4377

I look forward to working with you to make this an exemplary mitigation site. If you require additional information please contact Jeff Swindle at the above number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy Massengale".

TAMMY MASSENGALE, Chief  
Office of Program Support