



yolo basin foundation

F008

P.O. Box 943
Davis, California
95617
916 756 7248

July 24, 1997

HAND DELIVERED

Kate Hansel
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0007

Dear Ms. Hansel:

Enclosed are ten copies of two proposals in response to the 1997 Category III Request for Proposals of the CALFED Bay-Delta program. Under the first proposal, the Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation) would undertake a comprehensive planning process to enhance the value of fish and wildlife habitat in the Yolo Bypass. Under the second proposal, the Foundation would expand its *Discover the Flyway* Program, to inform and educate the public and stakeholder organizations about appropriate environmental restoration and habitat management actions in the Yolo Bypass. The *Discover the Flyway* outreach project would also use the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area planning process as a model to build stakeholder support of comprehensive Bypass restoration.

The Foundation is a nonprofit (section 501(c)(3)) corporation, organized in 1990. It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnership that led to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Wildlife Area is a 3,700-acre project for restoration of wetlands and other habitats, located in the Yolo Bypass. It is the largest restoration project in the western United States. Its realization required the participation, cooperation, and approval of a multitude of diverse agencies and interests, as detailed in attachments to the proposals. Our Board of Directors represents a broad cross-section of community leaders, including conservationists, farmers, hunters, business persons, and elected officials. The Foundation has received several regional and national awards for its accomplishments and for overall excellence in nonprofit management.

The first proposal, the development of an Ecosystem Enhancement Plan for the Yolo Bypass, will build on our successes to further the objectives of CALFED. The Foundation is familiar with the Bypass, its issues, and the

people, agencies, and community groups that will have to be supportive in order to bring such improvements about. The Foundation will conduct planning activities that will lead to enhancing habitats and reducing stressors of fish and wildlife, including several listed and candidate species. Attention will focus on opportunities to improve the habitat and survival of anadromous and resident fish species, as well as seeking further enhancements for other wildlife. For this activity, the Foundation will contract with Jones and Stokes Associates (JSA) for technical support. JSA has specific experience in the Bypass, including its preparation of Yolo Basin Habitat Suitability Analysis under contract with the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture. Several of the proposed JSA staff have direct experience with the Bypass restoration efforts to date. Also, we believe that this firm is well-suited to ensure compatibility between our efforts and the overall mission of CALFED.

The second proposal is for matching funding for expansion of the Foundation's *Discover the Flyway* Program. A primary goal of the Foundation is public education. This year, the *Discover the Flyway* Program will bring an estimated 800 elementary school children to the Bypass. With CALFED support, the program will be expanded to include outreach and education for more students, for adults, and for stakeholder groups. With its strategic location, minutes from downtown Sacramento, the Bypass will be a showcase of dramatic habitat restoration. The expansion of *Discover the Flyway* will make large-scale public appreciation of the Bypass possible. The grant will also be used to disseminate educational materials oriented toward the ecosystem restoration goals identified by CALFED.

Both proposals contain a great deal of detail, and we hope they are received favorably. As a final point, it was necessary for us to complete the proposals before the recent amendment or clarification of the RFP. We would be happy to provide any additional material needed to clarify the proposals. Please contact Robin Kulakow, our Executive Director, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Cordially yours,



Paul S. Simmons
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Robin Kulakow
Liz Merry

DWR WAREHOUSE

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**Ecosystem Enhancement Plan for the Yolo Bypass
A PROGRAM OF THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION INC.**

**Response to the 1997 Category III
Request for Proposals
of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

July 28, 1997

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

a. Project Title: **Ecosystem Enhancement Plan for the Yolo Bypass**

Applicant: Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.,
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617,
Phone: (916)756-7248, Fax: (916)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@dcn.davis.ca.us

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

The **Yolo Bypass** is a massive structure that diverts floodwaters out of the Sacramento River Systems during wet years. It encompasses 60,000 acres west of the Sacramento River in Yolo and Solano Counties with complex hydrographic features, both natural and constructed, described more fully below. It is a mosaic of habitats and agricultural uses of phenomenal richness and variety. It is an important but neglected passageway for fish, connected physically and biologically to the Delta. The Bypass is already the locus of significant restoration activity: the creation of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area; private restoration activities under the aegis of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture; Conaway Ranch; proposed Liberty Island and Little Holland Tract restoration are examples.

The **Yolo Basin Foundation (the Foundation)** proposes to undertake a comprehensive habitat restoration planning process for the entire Bypass, in order to maximize its value for fish and wildlife. The Foundation is recognized as the catalyst for creating the partnership that accomplished the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. It will use its experience in facilitation and its unique knowledge of the biological and human resources in the Bypass to develop a process for applying the techniques of adaptive management to this crucial area.

c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

Phases: The proposed project consists of the following major phases:

Phase 1 - Initial Planning: identify, contact, and facilitate interaction among stakeholders; conduct workshops and field trips; prepare a preliminary planning document; identify pilot projects; identify projects for immediate implementation that all stakeholders agree need quick action. The Foundation will establish a special committee of its directors to provide guidance to the planning process.

Phase 2 - Final Planning: conduct pilot projects; prepare final plan; conduct other projects identified for immediate implementation.

Phase 3 - Implementation: Implement projects identified in final plan.

Phase 1 is envisioned as a one-year effort. Phase 2 will be a two-year effort. Phase 3 would be a multi-year effort. *This proposal requests funding for Phase 1.*

Tasks: The proposed Phase 1 of the project consists of the following tasks:

Task 1: Develop background on the Yolo Bypass for use in engaging stakeholder involvement in the planning process. Known problems and typical approaches to solving problems will be noted. An Existing Resources Report will be prepared and made available to stakeholders. The format and presentation will be informative and non-technical. *9/1/97-10/1/97*

Task 2: Conduct outreach to solicit involvement of stakeholders. All potential stakeholders including elected officials, landowners, farmers, managers and owners of duck clubs, conservation and farming organizations, state, federal, and local government agencies, and private citizens will be solicited for their involvement and commitment to participate. *10/1/97-12/1/97*

Task 3: Conduct stakeholder interviews and workshops to solicit enhancement opportunities, issues of concern, constraints, and technical information to identify problems and potential solution options. The Yolo Flyway newsletter, published by the Foundation, will report on the progress of the planning

process. An informational bulletin will also be sent periodically to interested stakeholders. A homepage will be prepared to document activities and ideas generated from stakeholder discussions. *1/1/98-12/1/98 with monthly updates to homepage.*

Task 4: Prepare proposals for specific enhancement projects on which there is universal agreement on need and approach. Staff and consultants will work with individual stakeholders or stakeholder groups to prepare proposals for project funding. *1/1/98-9/1/98*

Task 5: Prepare a preliminary draft enhancement plan that outlines enhancement opportunities, constraints, and planned actions that would lead to specific proposals for funding, including work for Phase II, a schedule of activities, and linkages with other programs and adjacent watershed activities. *4/1/98-8/1/98*

Task 6: Technical reports will be prepared as identified in the above tasks. Financial and project progress reports will be prepared monthly. *10/1/98-9/1/98*

Task 7: Monitoring and data collection section of draft enhancement plan.. *4/1/98-8/1/98*

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

Planning for opportunities to enhance fish passage and riparian and wetland habitats in the Bypass will build on efforts that began with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. CALFED has identified the need to enhance fish passage and fish and wildlife habitat throughout the Central Valley including the Bypass. The Bypass is especially important given that large numbers of upstream and downstream migrating anadromous fish pass through the Bypass in wet years. Given the importance of wet years in sustaining these populations, maximizing survival in the Bypass is an important part of CALFED's overall mission for the Bay-Delta. The proposed project is expected to lead to direct benefits to 6 types of habitat and several priority species deemed important by CALFED, as described more fully in section III(c).

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

This proposal requests a grant of \$183,568 to implement Phase I. No third-party impacts are anticipated.

f. Applicant Qualifications

The Foundation is a community based organization created to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. It is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. The 15 member board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the successful Yolo Basin partnership. The Foundation is successful because it uses its limited resources to promote cooperation among government agencies and private stakeholders. It continues as the communication link among the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Wildlife Area.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The planning process will identify monitoring and data needs. Information and monitoring plans will be coordinated with existing and planned studies. Any data obtained or collected during Phase I would be made available to the CAMP-IEP database.

h. Local Support/Compatibility with CALFED objectives

The Foundation is an established organization with a proven record of success in restoring habitat in the Yolo Basin. The Board of Directors represents a cross section of the many stakeholders with an interest in the Bypass. We know and have the trust of many of the stakeholders. Foundation activities related to creation of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area have support from county, city, state, and federal elected officials. The regional community supports the Foundation's efforts as evidenced by our long list of supporters. (reference Attachment 9, page 4) This proposal builds on this strong base of support. If funded this process could build similar support for implementation of CALFED ecosystem restoration goals.

II. TITLE PAGE

a. **Project Title:** *Ecosystem Enhancement Plan for the Yolo Bypass*

b. **Applicant:** Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.,
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617,
Phone: (916)756-7248, Fax: (916)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@dcn.davis.ca.us

c. **Type of Organization:** Non-profit public benefit corporation, Tax Status: 501(c)3

d. **Tax Identification number:** Federal: 68-0230311,
California Corporation #C1668657

e. **Contact persons:**

Robin Kulakow, Executive Director,
Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617.
Phone: (916)756-7248, Fax: (916)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@dcn.davis.ca.us

Paul Simmons, Chairman of the Board,
Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.
c/o DeCuir and Somach
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1900
Sacramento, CA 95814-4407
Phone: (916)446-7979, Fax: (916)446-8199

Manny Carbahal, Chief Financial Officer
Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.
c/o Carbahal & Company
1107 Kennedy Place, Suite 5
Davis, CA 95616
Phone: (916) 758-8111, Fax: (916)758-1425

f. **Participants/Collaborators in Implementation:** Jones & Stokes Associates

g. **RFP Project Group Type:** Group 3 (Other Services)

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND APPROACH

The **Yolo Basin Foundation** (Foundation) proposes to conduct an ecosystem enhancement planning project for the Yolo Bypass, a portion of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project in Yolo and Solano counties. The project would involve landowners, State, federal, and local agencies, and other stakeholders in developing ecosystem enhancement measures for the Yolo Bypass. The project will build upon previous planning and restoration efforts involving the Bypass including the Suitability Analysis for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat in the Yolo Basin conducted for the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture during planning for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

The Foundation will conduct planning activities that will lead to enhancing habitats and reducing stressors of fish and wildlife, including several threatened and endangered species in the Yolo Bypass from the Fremont Weir south to Liberty Island and Little Holland Tract. Planning will focus on identifying potential improvements in streamflow into the Bypass and through its sloughs; enhancing wetland, riparian, slough, agricultural, and shaded riverine aquatic habitats; reducing fish migration barriers, fish entrainment, fish stranding, and fish poaching; conducting wildlife-friendly levee maintenance and agricultural practices; reducing the influx of contaminants to wetlands and waterways; and building consensus among various stakeholders.

The Foundation's proposed project is the initial one-year planning phase of a longer term planning and implementation effort to enhance ecosystem health in the Yolo Bypass. Our initial efforts will focus on identifying, contacting, and facilitating interaction among stakeholders, conducting workshops and field trips, preparing a preliminary planning document, identifying pilot projects, and identifying projects for immediate implementation that all stakeholders agree need quick implementation.

Organize Stakeholders: The Foundation will organize stakeholders including landowners, local, State, and federal resource and planning agencies, local governments, conservation organizations, farmers, and other stakeholders to solicit their involvement in identifying and implementing ecosystem enhancement projects for the Bypass.

Conduct Workshops and Field Trips: The Foundation will organize and conduct workshops and field trips for stakeholders to locations of interest in the Bypass.

Prepare Preliminary Planning Document: The Foundation will prepare a preliminary planning document that summarizes the existing environment of the Bypass and identifies ecosystem health problems and potential solutions through the use of GIS mapping and text descriptions.

B. LOCATION AND/OR GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES OF PROJECT

The project site is located in Yolo and Solano Counties on the west side of the lower Sacramento (Attachments 1 & 2). The site is entirely within the boundaries of the Sacramento Flood Control Project. There are two main sections: an upper 12-mile section between the Fremont Weir and the I-80 causeway, and the lower 15 miles between the I-80 causeway and Liberty Island.

The lower section is tidal and within the legal Delta. This section is bounded on the east by the Sacramento Ship Channel and the west by levees. This section includes the 3700 acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area located at the mouth of Putah Creek. The hydrographic system includes the main east Toe Drain along the eastern levee and a complex system of irrigation canals and drainage ditches that connect to the Toe Drain and Prospect and Liberty Sloughs at the lower end of the Bypass. The main sources of streamflow into the lower section are Putah Creek and the east side Toe Drain, as well as a network of smaller irrigation canals and drainage ditches. Putah Creek flows enter the Bypass and

drains into the main east Toe Drain.

The upper section is non-tidal. It is bounded on the north by Fremont Weir on the south side of the Sacramento River; on the east by the Tule Canal and the main federal levee, and on the west by federal levees. Its main hydrographic features include the Fremont Weir connection to the Sacramento River, the Knights Landing Ridge Cut that brings waters from the Colusa Basin Main Drain, the mouths of Cache Creek and Willow Slough, the Willow Slough Bypass, and the Sacramento Bypass. The entrance of Cache Creek includes the creek outfall and overflow weir of the Cache Creek Settling Basin.

Land use in the Bypass is primarily agriculture, with rice predominating in the north and corn and other field crops being predominantly grown in the south. In addition to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, there are many small seasonal and perennial wetland areas. Riparian habitat is limited to narrow bands primarily along the Tule Canal and Toe Drain bordering the east side of the Bypass.

C. EXPECTED BENEFITS

The proposed project is expected to lead to direct benefits to several types of habitat and several species deemed important by CALFED. **Priority Habitats:** tidal perennial aquatic habitat (freshwater), seasonal wetland, instream aquatic habitat, shaded riverine aquatic habitat, North Delta agricultural wetlands and perennial grasslands.

The following **Priority Species** are present in the Bypass at some time in the year: winter run chinook salmon, spring run chinook salmon, splittail, delta smelt, steelhead trout, green sturgeon, and migratory birds (waterfowl and neotropical migrants).

The major benefits of this planning effort and subsequent ecosystem enhancement efforts are:

1. Improved adult salmon, sturgeon, splittail, American shad, and steelhead passage through the Yolo Bypass to Putah Creek, Cache Creek, or the Sacramento River. Large numbers of adult anadromous fish and Delta resident splittail migrate upstream through the Bypass when the Bypass is flooded in the winter and spring of wetter years. Smaller numbers migrate through canals and drains of the Bypass in drier years. Local residents familiar with the Bypass have many accounts of observing troubles for migrating anadromous fish in the Bypass. Improvements in fish passage facilities, protective fish screens, flows, and water quality at key times of the year should improve adult fish passage through the Bypass. Anadromous fish are attracted to the canals and drains by Putah Creek, Cache Creek, and Sacramento River waters that drain or are pumped into the irrigation system. Migrating fish may become stranded in open fields, dead-end canals, ponds, or behind weirs when overflows from the Sacramento River decline, where they are vulnerable to poor conditions and to poachers. The Fremont Weir fish ladder is ineffective; many adult fish are unable to pass it into the Sacramento River.
2. Improved downstream juvenile salmon, sturgeon, splittail, and steelhead passage and survival from Putah and Cache Creeks, and the Sacramento River. Large numbers of juvenile anadromous fish spawned in the Sacramento River and its tributaries pass downstream to the Delta via the Yolo Bypass in wetter years when the Bypass is flooded. Despite good habitat many juvenile fish are lost to "catastrophic" stranding and poor water quality after flood waters begin to recede from the Bypass. Improvements in the Bypass drainage system and providing supplemental flow to some channels at key times of the year may resolve some of these problems.
3. Improved rearing habitat of chinook salmon, splittail, and steelhead. With large numbers of juvenile anadromous fish potentially rearing for up to a month or more in the Bypass, especially in wet years, improvements in rearing habitat in sloughs, ditches, and wetlands would provide benefits in growth and survival. Improvements in riparian, SRA, aquatic, and wetland habitats should benefit fish populations.
4. Reduced entrainment of young salmon, steelhead, splittail, sturgeon, delta smelt, and native resident fish. With many juvenile anadromous and resident fish rearing in the water bodies of the

- Bypass, the potential exists for entrainment into water diversions in the Bypass. Water diverted to the Bypass also entrains young fish from the Sacramento River. Adjustments in diversion location, timing, and screening can reduce entrainment losses.
5. Reduced poaching of adult salmon, striped bass, steelhead, and sturgeon. Places and times where adult anadromous fish passage is blocked or hindered offer opportunities for poachers. Such locations are known to exist in the Yolo Bypass. Cooperative efforts of land owners and their adjustments of water systems operations offer partial solutions. Long-term solutions require resolving such structural problems as the inadequate fish ladder at the Fremont Weir.
 6. Improvements in wetland-slough habitat. There are many opportunities in the Bypass to improve wetlands-slough habitat. New wetland acreage will have associated with it new perennial aquatic habitat important for waterfowl and fish. The largest scale project is the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. More recently CALFED has undertaken planning for restoration of Prospect Island, Little Holland Tract, and Liberty Island at the southern end of the Bypass. Ongoing efforts to improve wetland habitat for waterfowl are also underway on private lands (hunting clubs) in the south Bypass. In the south, tidal waters of the Toe Drain and Liberty and Prospect Sloughs can be connected to wetland areas to provide wetland habitat. Such opportunities also exist in the upper half on both private and public lands. In the north, non-tidal wetlands can be expanded within and adjacent to canals, ditches, and drains. Irrigation canals, ditches, and toe drains throughout the Bypass can be upgraded to provide valuable slough habitat with fringe wetlands and riparian habitats. Many interior sloughs and canals offer opportunity to enhance riparian habitat without compromising levee integrity and flood bearing capacity of the Bypass. There are many opportunities to alter agricultural practices and habitat to benefit waterfowl and wildlife. Many landowners already have accomplished this and their ideas and practices can be offered to others in a collaborative process initiated by the Foundation.
 8. Improvement in streamflow and water temperatures. Opportunities exist to improve important ecological processes including streamflow and water temperatures in the Bypass. Streamflow and SRA habitat are important in maintaining water temperatures below lethal levels for anadromous fish in Bypass sloughs. Improvements are possible in streamflow entering the Bypass from Cache Creek, Putah Creek, and the Sacramento River. Planning efforts will involve discussions with stakeholders from these watersheds.
 9. Increased aquatic productivity in the Bypass and increased organic nutrient inputs to the Delta. Additional streamflow through Bypass wetlands to the Delta should also benefit Delta productivity and fish production. Greater wetland acreage and possible better timed agricultural drainage patterns can lead to substantial increases in nutrient input to the Delta in dry, low-productivity years.
 10. Improved floodwater and sediment detention and retention. Improvements in wetland habitats in the Bypass will provide additional local opportunities for floodwater and sediment detention and retention in the Bypass.
 11. Improved education of the public on ecosystem restoration and native wildlife. The location of the Bypass near the urban areas of Sacramento, West Sacramento, Davis, and Woodland offers diverse education opportunities to large numbers of people. The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, located along I-80 and the only publicly accessible area in the Bypass, offers a tremendous opportunity to observe and learn about the value of ecosystem restoration.
 12. Improved recreation opportunities inside and outside the Bypass in the form of hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and natural history activities. Fish passage and habitat improvements in the Bypass will provide many opportunities to enhance recreation both within and outside the Bypass. Improved survival of anadromous fish will enhance fisheries throughout the Sacramento River watershed and in the Bay-Delta. Improved and expanded habitats will benefit waterfowl populations and provide opportunities for hunting, wildlife viewing, and other natural history activities.

Other Benefits: The project will also provide benefits in terms of technical and other information gained from the planning and implementation processes that can be applied to other areas of the Central Valley. Information and experience gained in this study will guide future ecosystem enhancement efforts in the Yolo Bypass that will hopefully support the recovery of the salmon and steelhead

populations of Putah and Cache Creeks, as well as the Sacramento River and its tributaries, and Bay-Delta populations of delta smelt and splittail.

D. BACKGROUND AND BIOLOGICAL/TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION

Planning for opportunities to enhance fish passage and riparian and wetland habitats in the Bypass will carry on from efforts that began with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. CALFED has identified the need to enhance fish passage and fish and wildlife habitat throughout the Central Valley including the Bypass. The Bypass is especially important given that large numbers of upstream and downstream migrating anadromous fish pass through the Bypass in wet years. Given the importance of wet years in sustaining these populations, maximizing survival in the Bypass is an important part of CALFED's overall mission for the Bay-Delta. To date there has been minimal planning effort other than that for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Future CALFED agency efforts to restore habitat in the lower Bypass in the Little Holland Tract, Prospect Island, and Liberty Island will need to be coordinated with activities to the north in the Bypass.

Even in dry years many anadromous fish are attracted to the Bypass by natural flows from Putah and Cache Creeks, and by irrigation water drawn from the Sacramento River. Many adult Sacramento fish migrate upstream via the sloughs of the Bypass. In dry years young salmon and steelhead from Cache and Putah Creeks must pass through the Bypass to the Delta via a maze of canals, ditches and drains. In wet years huge numbers of young anadromous fish as well as native resident fish such as delta smelt and splittail could be lost to stranding in the Bypass.

Hopefully, many of these problems can be solved by solutions identified in the proposed planning process and actions that can be undertaken by landowners and other stakeholders. Without a stakeholder initiated planning process many of the problems and potential solutions will go unnoticed. The proposed planning process will identify many projects that with some funding and cooperation will lead to substantial benefits to fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife habitats, while protecting the flood control and agricultural values of the Bypass.

Durability: Improvements in fish passage and habitats in the Bypass will have long-term stability and durability, because stakeholders including city and county governments will be committed to the efforts. The planning process serves to unite stakeholders in this endeavor to the overall program goals. The commitment and involvement of the US Army Corps of Engineers also provides long-term stability to the planning and ecosystem enhancement process that would otherwise not be there.

Current Status of Habitat Restoration: The proposed planning project will build upon planning efforts begun in 1990 by the Foundation to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Establishment of the 3700 acres of permanent and seasonal wetlands, uplands and riparian woodland will be completed in October 1997 when the Wildlife Area is scheduled to open to the public. Some habitat restoration is underway on private lands in the Bypass.

E. PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

The proposed project is the first phase of a long-term project of ecosystem health enhancement in the Yolo Bypass. Phase 1 includes various tasks necessary to initiate the process.

Phases: The proposed project consists of the following major phases:

Phase 1 - Initial Planning: identify, contact, and facilitate interaction among stakeholders, conduct workshops and field trips, prepare a preliminary planning document; identify pilot projects; identify projects for immediate implementation that all stakeholders agree need quick implementation. A special committee of the Foundation board of directors will be established to provide guidance to the proposed planning process.

Phase 2 - Final Planning: conduct pilot projects; prepare final plan; conduct other projects identified for immediate implementation.

Phase 3 - Implementation: Implement projects identified in final plan.

Phase 1 is envisioned as a one-year effort. Phase 2 will be a two-year effort. Phase 3 would be a multi-year effort. This proposal requests funding for Phase 1.

Tasks and Deliverables: The proposed Phase 1 of the project consists of the following tasks:

Task 1: Develop background on the Yolo Bypass for use in engaging stakeholder involvement in the planning process. Known problems and typical approaches to solving problems will be noted. A standard ARC-INFO GIS mapping system will be employed to store and present data.

Deliverables: An Existing Resources Report will be prepared and made available to stakeholders. The format and presentation will be informative and non-technical.

Task 2: Conduct outreach to solicit involvement of individual stakeholders. All potential stakeholders including elected officials, landowners, farmers, managers and owners of duck clubs, conservation and farming organizations, state, federal, and local government agencies, and private citizens including environmental scientists will be solicited for their involvement.

Deliverables: Commitments of participation will be sought from individual stakeholders. MOU's will be sought from participating agencies and citizen organizations.

Task 3: Conduct stakeholder interviews and workshops to solicit enhancement opportunities, issues of concern, constraints, and technical information to identify problems and potential solution options.

Deliverables: The Yolo Flyway newsletter, published by the Foundation, will report on the progress of the planning process. An informational bulletin will also be sent periodically to interested stakeholders. A homepage will be prepared to document activities and ideas generated from stakeholder discussions. This will be linked to the Foundation's website (yolobasin.org), which is currently being developed and is expected to be available in late 1997. The website will be linked to wetland- and habitat-related pages locally, nationally, and internationally.

Task 4: Prepare proposals for specific enhancement projects on which there is universal agreement on need and approach. Staff and consultants will work with individual stakeholders or stakeholder groups to prepare proposals for project funding.

Deliverables: Individual proposals for enhancement projects will be prepared and submitted to funding agencies.

Task 5: Prepare a preliminary draft enhancement plan that outlines enhancement opportunities, constraints, and planned actions that would lead to specific proposals for funding, including work for Phase II and a schedule of activities and linkages with other programs and adjacent watershed activities.

Deliverables: A Preliminary Draft Enhancement Plan will be prepared and submitted to stakeholders and CALFED.

Task 6: Technical reports will be prepared as identified in the above tasks. Financial and project progress reports will be prepared monthly.

F. MONITORING AND DATA EVALUATION

Task 7: Part of the planning process will be to identify monitoring and data needs. Known needs include: technical information on fish passage and stranding problems; basic information on the life history and ecology of fish in the Bypass; seasonal occurrence, spatial distribution, and habitat requirements of fish in the Bypass. Information and monitoring plans can be coordinated with existing and planned studies by: UC Davis (particularly studies that have focused on Putah and Cache Creeks); DWR (monitoring in the Yolo Bypass and Prospect and Liberty Islands and Little Holland Tract); USFWS (surveys of juvenile fish in the Sacramento River and the interaction with Sacramento River fish, especially during high flow periods). Data from all available sources will be included in discussions in the Task 1 report and in the Task 5 report. Additional monitoring and data needs will be outlined in the draft enhancement plan (Task 5). Any data obtained or collected during phase 1 would be made available to the CAMP-IEP database.

Deliverable: Monitoring and data collection section of draft enhancement plan.

G. IMPLEMENTABILITY

Permit requirements: The final enhancement plan will include a section on permit requirements for the various proposed enhancement projects. CALFED will be consulted to determine progress and direction for expediting permits among the member agencies. All project proposals will have full treatment of permitting requirements.

Sensitivity to hydrologic-climatic conditions: Any proposed enhancement project in the Yolo Bypass will be sensitive to flooding of the Bypass when the Sacramento River overflows. Use of the Bypass for overflow purposes greatly influences the habitat values that can be achieved in the Bypass, and may both enhance and place unusual constraints on habitats and habitat values.

Local Support: The Foundation is an established organization with a proven record of success in restoring habitat in the Yolo Basin. The Board of Directors represents a cross section of the many stakeholders with an interest in the Bypass. We know and have the trust of many of the stakeholders. Foundation activities related to creation of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area have support from county, city, state, and federal elected officials. The regional community supports the Foundation's efforts as evidenced by our long list of supporters. This proposal builds on this strong base of support.

Willing Participants: Local stakeholders including landowners are often willing to participate and do what they can to protect and enhance fish, waterfowl, and wildlife habitat. Though they may not seek out such interventions, farmers are willing to participate in a process in which they are involved from the start and have some say in the eventual outcome. The Foundation has unparalleled experience with this type of consensus-building.

Existing Information: This proposal does not require re-creation of baseline information. The Foundation has access to thorough studies and computer models of the Yolo Basin already in existence, created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture.

Indirect Effects: Enhancement of ecosystem health in the Yolo Bypass may lead to changes in agricultural practices and land use in the Bypass, but only on a willing participant level. Habitat changes may increase the roughness and thus flood bearing capacity of the Bypass. However, such habitat enhancements will be made only in coordination with flood control agencies. Habitat enhancements should have a positive effect on hunting, wildlife populations, and recreation opportunities (e.g. wildlife viewing in the Wildlife Area). Poaching opportunities in the Bypass should decrease.

IV. COSTS AND SCHEDULE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROJECT

A. BUDGET COSTS

Please refer to Attachments 4 & 5, Tables 1 & 2 for Budgeted Cost Breakdown.

Need for CALFED Funding: Funding available for enhancements and expansions of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area has become very limited. Farmers and other landowners are unable to finance the necessary level of enhancements without some supporting funding. As yet there has been little interest on the part of the CVPIA program in Yolo Basin watersheds. CALFED's ecosystem objective provides the necessary broad scale perspective to tackle the diversity of ecosystem problems in the Bypass. Without CALFED funding there would be limited ecosystem planning in the Bypass. With the proposed planning process, we expect to be in a better position to petition and receive other program funding in the future. Many of the projects we expect to be identified in the planning process should qualify for other sources of state and federal funding that would otherwise be beyond the reach of existing stakeholder efforts.

Consultant Selection Process: Jones & Stokes Associates Inc. (JSA) was selected as the consultant to support the proposed planning process because of their extensive individual and corporate experience in ecological resources issues and planning processes not only in the Central Valley, but especially in the Yolo Basin. Several of the proposed JSA staff have participated in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area process and have developed resource management plans in the Yolo Basin. They also have conducted numerous studies and reconnaissances in the Bypass, including independent multi-year surveys of fish stranding in the Sacramento Bypass. JSA was also selected based on their familiarity with the CALFED process and understanding of the long-term restoration needs. JSA's proposed team to support the Foundation is uniquely suited to support the proposed planning effort.

B. SCHEDULE MILESTONES

The following describes the scheduled periods for each of the tasks described above. Deliverables/milestones generally are due on the end date of the task unless otherwise noted.

Task 1: 9/1/97-10/1/97

Task 2: 10/1/97-12/1/97

Task 3: 1/1/98-4/1/98; newsletters and homepage will be updated monthly

Task 4: 1/1/98-9/1/98

Task 5: 4/1/98-8/1/98

Task 6: 10/1/97-9/1/98; progress reports will be prepared monthly.

Task 7: 4/1/98-8/1/98

C. THIRD PARTY IMPACTS

No third-party impacts are anticipated. The planning process will work toward building consensus among stakeholders to minimize third-party impacts.

V. APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

Foundation Qualifications:

A Proven Record of Success

The Foundation was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Foundation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. The 15 member

board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. (reference Attachment 3) It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the successful Yolo Basin partnership. The Foundation is successful because it has used its limited resources to encourage cooperation among a wide variety of government agencies and private stakeholders. The result of the Foundation's efforts is the creation of a public wildlife area, with over \$12 million of state and federal funding.

The Yolo Basin Foundation has a proven record of success. Our efforts have been recognized in many ways. In August 1995 the Foundation was presented with a *National Wetlands Conservation Award for the Private Sector* from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Wildlife Area groundbreaking ceremony. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt lauded our success in creating the largest wetlands restoration project west of the Everglades. Other awards to the Foundation include the *Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management* given by the San Francisco based Management Center. At the State of the Estuary conference in October, 1996, the Foundation was recognized for outstanding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the San Francisco Bay Estuary. An editorial from the Sacramento Bee recognized the role of the Foundation in creating the Wildlife Area. The Foundation and the Wildlife Area have also been featured in the Davis Enterprise, Woodland Democrat, West Sacramento Press, U.S. Water News and Wetland Link International News. (reference Attachment 8)

Yolo Basin Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Since 1990, the Foundation has also served as a clearing house for information on restoration activities and stakeholder concerns throughout the Yolo Basin.

The Foundation is also pursuing its mission to educate and inspire people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. Educational programs underway include: sponsoring *California Duck Days* - a three day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway; publishing the *Yolo Flyway*; bringing wetlands education into the schools with our *Wild About Wetlands* kits; and, introducing people to the natural places in the community through our field trips. Currently we are recruiting teachers to participate in our *Discover the Flyway* workshops to prepare them for class field trips throughout the year. We are also recruiting volunteers to assist with the program.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is well suited to initiating and managing a planning process that will rely on partnerships. While restoration of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is nearly completed the partnerships continue in other projects. The *Discover the Flyway* program is a partnership with the California Department of Fish and Game, which owns and manages the Wildlife Area. The Foundation also works closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District and the San Francisco Bay Model; California Waterfowl Association; Ducks Unlimited; the University of California at Davis; Putah-Cache Creek Bioregion Project and the university-sponsored Regional Education Alliance, Putah Creek Council, Cache Creek Conservancy, Yolo County Resource Conservation District and Yolo Audubon Society.

The Foundation is also coordinating a multi-agency project to create a *demonstration wetland* at the new State Fish and Game headquarters for the Wildlife Area. This 3-acre site will contain examples of seasonal and permanent wetlands, grasslands, and riparian woodland. Interpretive panels and trails are part of the plan as well. Participants in the project include State Fish and Game, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, UC Davis, Larry Walker Associates and Hedgerow Farms. Participants are contributing either funds or in-kind services. This demonstration habitat will become an integral of the *Discover the Flyway* program.

The Foundation's Board of Directors represents a cross section of the stakeholder groups with an interest in the Bypass, a further qualification for directing the proposed constituency building needed to reach consensus on a Yolo Basin-wide ecosystem restoration plan. The Board has ties throughout the Yolo Basin and the greater Putah-Cache Creek Watershed. Various Foundation board members also serve as board members of other watershed groups with an interest in the tributaries to the Bypass including Putah Creek Council, Cache Creek Conservancy, and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District.

Project Organization, Staffing, and Other resources: The project will be conducted under the direction of the Yolo Basin Foundation with Robin Kulakow as project manager. Supporting Robin will be Foundation staff and the consultant services of Jones & Stokes Associates. A special committee of the Foundation board of directors will provide guidance for the project.

Key Foundation Staff:

Robin Kulakow, Executive Director of the Foundation will serve as the project manager. Ms. Kulakow was a founding member of the Yolo Basin Working Group and the Yolo Basin Foundation. She has served as Executive Director of the Yolo Basin Foundation since January, 1991. Robin has a bachelors degree in Soil Science from UC Berkeley and a Master of Administration degree from UC Davis. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a district soil scientist and has budgetary and legislative experience with the State Department of Finance, State Board of Equalization, and the California Conservation Corps. Robin was the recipient of the California Department of Fish and Game Director's Achievement Award in 1994 and the City of Davis' first Environmental Recognition Award for her efforts leading to the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. She is a founding board member of the Putah Creek Council and the Cache Creek Conservancy. In the past year she has made presentations to the State of the Estuary Conference, the SERCAL (Society for Ecological Restoration, California Chapter) annual conference, and at the National Watchable Wildlife Convention.

Key Jones & Stokes Associates Staff:

Consulting Team Leader and Facilitation Specialist - Dave Ceppos, B.A. Dave is a facilitation/conflict resolution specialist and natural resources planner specializing in public participation and facilitation, environmental planning, and ecological assessment. He will be responsible for project management tasks, development of a draft plan, and other deliverable items. Dave is a member of the steering committee of the Putah Creek Council and he is on the Advisory Board for the Yolo Land Trust.

Restoration Coordinator - Steve Chainey, M.S. Steve is a restoration ecologist, specializing in environmental mediation, riparian ecology hydrogeomorphology, restoration planning, design, and supervision, riparian and wetland revegetation, natural resources master planning, and environmental impact studies. He will be responsible for conducting participatory planning and design workshops and facilitating conflict resolution of natural resource issues. He has designed and managed a range of restoration projects in irrigation canals, floodways, and flood detention basins. He has coordinated multidisciplinary teams for resource management plans and natural area master plans. He contributed extensively to the *Suitability Analysis for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat in the Yolo Basin*, a project for the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture and California Wetlands Foundation He is a founder of Putah Creek Council and the Yolo Basin Working Group which was organized to facilitate the restoration and enhancement of wetland habitat in and near the Yolo Bypass. He serves on the board of the Cache Creek Conservancy.

Fish Habitat/Population Specialist - Tom Cannon, M.A., M.P.H. Tom is a fisheries and aquatic habitat specialist, as well as biostatistician. He will be responsible for all fisheries related technical information and support. He has extensive experience with Delta and river fishes. He has worked extensively on CVPLA projects including the Water Management Plan and EIS. He has participated in

various CALFED Bay-Delta programs including the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, the Time Value of Water project, and Fish Screen Technical Team.

Wetland/Riparian Specialist - John Ranlett B.S. John is a wetland restoration specialist and wildlife biologist specializing in preparing wildlife habitat enhancement, restoration, and mitigation plans, and conducting wetland and wildlife surveys. He has conducted shorebird surveys in the Bypass and conducted wildlife surveys on the Conway Ranch located in the northern portion of the Bypass. He will be responsible for habitat enhancement and restoration planning, waterfowl hunting enhancement concepts, and suggesting wildlife friendly agricultural practices.

Wildlife Specialist - Edward Beedy, PhD. Ted is a waterfowl and riparian wildlife specialist. He will be responsible for technical information and support for all waterfowl and riparian-related technical presentations and documents, and general consultation with stakeholders. Dr. Beedy was an original member of the Yolo Basin Working Group. He has also worked on the EIS's for the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. He has conducted field surveys of special status wildlife species in the North Natomas Basin east of the Sacramento River.

GIS - Gerrit Platenkamp, PhD. Dr. Platenkamp is a plant ecologist specializing in spatial data presentation and analysis. He has extensive experience in plant surveys and analysis and presentation of survey data. He specializes in wetland delineation. He participated in mapping efforts related to the *Suitability Analysis for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat in the Yolo Basin*.

Potential conflicts of interest: The project team does not have any conflicts of interests.

References for similar projects:

Yolo Basin Foundation: please refer to Attachment 6.

Jones & Stokes Associates:

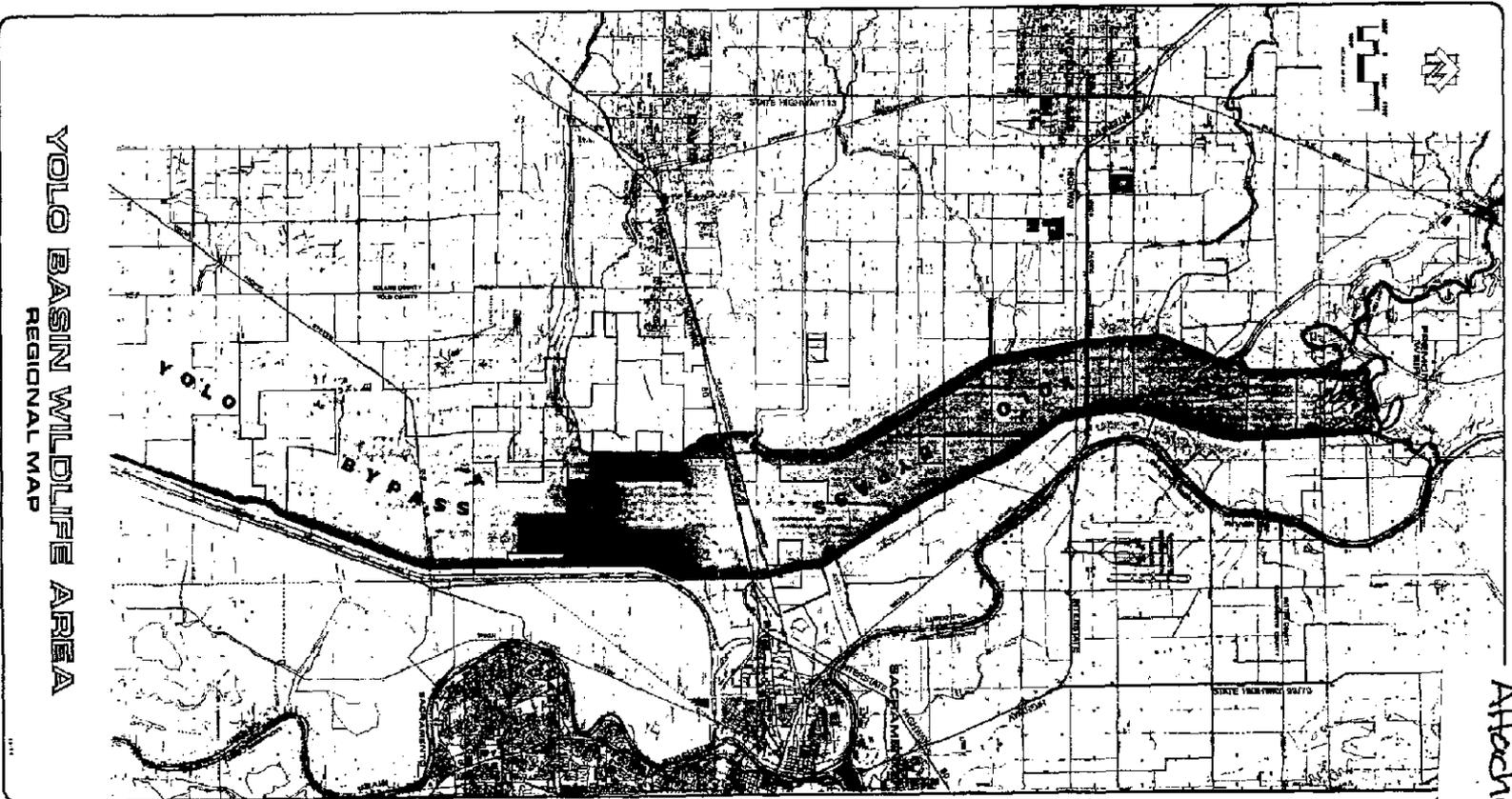
1. East Bay Municipal Utilities District - American River Project
2. US Army Corps of Engineers - Sacramento River Flood Control Project
3. US Bureau of Reclamation - CVPIA
4. SAFCA - American River Floodway Management Plan
5. Yolo County - Willow Slough Watershed Integrated Resources Management Plan
6. Yolo Basin Foundation - Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
7. CALFED - Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan technical support.
8. Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture - Suitability Analysis for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat in the Yolo Basin.

VI. COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please refer to Attachment 7 for a copy of a signed Nondiscrimination Statement.

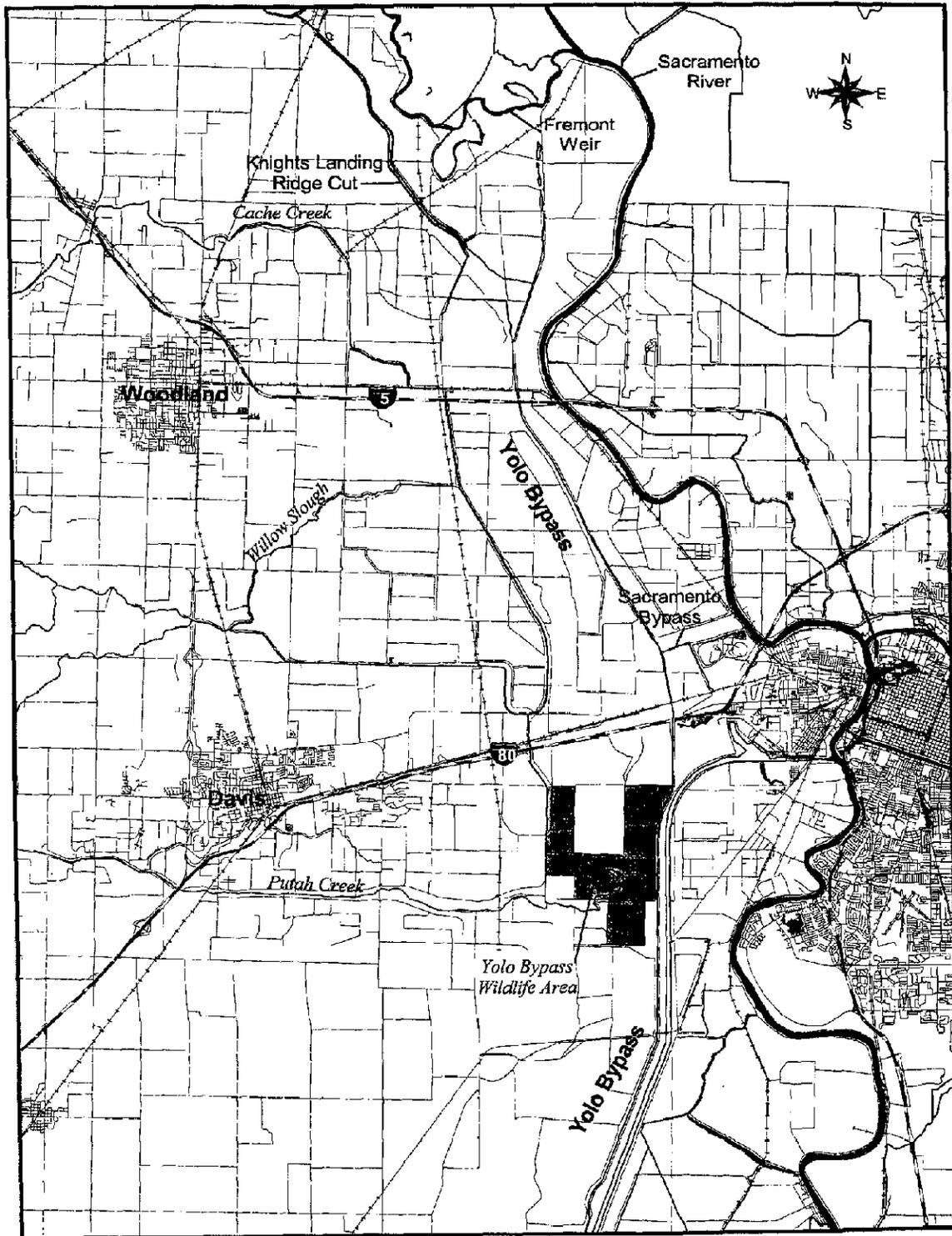
List of Attachments

1. Yolo Bypass Regional Map
2. Yolo Bypass Map
3. Board of Directors
4. Table 1 Budgeted Cost Breakdown
5. Table 2 Service Contract Budgeted Cost Breakdown
6. References
7. Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement
8. Newspaper Articles
9. Yolo Flyway
10. Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer



YOLO BASIN WILDLIFE AREA
REGIONAL MAP

1-000448



Attachment 2

I - 000449

I-000449

**Yolo Basin Foundation
Board of Directors, July 1997**

The following is a listing of the board of directors with a brief description of their professional affiliations:

- John Anderson** University of California, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (retired)
Yolo Co. Resource Conservation District, associate director
Founding member Calif. Native Grass Association
Owner, Hedgerow Farms,
Farmer actively involved in native habitat restoration and
commercial production of native grass seed for restoration.
- Manny Carbahal** *Chief Financial Officer, YBF Executive Committee*

Certified Public Accountant, Carbahal & Co.
Yolo County Chamber of Commerce
City of Davis Chamber of Commerce
- Dennis Kilkenny** Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club
Loan officer, First Northern Bank of Dixon
- Robin Kulakow** *Secretary, YBF Executive Committee*
Executive Director
Masters of Administration, UC Davis
USDA, Forest Service, Soil Scientist
Putah Creek Council, treasurer
Cache Creek Conservancy board of directors
- Betsy Marchand** Yolo County Board of Supervisors (former)
American River Watershed Investigation, Executive
Committee
Yolo-Solano Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Governmental Affairs, Families First
- Frank MacBride** President, MacBride Realty Co., Sacramento
Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club
- Ken Noack Jr.** KVIE Public Television, President, Board of Directors
Land Broker, Bishop Hawk, Sacramento
- Susan Sanders** Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis
Consulting wildlife biologist (freelance)
Putah Creek Council, co-chair
Former president, Yolo Audubon Society

- Stephen Sheppard** *YBF Executive Committee*
Environmental Planner, EDAW (San Francisco)
Ph.D. in Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley
Wildlife artist
- Paul Simmons** *President, YBF Executive Committee*
Attorney at law, De Cuir and Somach, Sacramento
- Meg Stallard** Vice President, Woodland School Board
League of Women Voters
- Brian Sway** *Vice-president, YBF Executive Committee*
Energy Industry consultant
- Chris Unkel** California Nature Conservancy, Director, California
Wetlands Program
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Board of Directors
Former Coordinator California Wildlands Program, Department
of Fish and Game
- Lois Wolk** Mayor, City of Davis
Council liaison for water and wetlands
Member, Yolo County Water Resources Association

Former Board members:

- Ted Beedy** Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis
Consulting wildlife biologist-Jones & Stokes Associates
Author, Discovering Sierra Birds
Former president, Yolo Audubon Society
- Steve Chainey** Consulting Restoration Ecologist, Jones & Stokes
Associates
Putah Creek Council, Co-Chair
Cache Creek Conservancy Board of Directors
- Renee Fitzsimons** Public Outreach Coordinator, Stone Lakes National
Wildlife Refuge (former)
Master of Science, Environmental Communication, CSU,
Sacramento
Former chair, Sunrise Recreation & Park District Board
- John Ott** Principal, Sequoia Associates, Davis (land development)

Attachment 4
Table 1
Budgeted Cost Breakdown

Cost Breakdown

Yolo Bypass Ecosystem Restoration Plan

| Expenses | Year 1 |
|---|----------------|
| | 1997/98 |
| STAFF | |
| Executive Director 30hr/mo. | \$ 8,000 |
| Administrative Assistant 20 hr/mo | \$ 2,880 |
| Total Labor | \$ 10,880 |
| Service Contract: | |
| Jones & Stokes Associates | \$ 154,000 |
| Direct Costs: | |
| Operations & materials | \$ 2,000 |
| Operations + Labor | \$ 166,880 |
| Indirect Costs : | |
| Overhead at 10% | \$ 16,688 |
| Total Project Cost Requested from Calfed | \$ 183,568 |

Table 2 - Cost Breakdown Table

| Project Phase and Task | Direct Labor Hours | Direct Salary and Benefits | Overhead Labor (General, Admin and fee) | Service Contracts | Material and Acquisition Contracts | Miscellaneous and other Direct Costs | Total Cost |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Task 1 | | | | \$30,640 | | | |
| Task 2 | | | | \$12,700 | | | |
| Task 3 | | | | \$20,003 | | | |
| Task 4 | | | | \$13,457 | | | |
| Task 5 | | | | \$46,883 | | | |
| Task 6 | | | | \$18,263 | | | |
| Task 7 | | | | \$11,248 | | | |

Yolo Basin Foundation
References
July 1997

Elected Officials:

Congressman Vic Fazio
722-B Main
Woodland CA 95695
666-5521

Helen Thomson
Assemblywoman, Eighth District
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
445-8368

Betsy Marchand
Yolo County Board of Supervisors,
retired
926 Craig Place
Davis CA 95616
756-0521

Lois Wolk
Mayor
City of Davis
1209 Colby
Davis CA 95616
756-9655

Meg Stallard
Vice Chair
Woodland School Board
10 Toyon Drive
Woodland CA 95695
666-0154

Governmental Agencies:

Doug Wheeler
Secretary
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814
654-2753

Dave Paullin
Coordinator
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture
2233 Watt Ave, Suite 375
Sacramento CA 95825-0509
979-2085

Col. Dorothy K. Klasse
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento CA 95814
557-7490

Ryan Broddrick
Deputy Director
Department of Fish & Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814
653-0991

Tanis Toland
Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento CA 95814
557-6717

Craig Stowers
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Manager
Department of Fish & Game
45211 County Road 32B
Davis, CA 95616
757-2461

Non-profit Conservation Organizations:

Keith Rubin
Executive Director
California Waterfowl Association
4630 Northgate Boulevard, Suite 150
Sacramento CA 95834
648-1406

Ron Stromstad
Director of Operations
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
3074 Gold Canal Drive
Rancho Cordova CA 95670-6116
852-2000

Ann Brice
Executive Director
Cache Creek Conservancy
34490 County Road 25
Woodland CA 95695
661-1070

Yolo Basin Foundation

Page 2

University of California:

Joyce Gutstein
Assoc. Director
Public Service Research Program
UC Davis
Davis CA 95616
752-7823

Peter Moyle
Professor
University of California
Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology
Davis CA 95616
752-6355

Education:

Barbara Wells
Principal
Pioneer School
5215 Hamel Drive
Davis CA 95616
757-5480

Private Sector:

Fred Teichert
Executive Director
Teichert Foundation
P.O. Box 15002
Sacramento CA 95851-1002
484-3011, 484-3364

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

COMPANY NAME

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

OFFICIAL'S NAME

Robin J. Kulakow

DATE EXECUTED

7-15-97

EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF

Yolo

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE

Robin J. Kulakow

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE

Executive Director

PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.

Attachment 8

Newspaper Articles

Sacramento Bee

Davis Enterprise

Woodland Daily Democrat

West Sacramento Press

Wetland Link International News

OPINION

The Sacramento Bee

Locally owned and edited for 138 years

JAMES McCLATCHY, editor, 1857-1883

C.K. McCLATCHY, editor, president, 1883-1936

WALTER P. JONES, editor, 1936-1974

ELEANOR McCLATCHY, president 1936-1978

C.K. McCLATCHY, editor, 1974-1989

GREGORY FAVRE, executive editor

PETER SCHRAG, editorial page editor

FRANK R.J. WHITTAKER, president and general manager

Refuge in a flood channel

The groundbreaking ceremonies this morning for the creation of a \$16 million wildlife refuge in the Yolo Bypass flood channel west of Sacramento represents the culmination of seven years of effort by environmentalists and a wide range of federal, state and local officials. Nearly all agree that much of the credit for finally bringing these disparate interests together belongs to Robin Kulakow, executive director the Yolo Basin Foundation.

The big question for the future is whether this same spirit of cooperation can be preserved once the construction is finished and the birds move in.

The project envisions reconfiguring 3,400 acres of the flood channel with trees, brush and ponds that would provide an important new habitat along the Pacific Flyway. The work won't restore the area to its natural state but aims instead at creating a hybrid environment that would be more hospitable to wildlife yet still not interfere with the use of the bypass for flood protection.

The record of success for artificial wetlands projects of this kind is mixed; people just aren't as experienced yet as Mother Nature at building habitats. But state and federal flood control officials are satisfied they've come up with a design that won't interfere with current operation of the bypass. And state Fish and Game officials are confident they can construct all that additional marsh area in a way that will still keep the resulting mosquito population low enough so that there won't be any threat to public health.

The Corps of Engineers acknowledges, however, that its calculations only apply to the way the bypass is being run now, not to any changes that may be made in the years ahead. One of the options currently under consideration for enhancing flood protection for the Sacramento metropolitan area calls for passing much greater volumes of water into the bypass during extremely rainy periods. That would require major structural changes in the bypass itself. But the Army engineers haven't determined how those changes might conflict with the new habitat area — or if there'd be any conflict at all.

The question is important because much of the success of the habitat depends ultimately upon the good will of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency that has often received low marks as a cooperative partner. The feds signed a formal agreement in 1994 promising not to interfere with the state's initial plan for the habitat. But once endangered species settle there, or if changes have to be made for flood protection, that attitude could change. The Fish and Wildlife biologists made no promises for the future, and state officials argued in 1994 that they had no choice but to make a leap of faith that the wildlife agency would act in good faith as the project evolves.

The proponents of the wildlife refuge have had to overcome a lot of bureaucratic resistance to bring about today's celebration. But their responsibility won't end with the turning of a first spadeful of earth. There are still plenty of questions that won't have answers until the refuge goes into operation.

METRO

STATE

♦ ♦ Tuesday, August 15, 1995



Bee/Kim D. Johnson

A variety of birds, including egrets, black-crowned night herons and dunlins, gather in the Putah Creek Sinks area in the new Yolo Bypass

Wildlife Area. The 3,400-acre, \$16 million, federally funded wetlands restoration is the largest project of its kind under way in the West.

Flocking together for wildlife

Agencies cooperate with little squawking to restore Yolo wetlands

By Walt Wiley
Bee Staff Writer

Robin Kulakow seems a little breathless these days — as if she'd maybe just discovered a new law of physics or perhaps run a 4-minute mile.

In a way, what she has done is in that sort of league.

On Thursday, she will be on the speakers' platform along with such very big shots as Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt to make a few remarks upon the groundbreaking for the largest wetlands restoration project under way in the West.

That is the Yolo Basin Wetlands

Project, a 3,400-acre, \$16 million, federally funded U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project that will create the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which will be run by the state Department of Fish and Game.

Kulakow, as executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, was the person in the middle who kept each agency on track and the volunteers at work toward the goal of seeing the dream become a reality.

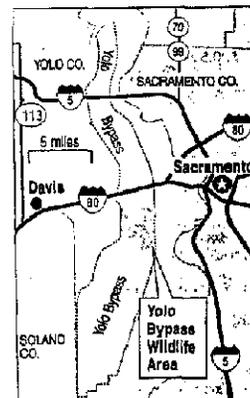
"And now it's going to happen. In a year it's all going to look just like that!" Kulakow crowed the other morning, gesturing toward a couple of acres of tiles and open water that were alive with shorebirds.

The object of her enthusiasm lay right at the foot of the west levee of the Yolo Bypass, atop which she was idling along in her van on a pre-groundbreaking tour.

The bypass, created as a channel for floodwater escaping the Sacramento Valley toward the Delta and the sea, has for all its existence been kept clear of anything that might impede the water.

Farmers could grow annual crops during dry weather, but come winter the passage of floodwater became the primary use.

Now, however, with the creation of



Bee graphic

Please see BYPASS, page B3

Bypass: Restoration a challenge

Continued from page B1
the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, there are going to be acres of tule-rimmed ponds, little stands of trees, undulations and high and low spots over the expanse of the earth — things that could impede the water.

"That's what's made this special. We've actually been able to do something new," said Kulakow as she stopped to survey some pink and yellow flags marking where trees (pink) and underbrush (yellow) are being planted in the new riparian woodland.

"Come fall, when the ducks, geese and other migrating waterfowl arrive, the area should be a hotbed of feathered activity, she predicted.

"And all right here so close to urban areas," she said, waving her arm to take in the horizon. "You can see the Capitol from here, Mount Diablo, the Sutter Buttes, the Sierra. And school kids from Davis and West Sacramento could ride their bikes out here.

"What a treasure this is going to be," she said, her dark eyes snapping with enthusiasm.

Kulakow, 38, a Bay Area native and former U.S. Forest Service scientist, said the Yolo Basin Foundation goes back to 1988, when it was formed amid concerns over a lack of water in Putah Creek.

Putah Creek forms Lake Berryessa behind Monticello Dam, then flows down out of the hills past Winters and Davis and into an area called the Putah Creek Sinks in the bypass.

"When we got to looking into that, we learned of the historical importance to wildlife — particularly migratory waterfowl — that that part of the bypass had," she said. "It even turned out that the state had studied it as a possible wildlife area."

The problem was that the state Department of Water Resources did not permit obstructions in its flood control structures. And the Yolo Bypass is nothing if it is not a flood control structure.

Another problem was that modifying a flood control structure built by the U.S. Army Corps of



Bee/Kim D. Johnson

Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, was the person responsible for keeping several agencies on track in turning the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area into a reality.

Engineers requires the corps' approval.

Also, the land in the bypass is privately owned. The state owns only the right to send floodwater over it. Land for a wildlife area would have to be purchased.

Yolo County Supervisor Betsy Marchand, in whose district the project lies, recalled that she was skeptical when she heard the first glimmers of plans because she knows how bitter turf battles can get.

"But I was an early convert. I could see the energy and intelligence that was going into this," she said.

Now Marchand is a director of the foundation, and she will be the master of ceremonies at Thursday's groundbreaking.

Gail Burnham, an engineer for the Corps of Engineers, said nothing anywhere in the annals of the corps is remotely similar to the Yolo wetlands project.

"Of course, now it's starting to spawn sons of the Yolo project all over the place. The idea's catching on," said Burnham.

The project is unusual, she said, because it amounts to taking something that had been developed and modifying it so that it is less developed. "That's unique for anybody," she said.

And the restoration poses special challenges, added Paul Hofmann, the state Department of Fish and Game biologist involved in the design and development of the wildlife area.

"We had to be careful to do this

right. We weren't restoring a system to pre-Columbian conditions," he said. Rather, they were creating a system that would do the job today that the old system did in its time.

"There is a difference," he said. "For instance, that old system involved heavy floods every spring. Well, we're just not going to have that today. And there are all the other considerations — the levees, mosquito abatement."

It all has come together now, and while the 3,400-acre wildlife area will be one of the smaller ones in the state's system, its location means that it will be one of the most important, said Hofmann.

He, Marchand, Burnham and others agreed that the new wildlife area would not have come to be without Kulakow and the foundation to pull together all the various public and private interests.

Principal interests, in addition to Fish and Game, the corps and Department of Water Resources, include Ducks Unlimited, the private, nonprofit organization that designs and builds waterfowl habitat, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency in charge of migratory waterfowl.

"And we try to be friends with our neighbors, let them know we're not here to make trouble for anyone," Kulakow said.

"After all, it's good friends that made this all happen."



Robin Kulakow of the Yolo Basin Foundation said she found government workers who liked the refuge idea but none to champion it.

See Bryan Patrick

3,000-acre wildlife refuge designated in Yolo Bypass

By Jim Mayer
See Staff Writer

In winters to come, when the rejuvenated swamps are full of geese from Alaska and cranes from Siberia, the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area will be remembered as the preserve almost done in by the Endangered Species Act.

Three thousand acres between Davis and West Sacramento on Monday were officially designated as the Yolo refuge, which will re-create some of the vast marsh that once defined the lower Sacramento Valley and the swarms of creatures that feasted among the reeds.

But the Yolo project stands out from other efforts to reverse the diking and draining that has left just 5 percent of the Central Valley's marshes in existence — and a growing list of marsh-dependent species arm-wrestling with extinction.

The first notable accomplishment was convincing flood-control engineers, people responsible for much of the swamp busting, to even allow a wetland inside the flood bypass between West Sacramento and Davis.

The second, and even greater, landmark was

the deal signed Monday that supporters say proves the Endangered Species Act can be flexible.

"Too often in the environmental arena we are concerned about what we can lose," observed Lt. Col. Mike Stuhr, deputy district director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento. "We need to look at what we can gain."

Stuhr was among the dignitaries chased off a levee by rain and into a Port of Sacramento meeting room for the official signing and proclamations ending years of difficult negotiations.

"It's probably a great day to be a duck," Stuhr said, speaking of the weather, not the promised marsh.

Universally, the dignitaries gave credit to environmental advocates with the Yolo Basin Foundation for ensuring the vision to restore the bypass was not blinded by the sometimes limited vision of government agencies.

"It is not possible for this kind of project to go forward . . . unless committed citizens hold our feet to the fire," said state Resources Secretary Douglas Wheeler.

Please see WETLANDS, page D4



Project supporters hope endangered species are lured to the refuge. They agree to accept any habitat damage done by maintenance.

♦ ♦ The Sacramento Bee Plus ♦ Tuesday, April 26, 1984

Wetlands: Plan inspired during Putah Creek fight

Continued from page B1

Robin Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, said she found government employees who liked the idea but no one who would champion it.

"There has to be someone outside of government with the freedom to talk with everyone," she said. "I could listen to everyone's story and see where we agree and disagree and then propose solutions. I was free to ask for help."

Yolo environmentalists dreamed up the project during the drought as they tried to save Putah Creek.

The small stream once roiled out of the Coast Range and dumped into the swampy lowlands that in wet seasons were filled by the overflowing Sacramento River.

The creek is now blocked by Manticeilo Dam, which forms Lake Berryessa. And the creek's terminus is now the bypass, the engineered relief valve that channels water around urban Sacramento.

Steve Chainey, also with the foundation, said the hard part wasn't coming up with the \$12 million to buy and build the wetlands on 3,000 acres of land.

The difficulty came when the dream collided with the history of stalemate between flood-control and wildlife agencies over maintaining existing levees in ways not harmful to endangered species.

Flood-control engineers were

concerned that the refuge would attract protected species, and that would hamper maintenance in the bypass.

Project supporters do hope that endangered species are lured to the refuge — restoring habitat is a key strategy in reviving those species. But wildlife agents said they would accept any habitat damage done by maintenance because it would be under those conditions that creatures find the new marsh.

The agreement signed Monday goes that far.

Flood-control engineers also wanted to be promised that future maintenance operations would not be affected because of any new species added to the list.

"You don't have to back up many years to when we had two or three endangered species in this area," said Roy Baruch, executive director of the state Reclamation Board, which is charged with levee maintenance. "Now we have four or five. In a few years, we might have 15 that makes this agreement look pretty soft."

But wildlife agents said they couldn't make such a promise. And after months of debate everyone finally agreed to a leap of faith.

"We really felt they were going as far as they could go," Baruch said. "But if you look at the big picture this is an attempt to retrieve something that was here to begin with."

olo: Working together

Continued from page B1
Yolo Environmental Resources, the Yolo Basin Foundation and the Yolo Land Trust.

Typical politicians have been used. Just conservation can be addressed without going all development or all-landowners. It was a matter of getting people together and cooperating to preserve and enhance natural resources," said Yolo advisor Betty Marchand. Coalition, she said, is hard work. "Your concerns must be recognized. Every obstacle must be laid through."

He don't have enough money in this county to be fighting and carrying on," she said. "We try to use resources to get settling done. Resources are always relative. Even Chaimy agrees. It is not simple. "This is not an area where people come to live among agricultural landscapes," he said. "That really previously encouraged Yolo conservationists to exert their activism. Today it spots the current agenda. Preserving Yolo's groundwater is as important as saving oak trees. Today fields are 'open space.'"

And increasingly, Yolo is finding inspiration in what once was Putah and Cache creeks are mined and diverted. But they can tumbled freely out of the west flange and flooded the Yolo sin, now the engineers bypass to broad swamp that apparently meet the county's name - Yolo, the historians say, is the Indian word for tale - was long ago captured by the U.S. Army into a side storm drain to save Sacramento from its namesake river.

Today the top Yolo goal is to change the floodway and farming in a way also conducive to wildlife. After four hard years, the Yolo Basin Foundation now projects it is only a year away from "stealing ground" on a 3,100-acre storion project where Putah and Cache flow into the bypass. Having down cooperation, congressional are harvesting hope. This year, some basin growers podded their land, and thousands of stink swan, geese and white egrets are wintering there.

Why Yolo? The university is a center of science and education and contrary. Environmentalism has always been politic in Davis, where the Sierra Club boasts its highest per capita membership. The agricultural tradition is still dominant here - by nature, a preserving force. And the county is small enough for personal relationships between the major players. A coalition of local officials usually stand by commitments to control urban development. And in congressman, Rep. Vic Fazio, West Sacramento, has delivered federal money for technical studies.

But these factors have long been present. What's changed, observers say, is the emergence of a few personalities who have inspired activists and soothed anxieties, who have blended scientific understanding and diplomacy.

Chaimy, for example, works for Jones and Stokes Associates, a Sacramento firm that has booming preparing environmental studies required for major developments and government projects.

He mastered those skills at Putah Creek, and learned still more.

It's important to have a sustained effort, "not just a flake," he said. Set sights on realistic accomplishments. Respect diverse interests and be patient with adversaries. Don't pack tight.

"If you can't have fun and enjoy yourself, your energy is going to dry up and blow away," he said. "It's hard to sustain when you are just being angry."

For them and his wife Susan Sanders, both hold doctorates in

biology from Davis. Beady also works at Jones and Stokes. Sanders, who was deep in Putah Creek, is mothering their two children full-time. Beady remembers the night in their Worldland home when Supervisor Marchand arrived as an emergency visitor late one ally. He remembers years before telling his then-girlfriend - convincingly - that it wasn't enough to understand biology.

"As biologists," Sanders said, "you can't help but care about what you study. Just so much has been lost you feel compelled to save what's left."

Robin Kulakow also was baptized in Putah Creek. A former Forest Service soils scientist, Kulakow discovered that restoring the creek was a social fight as much as a scientific one. She now is executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, whose vision is to make wildlife welcome in the bypass, beginning with where Putah Creek flows into the basin.

"What got me excited was when I realized tonight swans came from the north to spend the winter in Yolo County," Kulakow said. "It makes that an important place that should be taken care of."

Bob Schneider, now conservation chair of the local Sierra Club chapter, co-founded the California Wilderness Coalition in his younger years, then became a builder. Schneider is working with Yolo farmers to map the best soils and encourage their preservation. "It became obvious to me that we developers, no matter how much we cared, would pave over Yolo County," he said.

It is a partnership born of necessity, said grower Richard Rominger, whose family has stewarded Yolo land for 120 years. The 1980s real estate boom pushed eastward on Interstate 80 from the Bus Area and spilled westward over the Sacramento River.

"There was an increasing awareness of the limits of our resources, more concern about what it will look like in the future," said Rominger, director of the state Department of Pests and Agriculture during the 1970s. "There have been people at work to find where we have common ground," he said, "rather than emphasize the differences."

Yolo finds that cooperation aids environment

By Jim Mayer
San Francisco Writer

The people in Davis have a long history of caring about the environment, someplace else. They want to save Mono Lake and Brazilian rain forests.

And so it struck Steve Chaimy as wrong that Putah Creek, which flows smack-dab through the University of California, was being ignored. "People need to respect and inter-

act with the environment they are most in contact with," said Chaimy, a Davis alumna, a landscape architect and chairman of the Putah Creek Council.

Chaimy and others set out in the mid-1980s to increase appreciation for the creek and plant a few trees. Then drought set in. Concrete became a crisis. And to save the creek from slow death, the council fought to get water released from Monticello Dam at Lake Berryessa.

"We were propelled into the political arena big time," Chaimy said. Lawsuits, Congressional Emergency legislation. After all, this was water. Although fish have died and crops have withered, the creek's shibes.

The skirmish at Putah Creek was the Lexington and Concord for a conservation revolution in Yolo County. It is one that favors compromise over confrontation, education over rhetoric, realism over idealism.

Instead of putting out fires, we are

trying to create something new," said Susan Sanders, co-chairwoman of the Putah Creek Council.

The Sierra Club is working with the county farm bureau to preserve agriculture on the best soils. Conservationists have growers, wildlife biologists and flood control engineers all seeking to restore habitat in the Yolo Bypass.

The last five years has given rise to

Please see YOLO, page B1

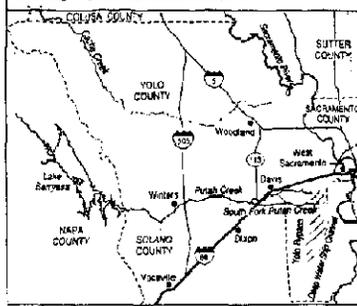


With the city of Sacramento in the background, black-crowned night herons roost in willow trees on the Conway Ranch in the Yolo basin.

B-1 The Sacramento Bee Ring • Thursday, February 9, 1989 •

Conserving close to home

Yolo County environmentalists say fighting for Putah Creek taught them the value of realistic compromise.





Karen Langer/The Daily Democrat

Boyd Gibbons, left, director of the state Department of Fish and Game, and David Kennedy, director of the state Department of Water Resources sign documents Monday officially designating the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area.

3,500-acre Yolo Basin Wildlife Area dedicated

Environmental protection reached a milestone Monday with the official designation of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area.

County Supervisor Betsy Marchand said establishment of the wetlands is the culmination of a great deal of work.

"It shows that agencies can work together for a common project," she said this morning. The Yolo Basin Wildlife Area "will be here for future generations."

Marchand, who has been a proponent of the project for years, said she considers it "probably the most exciting thing I have been involved with since I have been on the Board of Supervisors."

Local and federal officials gathered on a levee overlooking the 3,500 acres of the project located between Davis and West Sacramento but were forced by Monday's rain inside to a meeting room to sign documents that will re-establish about 2,500 acres of seasonal and permanent wetlands.

The restoration project will restore 77 percent of the seasonal wetlands, 6 percent of the perennial wetlands, 16 percent of the uplands and grasslands and 1 percent of the riparian forest in the area.

The Army Corps of Engineers will design and construct canals, water-control structures, dikes, roads and gates to create and

See WILDLIFE, back page

Wildlife

Continued from Page 1

maintain the wetlands areas.

Spearheaded by the Yolo Basin Foundation, the project upon completion will be managed by the state Department of Fish and Game.

The project is scheduled to begin this summer.

The agreements signed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the DFG, the state Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service end an impasse

between environmental wildlife groups and flood-control agencies.

Those agencies, charged with maintaining the levee system in the Yolo Bypass, have resisted efforts by wildlife groups to designate the area a refuge which would protect endangered species that use the refuge for habitat.

The agreements stipulate that the wildlife groups would allow levee maintenance to continue, even if some habitat damage results.

The Davis Enterprise

FRIDAY

August 18, 1995 Vol. 99, No. 195 Copyright 1995 The Davis Enterprise, Davis, Calif

Officials gather to dedicate Yolo Bypass wetlands project

◆ Robin Kulakow and other agency representatives attend groundbreaking Thursday

By MELANIE TURNER
Enterprise staff writer

Under a big blue sky on a warm August morning, Robin Kulakow of Davis stood in a place she is most familiar with — a wide-open, flat stretch of land called the Yolo Bypass.

But this time she stood in front of some tules on a little stage she shared with such distinguished guests as U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento.

Just six years ago, Kulakow, 38, had never given a speech in her life. On Thursday, she spoke before more than 200 people who gathered in the bypass to celebrate the creation of a 3,400-acre, \$18 million wildlife refuge — the biggest

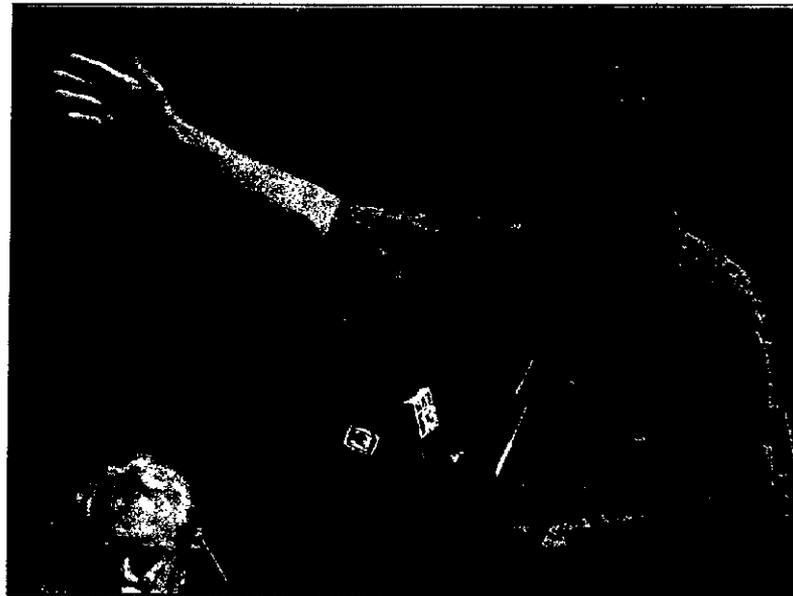
wetlands restoration project west of Florida, according to Col. John Reese, engineer for the Sacramento Division of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Kulakow spoke of a dream come true.

"Well, we did it," she said. "All the necessary environmental documents are filed ... hydraulic models have been verified ... funds exchanged between agencies. I didn't have any idea what an education this was going to be."

As executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, Kulakow has acted as a volunteer coordinator between the many agencies — federal, state and local — that helped make the project a reality.

A former Forest Service soils scientist, Kulakow is known by friends for her ability to hold a baby in one hand, cook with the other and all the while talk on the telephone to government officials.



Mark Bullard/The Enterprise

U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony Thursday for the Yolo Basin Wetlands and Wildlife Refuge in the Yolo Bypass.

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WETLANDS

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"If there ever was a contest for who knows the most government phone numbers by heart, I'd probably be a finalist," she said.

It is Kulakow's hope that the Yolo Basin Wetlands Project will serve not only as a wildlife sanctuary, but an observatory for school children. The foundation's primary goal is education.

When completed next year, the project will include a wildlife sanctuary as well as areas with public access, where people can go to observe sandhill cranes and snow geese.

It will include mostly seasonal wetland (77 percent), with some permanent wetland (6 percent), grassland (16 percent) and riparian woodland (1 percent).

"Why did we do this?" she asked. "We worked to create the wildlife area for our children. This place is for David, Leah, Sarah, Joey, Katrina, Charlie," she said, listing the names of several children, including her own, and those whose parents were on the project board.

As she listed the names, she was near tears.

"Go for it, Robin," Supervisor Betsy Marchand said from their seat near the podium. Marchand is a member of the foundation's board of directors and has supported the project from the start.

"I hope that they will chase dragonflies, learn about insects, search for otters, listen for bitterns and count geese," Kulakow continued, smiling. "I hope this place will give them the opportunity to grow up to appreciate the place in which they live."

"It's such a great occasion at the end of such a long and productive struggle," said Fazio, who was instrumental in securing federal funds for the project. "We are once again in this community taking the lead."

Michael Spear, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Pacific Region, told the crowd this is only the beginning.

"We envision 10,000 acres here," he said. Spear presented Kulakow and the Yolo Basin Foundation with the National Wetlands Conservation Award.

In late 1991, the state Wildlife Conservation Board bought most of the property on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game from PG&E Properties for \$4.57 million. When construction is completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited, oversight of the area will be transferred to Fish and Game.

Ducks Unlimited is working

under a contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funding from the corps to design and build the wetlands.

Secretary of the Interior Babbitt spoke of the similarities between the largest restoration project in the Florida Everglades system and the second largest here in the Yolo Bypass. They each include "a concept of partnership, a quality of imagination and the important American ingredient of individuals."

He said a woman with a vision drove each project to fruition.

"Agriculture, wildlife and a dynamic urban area can work together, not exclusively," said Babbitt. "And I believe that message has to be spread across the entire country."

"The corps, for 100 years, successfully drained every swamp in the United States of America," he added, evoking laughter. "And now we're calling on them to put them back together."

Brig. Gen. Bruce Scott, commander of the South Pacific Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, said he hopes the project will serve as a role model for others across the nation.

"What a great day to be a soldier. What a great day to be an engineer," he said.

"What a spectacular day to celebrate the culmination of what many have called a unique partnership," added Col. Reese. "This is but the first in a series of steps on our way to restoring California's natural heritage."

The project uses canals and water control structures designed and constructed by the corps in an attempt to most closely simulate conditions of the bypass more than 100 years ago, while not obstructing the floodway.

Its creators hope it will eventually serve as an important link—a rest stop for migrant birds—along the Pacific Flyway.

Wetlands restoration an environmental success

By MELANIE TURNER
Enterprise staff writer

Then: It was August of 1993 when a crowd of some 200 people celebrated the latest wetland restoration project west of Florida.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt was a special guest that day, helping to mark the beginning of restoration work in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

Yolo Basin Foundation Executive Director Robin Kulakow and Steve Chisney, chairman of the Patch Creek Council, dreamed years ago of erecting what once was part of a huge wetland basin. Around 1989, the area was developed into a facility for diverting Sacramento River effluents away from the city and into the Delta.

Then & Now

Kulakow and Chisney formed a small working group with the council and the Yolo Audubon Society and numerous people soon joined them.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to "inspiring and educating people about wetlands and wildlife. It formed in 1988 to promote the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

Now: Today, the nearly 3,700-acre wildlife area is near completion and on track to open to the public by this fall.

"We're very excited," Kulakow said. "We finally got to do



Todd Hammond/The Enterprise

UC Davis student Brett Conyers surveys a site adjacent to the new Fish and Game headquarters for a mini-wetlands project.

our educational programs."

Also, the state Department of Fish and Game is in the process of moving into its new headquarters along Chiles Road. Fish and Game is charged with managing the wildlife area, as well as oper-

ating the hunting program, according to Craig Stowers, wildlife area manager.

The public will have access to certain portions, while other ar-

See WETLANDS, Page A-2



Todd Hammond/The Enterprise

Craig Stowers, area manager for the state Department of Fish and Game, chats with Robin Kulakow of the Yolo Basin Foundation and her daughter, Leah Julian.

WETLANDS

Continued from Page A-1

will be closed and designated wildlife sanctuaries. Duck hunting will occur on other portions during hunting season.

Greens from Biscraft Builders of Sacramento, under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, constructed Fish and Game's 14-acre operation and maintenance facility. It consists of a headquarters with office space, conference room, and a covered porch for launching field trips.

The foundation will have an office at the site for volunteer programs. Volunteers hope to man the new facility in about two weeks, Kulakow said.

There also is a large maintenance shed in the care of the property for work space and storage of equipment needed to maintain the wildlife area. And a residence was constructed for an on-site Fish and Game staff person.

Yolo Basin Foundation tours wrapped up on a Sunday and will begin again in the fall. But the foundation's work won't slow down this summer, as it opens up for the public opening.

First, the foundation announced a new program, "Discover the Wetland," to introduce school teachers and students to the bypass as a learning resource. The program will provide teachers with activities they can use in the classroom to weave wetland lessons throughout an integrated curriculum.

After a one-day workshop, teachers will be invited to take students out for an outdoor classroom experience.

Kulakow hopes to hold workshops for all teachers. Two work shops are scheduled for Aug. 19 and 20. The program is sponsored by the foundation in cooperation

with Fish and Game and the Corps.

Teachers are encouraged to call program coordinator Kimberly at 759-1288 for more information.

Later this summer, the foundation trains volunteers to assist teachers on the school tours. Flyway volunteer assistants will be an important part of the school program, Kulakow said. A training will be held for two weeks of September. Call Merry to request an application packet.

The foundation also will help construct a one-quarter to one-half-acre demonstration wetlands outside the new Fish and Game headquarters. Right now, engineering design work is under way by volunteers Andy Bohn and Bob Smith with Larry Walker, local area consulting engineer, according to Stowers.

For many years, we had hoped to have a demonstration wetlands on the Fish and Game site," Kulakow said. "Money from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers" fell through.

The foundation successfully secured grant money and with the help of a variety of agencies the project will come to fruition.

The demonstration project is funded through grants from the California Waterfowl Association and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The pond design is based on conceptual plans developed by the Corps.

Grading and installation of water control structures will be done by Fish and Game. Hedgerow Farms has donated native grass plugs, and other help will come from individuals with UC Davis and Ducks Unlimited.

"It's sad that obviously a lot of people have bough into," Kulakow said.

As a right now Davis Community Network is sponsoring the Yolo Basin Foundation to help it develop a Web site, Kulakow added.

"That'll be a good way to con-

tainants with volunteers and get information out to the public," she said.

It was nearly two years ago that a sign was erected along Interstate 80 relaying news of the restoration project to passing motorists. Signs in the bypass began to be sculpted into shallow ponds ranging in size from 5 to 50 acres.

A small riparian forest was planted in the project's western section at that time, too. The eight-acre forest is now thriving, according to Kulakow. Some of the trees have put on seven feet of growth.

Contractors under the supervision of Ducks Unlimited have now completed the earth moving work necessary to create the thousands of acres of seasonal and permanent ponds that make up the wildlife area.

Last October, seasonal wetlands were seeded with swamp timothy, a highly nutritious waterfowl food plant. In November, uplands were seeded with native perennial grasses.

Work remaining includes the installation of the remaining water control structures, grassland seeding and planting of riparian areas north of the causeway. This work is expected to begin in June.

The area will serve as a vital link along the Pacific Flyway, used annually by thousands of migratory birds.

While construction is completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited, oversight of the area will be transferred to Fish and Game.

May 19 1997

OPINION

Editorial

Wetland refuge benefits county

At long last the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area has been achieved.

It almost didn't happen because different agencies just couldn't come together. But because some people were very persistent there is now a refuge for wildlife on 3,000 acres between Davis and West Sacramento, which will re-create a vast wetland, reversing — if only a little — the effort to dike and drain the Central Valley marshes.

County Supervisor Betsy Marchand said the wildlife area is a culmination of a great deal of work and "shows that agencies can work together for a common project.

Marchand, who has been a proponent of the project for years, said she considers it "probably the most exciting thing I have been involved with since I have been on the Board of Supervisors."

We can credit the Yolo Basin Foundation and people like Robin Kulakow with having the vision to pursue the wetlands area. Kulakow is executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, and was quite correct when she said that people outside of government often have to talk to everyone, look for agreements and disagreements, and build from there. Too often, petty turf wars between state, federal and local agencies keep sensible things from being done.

To bring about the wetlands area the foundation first had to come up with \$12 million to buy and build the refuge. That wasn't tough. The hard part was working with flood-control and wildlife agencies over levee upkeep that wouldn't be harmful to endangered species. Flood control people were worried that if protected species were drawn to the refuge they couldn't perform needed levee maintenance. But wildlife managers said they could live with such problems because protected species in the long run would have a place to go. In the long run, however, we have a case where people have worked together to retrieve something that was originally here to being with. Cooperation toward a specific goal is never in vain. And cooperation to protect endangered species is a valiant goal.

the
West Sacramento
PRESS

Opinion

What, we agree?

Interestingly enough, the recently dedicated State Wildlife Area in the Yolo Bypass at the Putah Creek Sinks received no opposition.

How can this be? We're Californians and nothing gets approval without a fight.

It must be because the project has such high ideals. Or, maybe it's because no one was looking and they slipped something good by us before we realized it. At any rate, the project will become a reality and nobody is kicking.

Another odd, but wonderful angle in the development of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area is the involvement of the US Army Corps of Engineers. As we recall, they are the people who constructed the levees, saving us from floods, enabling vast areas of land to be developed, and helping us manage our water.

While accomplishing these necessary achievements, in the name of progress, we lost sight of some fragile balances in nature. It's encouraging to see the possibility of the pendulum of habitat destruction beginning to swing back to more comfortable levels.

Hopefully, West Sacramentans will realize what they have right in their backyard. It's an opportunity to watch the restoration efforts unfold. The Yolo Basin Foundation needs your generous assistance to continue its work in educating the public about the value of preserving our native wildlife and to create a place of beauty for generations to come. To join, call them at 756-7248 or write Yolo Basin Foundation, P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA 95617.



Bruce Babbitt, US Secretary of the Interior, addresses the crowd of supporters gathered to celebrate the start of habitat restoration at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, August 1995.

YOLO: From dream to reality

An exciting project to restore historic wetlands between Sacramento and San Francisco, USA, was reported in the last issue of *WLI News* (page 7). The community effort behind the establishment of the 'Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area', as the project is known, is a strong example of how a diverse network of organisations in the private, non-profit and public sectors can work together for a common goal, with shared benefits, and is worthy of closer scrutiny.

The loss of more than 95% of California's Central Valley wetlands (on the Pacific Flyway) to agriculture and

urban development since the 1850s provided the impetus to develop a concept for restoration in the Yolo Basin area. The idea originated with two established community organisations.

From this, the Yolo Basin Working Group grew; an ad hoc association of officers and elected representatives from federal- and state-level government conservation, water, fish, game, public works and transportation departments; the regional mosquito and vector control agency; and a number of non-governmental wildlife, farm and wilderness organisations. A consistent core of the group, including the Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF), met monthly to report new information and discuss plans.

The US Army Corps (the Corps) was involved from the beginning, and provided funding to the US non-governmental organisation Ducks Unlimited to restore wetland habitat in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The area will eventually be managed by the state government's Fish and Game

Department for hunting, as a sanctuary, and for wildlife viewing. Educational programmes will be provided by the YBF.

The YBF has developed and maintained the vital roles of representing the diverse community-based support (itself so important in attracting funding for all aspects of the work) and acting as communicator and co-ordinator between organisations.

Today, after seven years of meeting and planning, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is becoming a physical reality. The final plans have been completed through a collaboration between engineers and biologists from Ducks Unlimited, the Corps and the California Fish and Game Department. Ducks Unlimited is managing the on-site work, drawing on its experience of wetland restoration from all over North America, and teaming up with the Corps for the first time. In August 1995 landscaping, habitat creation and planting began. Completion of the 1 400 hectare habitat re-creation project is planned for autumn 1996.

A feasibility study for a visitor centre has been completed. But we are not awaiting completion of our Centre before we begin educational work. This is already operational, targeting interested people at this stage, through printed materials, field trips and other regular wetland events. In fact, education began as soon as people began discussing the concept on Day 1! Future plans will put school outreach as our priority, and will include a training programme for volunteer field guides.

Continued on page two

I differently understood around the world. I would like to help clarify this, particularly at a time when Wetlands International, with a logo a little similar to the original WLI logo, has recently been announced.

Wetland Link International (WLI) is a programme of The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), a UK charity dedicated to saving wetlands for wildlife and people. Wetlands International is a different UK charity, formed by the integration in 1995 of the International Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), the Asian Wetland Bureau (AWB) and Wetlands for the Americas. There is a link between the two: the Director of Education and Public Affairs for WWT, Mr Doug Hulyer, is ex officio Director of WLI, and he is also the Co-ordinator of Wetlands International's Specialist Group on Education and Public Awareness, of which WLI is a member.

Co-ordinator's Corner

Henceforth, the WWT Wetland Link International programme should be referred to as WWT Wetland Link International, or WWT-WLI, to help clarify its position. I would like to request that this format is consistently adopted. Thank you.



One of the most difficult types of request received by the WWT-WLI office is for help with the very early stages of a Centre development proposal, specifically the formulation of outline functional and design concepts. We wish to relay

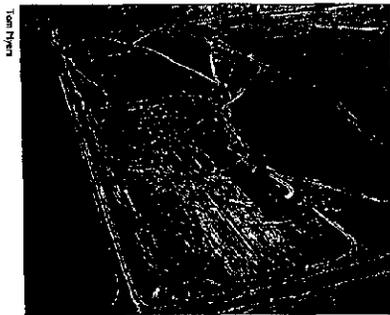
the publication of self-help guidelines and case studies (which we plan to undertake in the future), our usual approach is to share whatever relevant documentation we have. This may include existing outline concept papers, floor plans, strategic plans, architects' briefs and successful proposals, for example, from a range of Centres around the world.

Who has such documents to share? Ideally, we would like to hold more in the WWT-WLI office, for more effective use in the future. Usually such documents are rarely referred to once a Centre is operational, yet they can be invaluable tools for others going through the initial phases of Centre development. Please could you let me know if you have such documents, and if copies can be made available for the use of others, through the WWT-WLI office? Thank you for any help you can give.

YOLO: From dream to reality

Continued from page one

So how does the YBF, a pivotal, community-based organisation, work and how have seven years of planning and development been funded?



Aerial view of earth-movers excavating ponds for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, October 1995.

The YBF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to education and inspiring people about wetlands and other Central Valley wildlife habitats. We have a board of 17 members drawn from the range of interested parties, including local

government, schools, business, academia, law, environmental education, banking, (duck) hunting; and myself, the only salaried board member, as executive director. There are two part-time YBF employees, and a core group of about 30 dedicated volunteers.

Funds have come from membership of the YBF, annual fundraising events, the sale of Yolo-marked goods such as a set of field duck identification charts, and occasional non-government grants such as the one that funded the Centre feasibility study.

Remember: some dreams do come true. A collective vision is worth pursuing, but you must be tenacious. We are not finished yet!

From our experiences over the past seven years I would like to offer the following, in an effort to help others in the future:

1. Have a clear mission and do not be diverted from it.
2. Define the project clearly and unambiguously.
3. Gain a thorough understanding of the project area: its history; ownership;

political jurisdictions; flood history; the local communities and their interests, hopes and concerns; water, wildlife and soils.

4. Base all plans on good science; fund studies to fill any gaps in understanding.
5. Involve everyone in discussions, keep them informed and respect their concerns.
6. Solicit and achieve local government support early on, and higher-level government support if possible.
7. Appoint a co-ordinator to serve as a facilitator, communicator and spokesperson, who has the responsibility to ensure that follow-up is completed.
8. Never assume that things are happening: always make sure.
9. Do not be afraid to be creative and innovative.
10. Actively recognise everyone's contributions.

Robin Kulakow
Executive Director
Yolo Basin Foundation
PO Box 943, Davis, CA 95617, USA

Attachment 9

Yolo Flyway Newsletter

Attachment 10

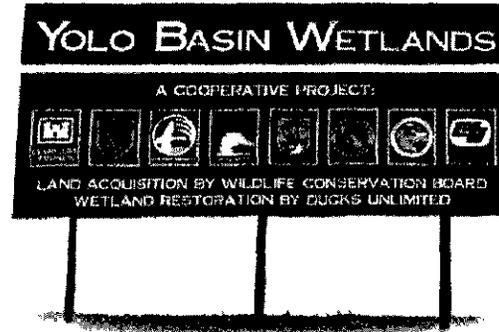
Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer



When you drive on Interstate 80 east toward the Yolo Causeway between Davis and Sacramento, you may observe the large sign identifying the Yolo Basin Wetlands. That sign with the logos of the many Yolo Basin partners marks the location of one of the nation's most exciting developments in nature conservation and public education. The Yolo Basin Wetlands, officially known as the Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area, is the largest public/private restoration project in the West. 3,500 acres of land in the Yolo Bypass floodway are under conversion to wetlands and other habitats.

Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation) was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Foundation is a non profit public benefit corporation dedicated to educating and inspiring people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley. The 16 member board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. It is universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnership that led to the creation of the Yolo Basin Wetlands project.

A principal goal of the Foundation is environmental education in the context of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Now that the restoration of the wildlife area is nearly complete, the Foundation is ready to move forward with its educational mission. We are gearing up to recruit and train a new cadre of volunteers who will serve as docents to provide opportunities for hundreds of students from throughout the region to experience the new wildlife area first hand. The new "Discover the Flyway, program for schools" is slated to begin in



Fall 1997. In addition, a committee is evaluating the planning steps necessary to build a visitor center.

Yolo Basin Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Wildlife Area. Educational programs under-way include: sponsoring the fourth annual California Duck Days - a three day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway to be held February 14,-16, 1997; publishing the Yolo Flyway newsletter; bringing wetlands education into the schools with our "Wild About Wetlands" kits; and, introducing people to the natural places in the community through field trips. This year we are offering tours of the wildlife area once a month in partnership with Yolo Audubon Society.

The establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the work of the Foundation has been widely regarded as a model for planning and completion of other wetland projects. The bypass is a key component of the habitat restoration planned as part of the Cal/Fed Bay Delta Accord process now underway, and is a vital element of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture's habitat restoration goals. The Foundation will be an important local player in implementing these many plans.