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

July 2, 1998

HAND DELIVERED

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

Re: CALFED Proposal; Yolo Bypass Ecosystem Restoration Strategy

Dear Ms. Hansel:

Enclosed are ten copies of a proposal in response to the 1998 Request for Proposals of the CALFED Bay-Delta program. Under this proposal, the Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation) would undertake a comprehensive planning process to develop an ecosystem restoration strategy for the Yolo Bypass.

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. Last fall, President Clinton dedicated the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The President applauded the collaborative effort that led to its creation, and pointed to it as a model for similar projects in the future.

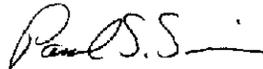
The development of an Ecosystem Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass, will build on our successes to further the objectives of CALFED. CALFED and many stakeholders have identified the Yolo Bypass as an important area for fish and other wildlife. The Foundation is familiar with the Bypass, its issues, and the people, agencies, and community groups that will have to be supportive in order to bring such improvements about. The

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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 work with Jones and Stokes Associates (JSA) for technical support. JSA has specific experience in the Bypass, including its preparation of the 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 proposal contains a great deal of detail, and we hope it is received favorably. 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

COVER SHEET (PAGE 1 of 2)

May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Proposal Title: Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass
 Applicant Name: Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.
 Mailing Address: PO Box 943 Davis CA 95617
 Telephone: (530) 756-7248
 Fax: (530) 758-1673

Amount of funding requested: \$ 292,013 for 1 years

Indicate the Topic for which you are applying (check only one box). Note that this is an important decision: see page ___ of the Proposal Solicitation Package for more information.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Passage Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Passage Improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain and Habitat Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Harvest | <input type="checkbox"/> Species Life History Studies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Planning/Implementation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Screen Evaluations - Alternatives and Biological Priorities | |

Indicate the geographic area of your proposal (check only one box):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento River Mainstem | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento Tributary: _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delta | <input type="checkbox"/> East Side Delta Tributary: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suisun Marsh and Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin Tributary: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Mainstem | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape (entire Bay-Delta watershed) | <input type="checkbox"/> North Bay: _____ |

Indicate the primary species which the proposal addresses (check no more than two boxes):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall-run chinook salmon | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring-run chinook salmon |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winter-run chinook salmon | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall-run chinook salmon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late-fall run chinook salmon | <input type="checkbox"/> Longfin smelt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta smelt | <input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead trout |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Splittail | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped bass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green sturgeon | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Migratory birds | |

COVER SHEET (PAGE 2 of 2)

May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-profit joint venture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local government/district | <input type="checkbox"/> Private party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Indicate the type of project (check only one box):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | |

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

- (1) the truthfulness of all representations in their proposal;
- (2) the individual signing the form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if applicant is an entity or organization); and
- (3) the person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the PSP (Section II.K) and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent as provided in the Section.

Robin A. Kulakow

(Signature of Applicant)

1. Executive Summary

a. **Project Title:** Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass
Applicant: Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

The Yolo Basin Foundation (the Foundation), an established organization of local stakeholders with strong ties to and interest in the Bypass, proposes along with other stakeholder partners to develop a local implementation strategy (Strategy) for CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERPP). The Strategy will portray how local stakeholders propose to implement a broad landscape level of restoration and rehabilitation for the Yolo Bypass within the framework of CALFED's Strategic Plan. Our experience in facilitation and unique knowledge of the biological and human resources in the Bypass will be used to develop a process for implementing ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation while applying the techniques of adaptive management. The Foundation would enlist the support of other "local" Bypass stakeholders in forming a Yolo Bypass Working Group and perform the role of a "watershed conservancy" to develop a strategy for environmental restoration and rehabilitation in the Bypass.

c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

The proposed project consists of the following major phases and tasks:

Phase 1 - Prepare Draft Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy: identify, contact, and facilitate interaction among stakeholders; develop an atlas of existing resource conditions in the Bypass; develop a preliminary GIS database of Bypass resources; hold meetings with various interest groups and agencies; conduct workshops and field trips; prepare a preliminary strategy document that outlines how restoration activities will be accomplished in the Bypass; collect and compile baseline information on Bypass resources, ecological processes, and functions; present information in a newsletter and web page; identify pilot projects; and compile a final report on Phase 1.

Phase 2 - Prepare Final Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy : conduct baseline surveys for resources for which there is a shortage or limitation of information available; conduct pilot projects; prepare final strategy; refine GIS database; prepare environmental documentation; obtain permits for projects; conduct other projects identified for immediate implementation.

Phase 3 - Implement projects.

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

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

To date there has been no organized planning or stakeholder driven effort to conduct a comprehensive watershed management or restoration plan for the entire Yolo Bypass. The Foundation has been the only organized stakeholder group in the area and is thus uniquely qualified to organize such an effort by building upon its earlier success in developing the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Bypass is especially important element of CALFED's ERPP given the Bypass's large area of important habitats and presence of many special status species.

e. Budget Costs

This proposal requests a grant of \$292,013 to implement Phase I.

f. Third Party Impacts

No third-party impacts are anticipated.

g. Applicant Qualifications

The Foundation is a community (and watershed) 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 that created the 3700-acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area recently dedicated by President Clinton. It continues as the communication link among the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the Wildlife Area as well as other habitat projects throughout the Yolo Basin (the area defined by CALFED as the Yolo Basin and North Delta Ecological Units). Yolo Basin Foundation staff have the skills, contacts, on-the-ground knowledge and community trust to build the larger, Yolo Bypass-wide stakeholder organization needed to successfully develop a watershed-based ecosystem restoration strategy.

h. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The Strategy will identify monitoring and data requirements. Information and monitoring plans will be coordinated with existing and planned studies, including the monitoring program of the Interagency Ecological Program (IEP). During Phase 1 we will develop a GIS database of the Bypass.

i. Local Support/Coordination with other programs/Compatibility with CALFED objectives

The Foundation is an established organization with a proven record of success in developing and implementing strategies for restoring habitat in the Yolo Basin. The Board of Directors represents a cross section of the many stakeholders with interests in the Bypass and that have worked together in the past to promote and accomplish habitat restoration. We know and have the trust of many of the local landowners. The regional community supports the Foundation's efforts as evidenced by our long list of members and supporters. The Foundation will ensure coordination with other programs for which it has established affiliations: the Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area; City of Davis Wetlands, private restoration activities under the aegis of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture; Conaway Ranch and numerous duck clubs; the proposed North Delta National Wildlife Refuge encompassing Liberty Island, Prospect Island and Little Holland Tract. These and other efforts of the Foundation are consistent with CALFED's objectives to restore the ecosystem health while maintaining water quality, water supply, and the integrity of the area's flood control system.

II. Title Page

- a. **Project Title:** Local Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass
- b. **Applicant:** Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.,
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617,
Phone: (530)756-7248, Fax: (530)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@yolobasin.org
- 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. **Participants/Collaborators in Implementation:**

Robin Kulakow, Project Management, Planning, and Facilitation
Executive Director, Yolo Basin Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA, 95617,
Phone: (530)756-7248, Fax: (530)758-1673,
e-mail: robin@yolobasin.org

David Ceppos, Project Management, Planning and Facilitation
Thomas Cannon, Technical Direction, Estuarine/Aquatic Ecology
Jones and Stokes Associates
2600 V Street
Sacramento, CA 95818-1914
Phone: (916)737-3000, Fax: (916)737-3030
e-mail: davec@jsanet.com/tomc@jsanet.com

Participating stakeholders (as of June 1998): City of Davis, Yolo County, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Cache Creek Conservancy, Putah Creek Council, The Reclamation Board of the State of California, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Refuges and Wildlife Division), State Department of Fish and Game, State Department of Water Resources, Dixon Resource Conservation District, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Yolo Resource Conservation District

III. Project Description

a. Project Description and Approach

The Yolo Basin Foundation (Foundation) proposes to develop a strategy to implement ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration actions outlined in the CALFED's ERPP for the Yolo Bypass (located within Yolo Basin and North Delta Ecological Units). Strategy development would involve stakeholders (landowners, State, federal, and local agencies, local watershed groups, and others) in designing and implementing consensus-based ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration measures for the Yolo Bypass (the Project). The Project will build upon strategies developed for previous watershed 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 Project will develop a Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy (Strategy) for the Bypass, a detailed local approach to designing and implementing the regional activities proposed in CALFED's ERPP. The Strategy would follow guidelines and priorities outlined by CALFED's Strategic Plan for implementation.

The Strategy will lead to successful design and implementation of prescriptions for enhancing habitats and reducing stresses of fish and wildlife, including several threatened and endangered species. Strategy development will focus on identifying how potential improvements in water conveyance through the Bypass can be accomplished; how sloughs, wetland, riparian, agricultural, and shaded riverine aquatic habitats can be improved; how barriers to fish migration can be reduced; how fish entrainment, fish stranding, and fish poaching can be reduced; how wildlife-friendly levee maintenance and agricultural practices can be accomplished; and what measures can be taken to limit the influx of contaminants to wetlands and waterways.

b. Proposed Scope of Work

The Foundation's current proposal is the initial planning and strategy development phase of a longer term watershed-based planning and implementation effort to enhance ecosystem health in the Yolo Bypass. It is a one-year proposal that implements Phase 1 of the larger Project.

Phase 1 - Initiate watershed planning and prepare draft Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy: identify, contact, and facilitate interaction among stakeholders, conduct workshops and field trips, prepare a preliminary watershed implementation strategy document; identify pilot projects; identify projects for immediate implementation that all stakeholders agree need quick implementation. The Foundation will establish a Yolo Bypass Working Group of Bypass stakeholders to provide guidance to the strategy development process and function as a "watershed conservancy" in developing a rehabilitation and restoration strategy and adaptive management framework for implementation. Phase 1 will be a one-year effort.

Phase 2 - Prepare Final Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy: conduct pilot projects; collect additional needed data; prepare final plan; conduct other projects identified for immediate implementation. Phase 2 will be a two-year effort.

Phase 3 - Implementation: Implement projects identified in final Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy. Phase 3 would be a multi-year effort.

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

Task 1 - An Environmental Atlas (the Atlas) summarizing readily available information on the Bypass will be prepared and made available to stakeholders and other interested parties. The format and presentation will be informative and non-technical. A standard ARC-INFO GIS mapping system will be employed to store and present data in a geographic context. Information

will be presented on the topography, hydrology, priority species and habitats, as well as other environmental resources, stressors, land use, and water supply system infrastructure. Information would be obtained from existing sources with limited ground truthing or new data collection. CALFED ecosystem-scale conceptual models will be evaluated as to how they apply to the Bypass.

Schedule: First quarter.

Deliverables: Existing Resources Report (Atlas) and ARC-INFO GIS database.

Budget/Costs: \$47,825

Task 2 - Organize Stakeholders The Foundation's Project Team will conduct outreach and 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. The stakeholder organization will be the Yolo Bypass Working Group. The Working Group will be a committee of the Foundation, taking advantage of the Foundation's facilities and organizational capabilities. All potential stakeholders will be offered an opportunity to participate.

Schedule: Second Quarter.

Deliverables: Commitments of participation (MOU's and letters)

Budget/Costs: \$31,280

Task 3 - Conduct stakeholder interviews and workshops to solicit strategies, issues of concern, constraints, and technical information to identify problems and potential solutions. The process will follow general guidelines of CALFED's Strategic Plan, and would include workshops with CALFED staff, agencies, stakeholders, and other interested parties to provide guidance and direction to the Strategy development process. Workshops will be held to resolve outstanding issues, to prioritize restoration needs, to provide a scientific framework for the Strategy, and to identify, evaluate, and select actions for ecosystem restoration. Workshops will be held to identify how prescribed actions will be designed, funded, permitted, managed, and implemented. The Project Team and selected stakeholders will also participate in CALFED program workshops to guide and support local stakeholder groups in developing implementation strategies. The Project Team will also interact with CALFED, IEP, and CVPIA technical advisory teams, and promote the establishment of an agency technical advisory team for the Bypass watershed.

Schedule: all four quarters.

Deliverables: The Foundation's *Yolo Flyway* newsletter will report on the progress of the strategy development process (refer to Figure 5). An informational bulletin will also be sent periodically to interested stakeholders. A homepage with appropriate links will present concepts and ideas generated from stakeholder discussions, present and solicit information.

Budget/Costs: \$84,429

Task 4 - Prepare a Draft Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy that outlines consensus-based approaches for implementing activities proposed in CALFED's ERPP. The Strategy will identify 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. Strategies will be developed for resolving conflicts and for identifying and implementing restoration activities. Strategies will be based on locally supported planning activities and consistent with scientific principals identified by CALFED. A framework as to how the Foundation and the Yolo Bypass Working Group will be empowered to implement restoration will be developed. Approaches for implementing ecosystem restoration will be developed for each key issue. A comprehensive plan that provides for an adaptive management framework will be developed for phased implementation of short and long term actions. A system for prioritizing actions will be developed. Resource agencies responsible for various ecosystem components will be sought out for their input. Funding sources for rehabilitation and restoration activities will be developed as well as processes for receiving grants and implementing restoration activities. Cooperative opportunities for shared projects and funding with other agencies and programs will be outlined.

Schedule: Third Quarter.

Deliverables: A Preliminary Draft Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy document will be prepared and submitted to stakeholders and CALFED.

Budget/Costs: \$23,032

Task 5 - Prepare monitoring and data collection plan to evaluate effectiveness of actions outlined in the ERPP, Conservation Strategy, and proposed in Phase II.

Schedule: Third Quarter.

Deliverables: Monitoring and Data Collection section of Final Draft Strategy document

Budget/Cost: \$30,192

Task 6 - Proposals will be developed with landowners for specific enhancement projects based on universal stakeholder agreement on need and approach.

Schedule: Fourth Quarter.

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

Budget/Costs: \$24,452

Task 7 - Financial and project progress reports will be prepared monthly.

Schedule: All Quarters.

Deliverables: 12 financial and project progress reports

Budget/Cost: \$18,012

Task 8 - Prepare final draft Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy based on comments received and discussions at workshops.

Schedule: Fourth Quarter.

Deliverables: Final draft Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy document

Budget/Cost: \$32,790

c. Location and/or geographic boundaries of project

The Yolo Bypass is located in Yolo and Solano Counties on the west side of the lower Sacramento River (Figure 1). The site is entirely within the boundaries of the Sacramento River 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 legally defined 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 main features of the hydrographic system are 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.

The upper section is non-tidal. It is bounded on the north by Fremont Weir, an overflow structure on the south side of the Sacramento River. On the east side of the Bypass is Tule Canal (the upper extension of the east side Toe Drain) and the main east-side levee. On the west side it is bounded by levees and the overflow weir of the Cache Creek Settling Basin. 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 to the head of the Bypass, and the mouths of Cache Creek (at the Cache Creek Settling Basin), Willow Slough, the Willow Slough Bypass, and the Sacramento Weir.

d. Expected benefits

The primary benefit of the proposed project will be to foster stakeholder stewardship of the Yolo Bypass. Information about species and habitats, stressors, ecological processes, and land use will be disseminated to many stakeholders to foster interest, concern, and a willingness to participate in ecosystem restoration. The stewardship developed from the proposed project is expected to lead to benefits to several types of habitat and several species deemed important by CALFED. Priority Habitats include tidal perennial aquatic habitat (freshwater), seasonal wetland, instream aquatic habitat, shaded riverine aquatic habitat, slough-wetland complexes, 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, late-fall run chinook salmon, fall-run chinook salmon, splittail, delta smelt, steelhead trout, white and green sturgeon, native resident fishes, and resident and migratory birds (waterfowl, shorebirds and neotropical migrants).

This watershed planning-strategy development effort and subsequent ecosystem enhancement efforts have a number of major benefits:

1. **Improved adult salmon, sturgeon, splittail, and steelhead passage** through the Yolo Bypass to Putah Creek, Cache Creek, and the Sacramento River. (ERPP Vol. 1, pages 136, 144, 148, 153, 160, 172)
2. **Improved downstream juvenile salmon, sturgeon, splittail, and steelhead passage** (ERPP Vol. 1, pages 276 & 280)
3. **Improved rearing habitat** of chinook salmon, splittail, steelhead, striped bass, sturgeon, delta smelt, and resident fishes. (ERPP Vol. 1, page 280)
4. **Reduced entrainment** of young salmon, steelhead, splittail, sturgeon, delta smelt, and native resident fish into water diversions along Bypass canals. (ERPP Vol. 1, page 276)
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 poaching in the Yolo Bypass. (ERPP Vol. 1, page 342)
6. **Improvement of wetland-slough habitat.** (ERPP Vol. 1, pages 104, 110, 118, 206)
7. **Improve important ecological processes** including streamflow and water temperatures in the Bypass. (ERPP Vol. 1, page 27)
8. **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. (ERPP Vol. 1, pages 181, 199)
9. **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 a large number of people. Existing Yolo Basin Foundation educational programs such as *Discover the Flyway* program for schools, weekend field trips and the annual *California Duck Days* wetlands festival are already offering educational opportunities which can be expanded in the future.
10. **Improved recreation opportunities** inside and outside the Bypass in the form of hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and natural history activities.
11. **Improved wildlife and waterfowl habitats** for migratory and resident species. This also includes neotropical migrants. (ERPP Vol. 1, pages 232, 242, 260, 262, 264, 265)

Other Benefits: Information and experience gained in this study will help guide future ecosystem enhancement efforts in the Yolo Bypass and other watersheds in the Central Valley.

e. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

Need for Project: Developing 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. Monitoring studies by CALFED agencies as part of the IEP study program have begun in recent years upon recognition of the potential importance of 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 including most of the special status fish species and populations. 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 watershed wide 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 return water originally drawn from the Sacramento River. In addition to adult Sacramento River fish migrating upstream via the sloughs of the Bypass, 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 perhaps millions of young anadromous fish as well as native resident fish such as delta smelt and splittail could be lost to stranding in the Bypass.

Many of these problems could be solved by solutions identified in the proposed watershed restoration implementation strategy for actions that can be undertaken by landowners and other stakeholders. Without a stakeholder initiated watershed planning and implementation process many of the problems and potential solutions could go unnoticed and unresolved. The proposed watershed 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. There is a need to have a central organization of stakeholders so that all Bypass interests are informed of existing resource related efforts underway in the Bypass.

The need for a comprehensive watershed plan for the Yolo Bypass was recognized by local entities that participated in the Yolo Basin Working Group that was organized to build the consensus for creation of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area in the early 1990s. The Suitability Analysis for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat in the Yolo Basin sponsored by the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture was a first step in recognition of this need. However, after the analysis was completed, further watershed wide planning was put on the back burner in order to concentrate on the specific issues involved in creating the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

Basis for expected benefits: Our successful experience in the development of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area gives us confidence that we can effectively organize stakeholders in the Bypass to accomplish planning and eventually implement restoration actions. CALFED's funding will provide the most important ingredient toward beginning this process. We anticipate that the Implementation Strategy process and documentation of resource and land use (atlas) for the Bypass will clearly indicate the importance of the Bypass ecosystem for many primary habitats and species, which should direct significant funding toward planned implementation actions.

Durability: Improvements in fish passage and habitats in the Bypass will have long-term stability and durability, because stakeholders will be committed to the efforts. In some cases conservation easements could be used to ensure long term durability of habitat improvement.

Current Status of Habitat Restoration: The proposed project will build upon watershed planning efforts begun in 1990 by the Foundation to establish the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Bypass is already the focus of significant restoration activity: the creation of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area; City of Davis Wetlands, private restoration activities under the aegis of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture; Conaway Ranch; and proposed Liberty Island and Little Holland

Tract restoration projects by CALFED and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are examples. The IEP Bypass Study has identified actions that would benefit fish passage and reduce stranding.

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The Strategy will identify monitoring and data needs (Task 5) including: technical information on aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats, waterfowl, wildlife, fish passage and stranding problems. Monitoring and data collection activities will also be directed at evaluating effectiveness of actions that are implemented. Information and monitoring plans can be coordinated with existing and planned studies such of those on Putah and Cache Creeks; DWR-IEP (monitoring in the Yolo Bypass and Prospect and Liberty Islands and Little Holland Tract); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (surveys of juvenile fish in the Sacramento River and the interaction with Sacramento River fish, especially during high flow periods).

Peer review: Monitoring and experimental evaluation of actions would undergo peer review to ensure whatever conclusions are drawn as to the effectiveness of an action are reasonable and correct. Peer review could include journal articles for those studies with wide application or scientific interest, regional newsletters (e.g., IEP newsletter), or local or regional scientific workshops or society meetings. At a minimum, peer review would be sought for evaluating monitoring or experiment data and conclusions from standing panels of experts (e.g., IEP Program Work Teams).

g. Implementability

Permit requirements: Permitting guidance provided by CALFED, along with specific guidance from permitting agencies will be analyzed and then outlined in detail in the final Strategy document. Early involvement of the State Reclamation Board will be necessary in order to meet permit requirements for making alterations in the Bypass.

Coordination with other projects/programs: Coordination will occur with CVPIA, other CALFED programs, the IEP monitoring programs, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area activities, Sacramento/Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Riparian Habitat Joint Venture, State Fish and Game's California Waterfowl Habitat and Permanent Wetland Easement Programs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Easement Program, NRCS Wetland Reserve Program and Water Bank, California Waterfowl Association Brood Pond Program, and Ducks Unlimited Valley Care Program.

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.

Local Support: During the preparation of this proposal, some but not all stakeholders were contacted to survey their interest in participating in the proposed Strategy process. As of June 1998 the following stakeholders have indicated a willingness to participate: City of Davis, Yolo County, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Cache Creek Conservancy, Putah Creek Council, The Reclamation Board of the State of California, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Refuges and Wildlife Division), State Department of Fish and Game, State Department of Water Resources, Dixon Resource Conservation District, Yolo Resource Conservation District, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. This proposal builds on the Foundation's strong base of support and record of success which will ensure a strong and diversified stakeholder base.

Existing Information: The Foundation has access to studies and computer models of the Yolo Bypass and tributary watersheds created by the Army Corps of Engineers, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, University of California, Yolo County, and multi-agency organizations such as IEP.

Indirect Effects: Enhancement of ecosystem health in the Yolo Bypass may lead to changes in agricultural practices and land use in the Bypass.

Cultural impacts: No cultural impacts are anticipated.

Other hindrance /supportive efforts: We anticipate no hindrances to the planning or implementation efforts.

IV. Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project

a. Budget Costs

Please refer to Tables 1 - 3 for Budgeted Cost Breakdown.

Need for CALFED Funding: CALFED's ecosystem objective provides the necessary broad scale perspective to tackle the diversity of ecosystem resources and issues in the Bypass. Without CALFED funding there would be limited ecosystem planning in the Bypass. Yolo Basin Foundation has a very small staff that is fully committed to developing, managing and fundraising for current Foundation educational programs. CALFED funding would allow the Foundation to hire Jones and Stokes Associates experts that would in effect serve as an extension of the Foundation staff. This extension of staff is necessary in order to carry out the many proposed tasks and provide the technical expertise needed. CALFED funding would allow the Foundation Executive Director to direct a significant amount of her time to stakeholder contacts and consensus building activities instead of concentrating on fundraising. With the proposed watershed planning process, we expect to be in a better position to petition and receive other program funding in the future. While there are existing programs to fund purchase of easements or other habitat improvement projects, there is not non-CALFED related funding available for the watershed wide planning that is needed. Many of the projects expected to be identified in development of an implementation strategy for ecosystem restoration should qualify for other sources of state and federal funding that would otherwise be beyond the reach of existing stakeholder efforts.

Consultant Support: Our proposal includes funds for consultant staff support for developing the proposed watershed implementation strategy. We have chosen Jones and Stokes Associates as partners in this endeavor based on a long standing relationship with their staff, their overall interest and support in the project and proposal, and their keen familiarity with the Yolo Bypass and tributary watersheds through other planning efforts, as well as familiarity with CALFED's program objectives. Jones and Stokes staff have in-depth knowledge of the habitats and species of the Bypass as well as the hydrologic processes at work. They also have extensive individual and corporate experience in ecological resource issues and watershed planning processes not only in the Central Valley, but especially in the Yolo Basin. They participated in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area planning process and have developed resource management plans in the Yolo Basin (e.g., Willow Slough CRMP). They have conducted numerous studies and surveys in the Bypass, are familiar with the CALFED process, and understand the long-term rehabilitation and restoration needs of the Central Valley, Yolo Basin, and Bypass. They have experience in facilitating complex resource issues among diverse stakeholder groups (Sutter Bypass and Lower Butte Creek project for the Nature Conservancy). They have landscape architect design and GIS mapping and data analysis capabilities, and have experience and capabilities in permitting and CEQA/NEPA documentation.

b. Schedule Milestones Please refer to Table 3 for start/completion dates of specific tasks. Monthly invoices would be submitted.

c. Third Party Impacts

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

V. Applicant Qualifications

Foundation Qualifications: The Foundation was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to support the establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. It 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 stakeholders, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. (Figure 2).

The Foundation 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 3700-acre public wildlife area, with over \$12 million of state and federal funding. 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 Yolo Basin Foundation has a proven record of success. When President Bill Clinton visited on November 15, 1997 to dedicate the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, he hailed the project as a national model for meeting the challenge of "trying to grow our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing, our environment." He acknowledged the extraordinary collaboration that made the Yolo Bypass a reality: "This project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it."

Foundation efforts have been recognized in many other 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. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt lauded our success in creating the largest wetlands restoration project west of the Everglades at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area groundbreaking. 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. California Duck Days, a program of the Foundation, received the Public Education Award from the State of the Watershed Conference '97.

The Foundation's effort have also been documented in the media. An August 1995 editorial in the Sacramento Bee recognized the role of the Foundation in creating the Wildlife Area. The Bee has also featured the Foundation in a 1997 "Point of View" article in the business section. The Foundation and the Wildlife Area have also been written about in the Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee, University of California, Davis *Innovator* (the magazine of the Graduate School of Management); Davis Enterprise, Woodland Democrat, West Sacramento Press, Solano County newspapers, U.S. Water News and Wetland Link International News. The Foundation's activities have been extensively reported in regional television and radio. California Heartland, an agricultural related show on KVIE featured the Foundation in a January 1997 segment.

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, now in its fifth year; publishing the *Yolo Flyway* newsletter; bringing wetlands education into the schools with our *Discover the Flyway* program for schools and our *Wild About Wetlands* classroom kits; and, introducing people to the natural places in the community through our monthly field trips. Fifty teachers and 800 students participated this year in the *Discover the Flyway*. Currently we are recruiting teachers to participate in our second year of workshops.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is well suited to initiating and managing a watershed implementation strategy 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, Sierra View Landscape, Larry Walker Associates and Hedgerow Farms. Participants are contributing either funds or in-kind services. Volunteers will do the planting.

The demonstration wetland is an example of the Foundation's ability to procure in-kind services from agencies and the private sector. For the proposed project the Foundation would be able to use in-kind services from State Fish and Game in the form of an office and meeting space. GIS data will be available from a variety of agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has offered assistance with meeting organization and field trips.

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 strategy. 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 Resource Conservation District.

In reference to CALFED's objective to rely on watershed based conservancies, the Yolo Basin Foundation has the same legal status as a land based conservancy and can hold title or easements to land. The Foundation joined the Land Trust Alliance, a national organization of land trusts, in 1990. The Foundation could have, in fact, been named the Yolo Basin Conservancy.

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 Jones and Stokes Associates personnel. The Foundation's board of directors will provide guidance for the project. An advisory Technical Team will be solicited from resources agency staff with experience on Bypass resources to help guide the program.

Key Foundation Staff:

Robin Kulakow, Executive Director of the Foundation will serve as the project manager. Robin was a founding member of the Yolo Basin Working Group, Yolo Basin Foundation, Putah Creek Council, and Cache Creek Conservancy. 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. She has extensive experience in managing consultant contracts for the Foundation.

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 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:

Environmental Planner 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.

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 CVPIA 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 Conaway 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 Figure 3)

Jones & Stokes Associates:

1. East Bay Municipal Utilities District - American River Project
2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Sacramento River Flood Control Project
3. U.S. 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 and Draft EIR/EIS technical support.
8. Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture - Suitability Analysis for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat in the Yolo Basin.

VII. Compliance with standard terms and conditions: Please refer to Figure 4 for a copy of a signed Nondiscrimination Statement. The Foundation has all applicable federal forms on file with the EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Bureau of Reclamation.

Table 1. Yolo Basin Foundation Cost Estimate for Yolo Bypass Project						
			Direct	Direct	Overhead: G & A	Total
Task Description			Labor Hours	Salary Totals	Expense, Fee	Cost
1	Prepare atlas		36	\$1,440.00	\$1,440.00	\$2,880.00
2	Organize stakeholders		120	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$9,600.00
3	Conduct interviews / workshops		480	\$19,200.00	\$19,200.00	\$38,400.00
4	Prepare proposals		120	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$9,600.00
5	Prepare draft strategy		60	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$4,800.00
6	Prepare monitoring / data plan		60	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$4,800.00
7	Prepare technical report		48	\$1,920.00	\$1,920.00	\$3,840.00
8	Prepare final strategy		120	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$9,600.00
Totals			1,044	\$41,760.00	\$41,760.00	\$83,520.00

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Task Description		Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary Totals	Overhead: G & A Expense, Fee	Other Direct Costs	Total Cost
1	Prepare atlas	540	\$13,592.74	\$29,851.83	\$1,500.00	\$44,944.57
2	Organize stakeholders	270	\$6,470.38	\$14,210.00	\$1,000.00	\$21,680.39
3	Conduct interviews / workshops	558	\$14,151.08	\$31,078.05	\$800.00	\$46,029.13
4	Prepare proposals	152	\$4,108.73	\$9,023.43	\$300.00	\$13,432.16
5	Prepare draft strategy	293	\$7,475.27	\$16,416.88	\$1,500.00	\$25,392.15
6	Prepare monitoring / data plan	249	\$5,992.29	\$13,160.03	\$500.00	\$19,652.32
7	Prepare technical report	160	\$4,246.35	\$9,325.66	\$600.00	\$14,172.01
8	Prepare final strategy	242	\$7,005.39	\$15,384.96	\$800.00	\$23,190.35
Totals		2,464	\$63,042.24	\$138,450.84	\$7,000.00	\$208,493.08

List of Figures

1. Yolo Bypass Map
2. Board of Directors
3. References
4. Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement
5. Yolo Flyway
6. Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer
7. Newspaper Articles

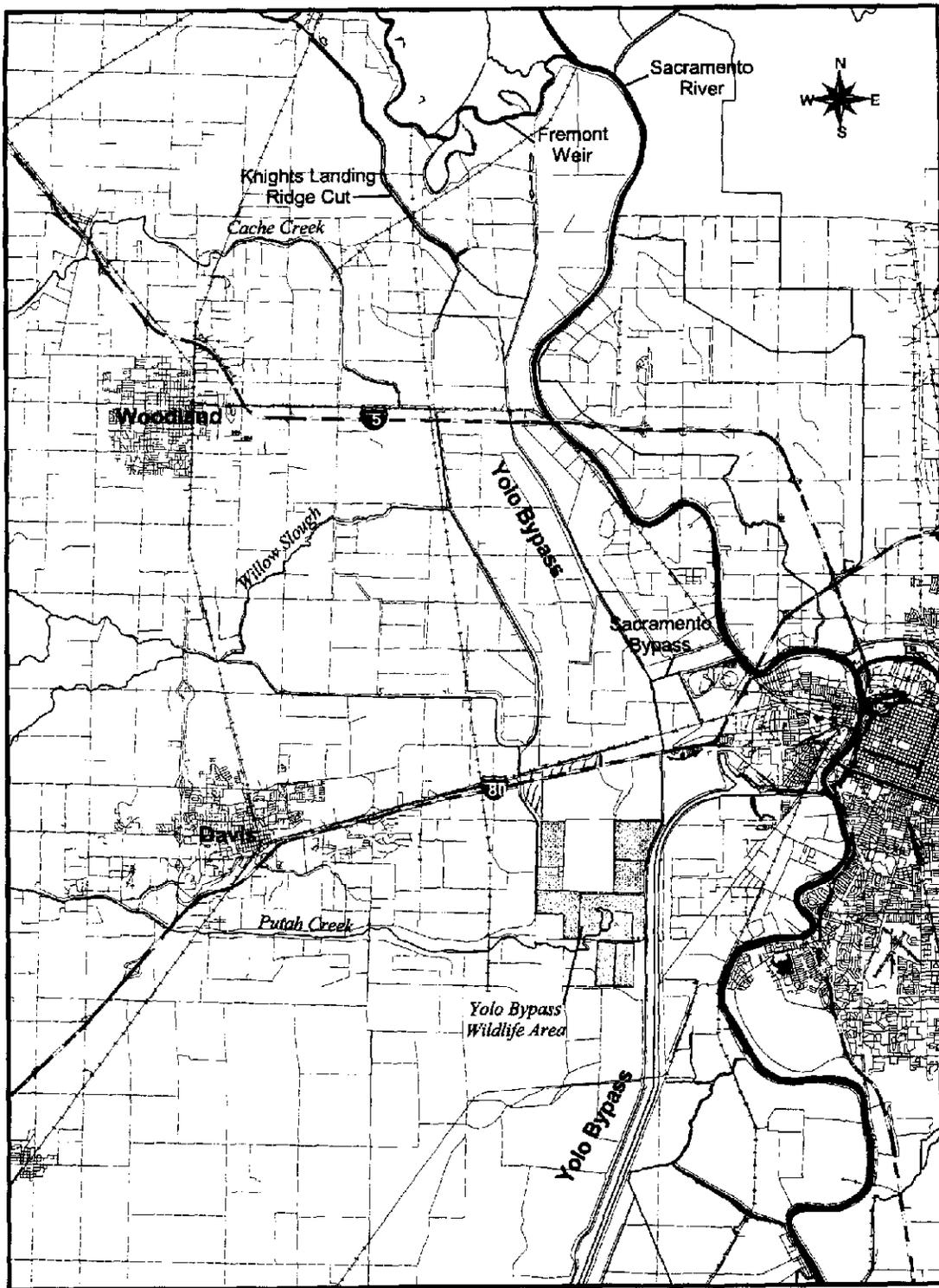


Figure 1
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Figure 2

**Yolo Basin Foundation
Board of Directors, June 1998**

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
Yolo County Fair Board of Directors
Budget Committee, Davis Joint Unified School District
- Robin Kulakow** *Secretary,
Executive Director*
Masters of Administration, UC Davis
Putah Creek Council, treasurer
Cache Creek Conservancy board of directors
- Mike Lien** Walker, Donant and Company (builders & developers)
L&D Landfill, L&D Recycling
Yolo County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Betsy Marchand** Yolo County Board of Supervisors (retired)
Special Projects Coordinator,
Yolo-Solano Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Governmental Affairs, Families First
- Frank MacBride** *YBF Executive Committee*
President, MacBride Realty Co., Sacramento
Landowner, Yolo Bypass duck club
Sacramento Rotary Club
- Ken Noack Jr.** KVIE Public Television, Board of Directors
Rotary club of Sacramento, Board of Directors
Sacramento Society for the Blind, Board of Directors
Land Broker, Bishop Hawk, Sacramento

- David Rosenberg** Yolo County Supervisor, District 4
Attorney-at-Law
Former Mayor of Davis
Commission, California Council on Criminal Justice
- Susan Sanders** Ph.D., Zoology, UC Davis
Consulting wildlife biologist (freelance)
Former president, Yolo Audubon Society
Former co chair, Putah Creek Council
- Bob Schneider** West Davis Associates (land development)
Ridge Builders Group, owner
Sierra Club California, executive committee
Davis Chamber of Commerce
UC Davis Chancellors Club
Rotary Club of Davis
- Paul Simmons** *President, YBF Executive Committee*
Attorney at law, De Cuir and Somach, Sacramento
Sacramento Rotary Club
- Meg Stallard** *Vice-president, YBF Executive Committee*
Vice President, Woodland School Board
League of Women Voters
UC Davis Alumni Association, Board of Directors
UC Davis Chancellors Club
- Chris Unkel** California Nature Conservancy, Director, California
Wetlands Program
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, Board of Directors
- Lois Wolk** Mayor , City of Davis(retired)
Yolo County Board of Supervisors (elected)
Council liaison for water and wetlands
Member, Yolo County Water Resources Association
Davis Chamber of Commerce

Figure 3

Yolo Basin Foundation
References
June 1998

Elected Officials:

Congressman Vic Fazio
722-B Main
Woodland CA 95695
(530)666-5521

Helen Thomson
Assemblywoman, Eighth District
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916)445-8368

Betsy Marchand
Yolo County Board of Supervisors,
retired
926 Craig Place
Davis CA 95616
(530)756-0521

Lois Wolk
Mayor
City of Davis
1209 Colby
Davis CA 95616
(530)756-9655

Meg Stallard
Vice Chair
Woodland School Board
10 Toyon Drive
Woodland CA 95695
(530)666-0154

Governmental Agencies:

Doug Wheeler
Secretary
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814
(916)654-2753

Dave Paullin
Coordinator
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture
2233 Watt Ave, Suite 375
Sacramento CA 95825-0509
(916)979-2085

Col. Dorothy K. Klasse
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento CA 95814
(916)557-7490

Ryan Broddrick
Deputy Director
Department of Fish & Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento CA 95814
(916)653-0991

Walter Yep
Chief
Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento CA 95814
(916)557-6699

Bank Curtis
Regional Manager
Department of Fish & Game
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916)358-2883

Non-profit Conservation Organizations:

Bill Gaines
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
(530)661-1070

University of California:

Sid England
Environmental Planner
Mrak Hall
UC Davis
Davis CA 95616
(530)752-2432

Peter Moyle
Professor
University of California
Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology
Davis CA 95616
(530)752-6355

Education:

Barbara Wells
Principal
Pioneer School
5215 Hamel Drive
Davis CA 95616
(530)757-5480

Private Sector:

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

DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

ITEM 7

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

6-17-98

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.

Figure 5
Yolo Flyway Newsletter

YOLO FLYWAY

Volume 6, Issue 3, Winter 1997

A PUBLICATION OF THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION

★ SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL EDITION ★

President Clinton Visits the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Likes What He Sees

By Susan Sanders

Modest plans for a dedication ceremony to mark the official opening of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area suddenly blossomed into a mad and joyous scramble when President Clinton announced he would be in attendance at the ceremony. With barely one week's notice, Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Yolo Basin Foundation had to radically shift gears to accommodate the extraordinary demands of a presidential visit. After literally thousands of phone calls, many conferences with White House staff and Secret Service, and Herculean efforts by the Corps to make the muddy roads drivable and safe, all was ready for the November 15th ceremony.

The day dawned inauspiciously stormy, but hundreds of undaunted Wildlife Area supporters began arriving hours before the dedication ceremony and worked their



President Clinton with the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi, Congressman Vic Jatta, Yolo Basin Foundation Executive Director Robin Kujawa, and Landowner John Schmidt. Photo courtesy of Mark Walker, Ocala Postprint.



President Clinton with John Garamendi. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.

way through the tight security. Transported by comfortable chartered buses to a most uncomfortable and unsheltered spot in the Wildlife Area, everyone began a long but good-natured wait for the festivities to begin. The only entertainers were flocks of tundra swans and white-fronted geese, who cooperatively displayed themselves overhead to the wet crowd.

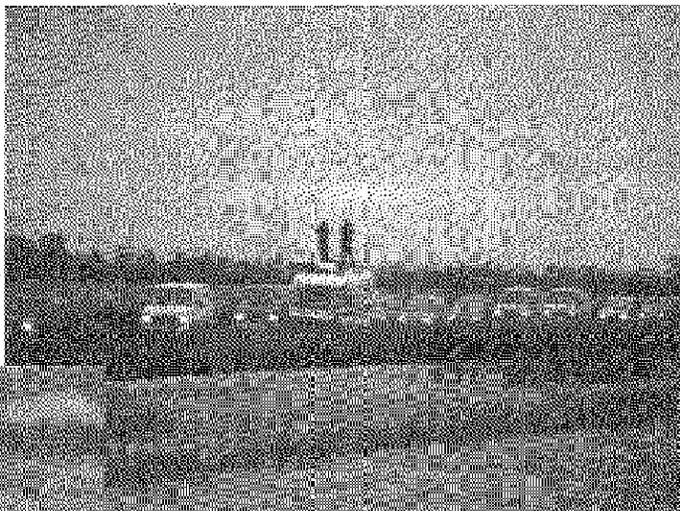
Finally, the astonishing motorcade arrived, a caravan of 27 vehicles on the rocky levee roads. Accompanying the President were Congressman Peltz and Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi. Some of our own local historians led the entourage once it arrived at the Wildlife Area - Yolo Basin Foundation executive director Robin Kujawa and local farmer John Schmidt were there in the lead vehicle along with Wildlife Area Manager Craig Servey and Chief Deputy Fred Cole.

Robin and Greg had the opportunity to take the

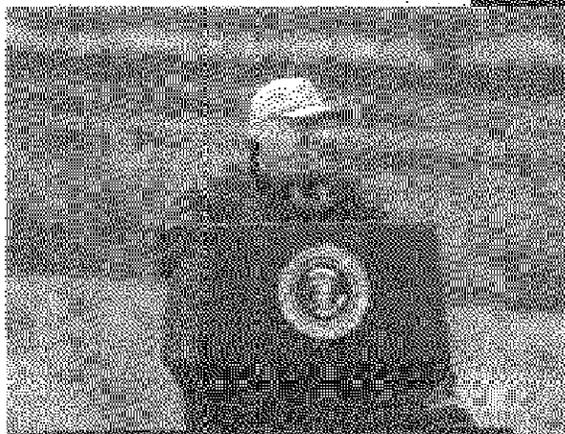
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CLINTON *continued from p. 1*

President on a walking tour of the Wildlife Area. The President started off the walk by saying to Robin, "Tell me what you have here." He asked questions about specific bird species, compared the area to the Mississippi Delta and discussed farming programs with Greg. Plenty of ducks welcomed the President as he viewed the area. The press corps was kept at a distance, crowded onto a small turn-out at the road. Toward the end of the walk



Presidential motorcade arriving at the Pavilion. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.



Congressman Vic Fazio welcoming the President with the wetlands as a backdrop. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.

Congressman Vic Fazio and Deputy Secretary John Harmanek joined the three.

A greeting party including California Resources Secretary Doug Wheeler, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger, Ducks Unlimited Chairman of the Board John E. Walker, and Yolo Basin Foundation Chairman Paul Simmons welcomed the President. The speeches began with a welcome by John E. Walker. A beaming Congressman Fazio said it all when he said "I've visited this area many times but I've never had as much

fun as the time I brought the President to the Yolo Bypass." Next Sarah Julian, representing the Yolo Basin Foundation, introduced the President with an outstanding speech describing her volunteer work with the Foundation and what the project meant to her.

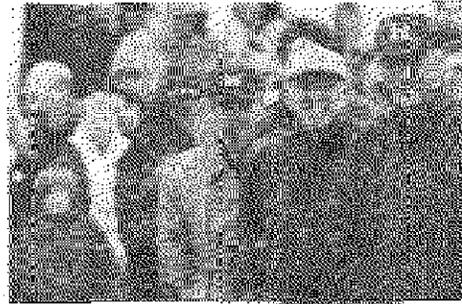
Clinton's speech was funny, uplifting, and very appropriate. He really understood what the Wildlife Area was all about, acknowledging the exceptional collaboration and effort that made the Wildlife Area happen, and said, "this project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on



Yolo Basin Foundation publicity sign for the President's arrival. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Myers.

the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it." After he spoke, Clinton lingered for almost an hour, mingling with the crowd and warmly shaking everyone's hand.

A crowd of over 500 had waited two to three hours in the possibly cold rain and wind, but there were few complaints. It was not so much the thrill of being able to see and touch The President, but rather what his presence represented. Everyone in the crowd (and many of you reading this newsletter) had made some contribution to shaping the



President Clinton shakes hands with Greg, a boy from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Photos courtesy of Nashville-based Photo Services.



Several students from Lewis & Demoss's 4th at Pioneer School Paducah and with their students are representing the Vets Back Forward/It's Discovered Flycatcher school program. Photo courtesy of Tom and Sally Scott.

dream of the Wildlife Area into reality. And here was one of the most powerful people on the planet telling us he thought we had all done a great job, and that everyone else in the country could learn from us. It (doesn't) get much better than that. For all of you Wildlife Area supporters out there, give yourself a presidential pat on the back. Your hard work has been recognized at the highest level.

SPRING PLANTING ALERT: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Yolo Basin Foundation has just embarked on a new project to plant 10,000 native California trees and shrubs in the Gateway Park of the Yolo Basin. While it's true the Gateway Park project is not a one-time event, it is the beginning of the Yolo Basin Wetlands project in 1998. This long-term project is an opportunity for volunteers of business, industry, youth, boys and girls, and other interested Central Valley wetland residents to help improve the stretched partnerships that have made large scale habitat restoration possible throughout the region.

The Gateway Park consists of about 750 acres of land north of the I-80 on the Yolo Causeway and south of the Southern Pacific railroad tracks, all owned by California Department of Fish and Game. About 200 acres on the west side of the property are the 20-year leasehold wetlands with California Fish and Game is currently leasing the 750 acres on a 20-year lease as a seasonal wetland habitat, a 10-year year-round seasonal wetland area of riparian habitat. The riparian planting project will establish an additional 25 acres of riparian habitat adjacent to the existing levee. The planting area is about one mile long.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will donate the 10,000 plants in the new park and Basin Foundation will donate the trees and shrubs. Currently, the Corps and Fish and Game asked the Yolo Basin Foundation to assist with the project by recruiting volunteers to do the planting. Interested organizations and individuals interested in volunteering to plant should contact the Foundation at (530) 738-3111 or by e-mail: YoloBasin@earthlink.net.

YOLO FLYWAY

DECEMBER 31, 1997

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

The Yolo Flyway is a periodic publication of the Yolo Basin Foundation. It is published quarterly. The Yolo Flyway is published by the Yolo Basin Foundation, 1000 Gateway Park, Yolo, CA 95625. Tel: (530) 738-3111 or by e-mail: YoloBasin@earthlink.net.

NEWSLETTER SEASONS

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Corps to Fish and Game: "Here, it's yours!"

The original purpose of the Yolo Wetlands Area dedication event was to mark the transfer of the Yolo Basin Project from the federal sponsor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), to the local sponsor, California Department of Fish and Game. This important milestone was celebrated in a brief ceremony at the site of the President's visit just prior to his arrival. The ceremony began with a welcome by

Yolo Basin Foundation Chairman, Paul Simmons under the protection of very weather beaten umbrellas. Colonel Dorothy Kliese enthusiastically described the importance of the project and the Corps' new role as restorers of wildlife habitat. She then introduced Dr. John Zirschky, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, who came all the way from Washington D.C. for the event. In his brief, wind swept words, Dr. Zirschky presented a lovely bronze plaque listing the names of the many Yolo Basin partners. Jack Edwards, Fish and Game Conservation Education, accepted the plaque from Dr. Zirschky. Jack then put on a red Corps baseball hat in the true spirit of partnership. California Waterfowl Association's Bill Gaines, Chairman of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture gave the concluding remarks. Bill eloquently spoke of the



Paul Simmons presenting Wildlife Area signpost, presentation of Yolo and Sally Moss.

importance of celebrating our accomplishments but that more importantly, we should take this time to recommit ourselves to continue our work on behalf of wetlands and wildlife.

The bronze plaque presented to Fish and Game is now hanging on the front wall of the Fish and Game headquarters on Childs Road. The plaque, designed by Mike Fujisawa and Robin Kulakow, reads, "Yolo Basin Wetlands: A cooperative project of many agencies, organizations, and individuals". Twenty names of agencies and organizations are listed. Congressman Vic Fazio, former State Assemblyman Tom Harrigan, and retired Yolo County Supervisor Betsy Murchard are listed as well. This plaque will be an important reminder to all of us of the commitments that made the restoration of the Yolo Basin Wetlands a reality.

Waterfowl Visit the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Like What They See.

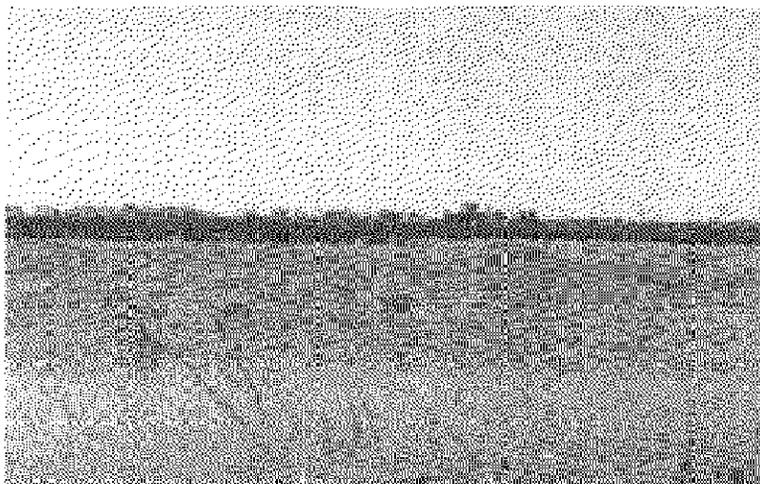


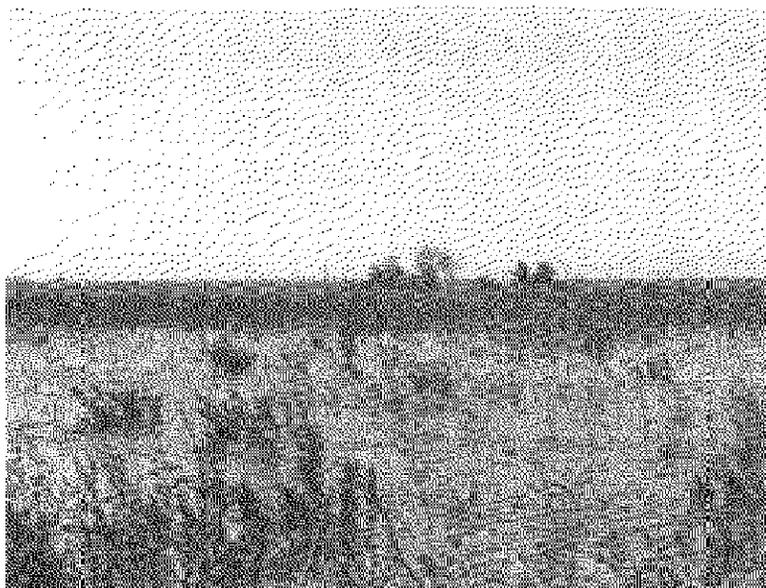
The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area officially opened to the public on November 1, 1997.

Filmmakers showed up before dawn to get an orientation to the new area and a steady stream of bird watchers came throughout the day. The students in Alida Morrenti's Avian Sciences class were treated to the sight of a golden eagle that morning. California Department of Fish and Game staff estimate that on weekends 20-40 cars per day visit for wildlife viewing.

And use of the newly flooded ponds is very encouraging and promises to get better and better as the habitat develops. The only

continued next page





WATERFOWL, continued

arriving waterfowl included about 500 mallards and pintail in early September when the ponds were first flooded. The number and diversity of species steadily rose to 8,000 ducks on November 1. By November 15th, 15,000 ducks were on hand to greet the President. According to Chris Röcké, the Wildlife Area biologist, "it was surprising how early the ducks came through." It is a challenge for the staff to manage such a large water system the first year. According to Bob Mipes the Region 2 manager who oversees the area, "It's going well. It's a learning process."

The waterfowl counts for mid-December are around 20,000 ducks evenly dispersed throughout the Wildlife Area. The dabbling ducks present include mallard, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, green-winged teal, American widgeon, gadwall and wood duck. By mid-December the diving ducks present were canvasback, redhead, ring-necked, scamp, bufflehead, and ruddy

duck. One December day 800 canvasbacks were counted. So far very few geese have arrived although they are flying overhead in large numbers. The same is true for the Tundra swans. The number of red-tailed hawks, Northern harriers, and kestrels hunting the new wetlands is

impressive. On October 10th, Kevin Guse led a field trip to the Wildlife Area. In three hours the group saw 52 different species of birds including a peregrine falcon.

According to Craig Stowers, Wildlife Area manager, the hunting is surprisingly good given the condition of the habitat and the newness of the place. He also is surprised at how well the birds have responded to the new wetlands. As of mid-December 380 hunters had gone through the area including 25 junior hunters. The bird take was 951 with an average of 1.3 ducks per hunter which is on par with many of the other State wildlife areas.

For those of us fortunate enough to visit the Wildlife Area regularly, the changes in the habitat are fascinating. It is especially exciting to see the large numbers of ducks show up in a new pond for the first time. For those of us involved in the planning of the area it is reassuring to see the new habitat "working." The release of thousands of ducks is constantly present and perhaps that is what is most noticeable. It sounds like a marsh!

Pacific Flyway Center

by Bob Schneider, Pacific Flyway Center Coordinator

The Yolo Basin Foundation recently received a \$5,000 "seed money" grant from Novo Nordisk Biotech, Inc. to support planting of a Pacific Flyway Center. Glenn Nedwin, President of Novo Nordisk Biotech wrote "Your vision for the Pacific Flyway Center to inspire and educate, to instill an imperative to take care of our land, to make wetlands and wildlife meaningful to people's everyday lives—is exciting."

The Pacific Flyway Center Working Group, formed under the auspices of the Yolo Basin Foundation, proposes to build and operate an internationally recognized Center near the Yolo Basin wetlands and Interstate 68. Many members of the group were original members of the Yolo Basin Working Group whose efforts led to the success of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. They have developed a Case Statement, and are working on programming and a feasibility study.

The Foundation has hired Bob Schneider full time to coordinate the Pacific Flyway Center effort. Those interested in the Center can reach Bob at 530-758-4315.

“WELCOME MR. PRESIDENT”

Photo: Sam's father, after his work was finished, taken in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, from a window of the automobile.



As President Clinton visits communities around the country, a local young person is often asked to make a speech. The White House will send me a handwritten note which is then printed in the national newspaper. Sam's father, a local resident, was chosen for the honor. Sam's father wrote a bill to fund and improve the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The White House will send me a handwritten note which is then printed in the national newspaper. Sam's father, a local resident, was chosen for the honor. Sam's father wrote a bill to fund and improve the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

"Thank you, Congressman Watson, McWater and President Clinton, for honoring us by coming to celebrate the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. I have grown up with this project. It has been a constant learning experience for me—to see it grow from an idea discussed at dinner to a busy construction site, to become this marvelous place for birds and people. Here we can all learn about the

natural world as it once was, through the experience of watching here, and watching, and listening. School children planting seeds and trees, learning to identify the birds and the grasses will come to respect and appreciate the environment, just as I have.

This wildlife area and its inhabitants will be here forever—for me, for my little brother and sister, my nephew, for my children, and for all the future generations of this community and of this nation. To learn and grow. I have experienced the effort in this town. I have liked stamps, liked phone calls, planted trees, organized slides, sold raffle tickets.

Mr. President, it gives me hope that great visions can become reality if people work together for a good end. And that is a lesson I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Mr. President, on behalf of the Yolo Basin Foundation and our entire community, I welcome you to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

government agencies, organizations, donors, environmentalists and students. Let's come together to create something as wonderful as this public wildlife area. Mr. President, it gives me hope that great visions can become reality if people work together for a good end. And that is a lesson I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Mr. President, on behalf of the Yolo Basin Foundation and our entire community, I welcome you to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

supply, as well as water quality, habitat preservation and environmental progress. And that's very, very good.

Let me say, I wanted to be here today, because to me this project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans in the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it. We worked very hard to create a country where things were working for ordinary Americans, where we were coming together across the lines that divide us and where we can be strong enough to continue to lead the world in the right direction. And that bridge that I talked about all the time I'm trying to build to the 21st century is going pretty well. We've got the strongest economy in a generation, crime and welfare are dropping. And our water quality, our air quality, our food safety, they're all improving. We are moving in the right direction.

One of the biggest challenges we will have to continue to face during the entire lifetime of all the children that are here is the challenge of trying to grow our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing our environment. That is critical. A great deal of the history of 20th century California is a story of this battle. And the truth is, for most of the 20th century, not only in California but throughout America, whenever people thought about this, they either thought, I'm going to develop the economy, the environment will take care of itself, or they felt for a long time, it's unfortunate that we have to give up so much of our environment, but it's a necessary price we have to pay to continue to raise our living standards.

Now we know that is a false choice. And, indeed, we understand that over the long run if we want to preserve our ability to increase our standard of living we have to preserve our national environment and all the things that go with it.

Just for example, Greg Schmid and I were talking about this project and how the more you do these projects, the more you're going not only to have what you came here for today, but what you cannot see — you will use less water in rain runoff, and you will over time rebuild the aquifers that are below the land, that no one sees and most people don't think about. But that will enable you to sustain your population and to sustain your economic activity.

So again I say, I wanted to come here today because this is a huge



success. You're doing the right thing and you're doing it in the right way. And that's the second point I want to make. If we haven't learned anything in our country in the last few years, I hope we have learned we do not get very far when we just stand off and shout at each other and fight and argue all the time. But we can do anything if roll up our sleeves and get down to work and honestly listen to people who have different experiences, different perspectives, and different genuine interests. That's what you've done here. You've been able to bring everybody together, and I really feel good about that.

Here we are in the shadow of Sacramento. We see the farmlands here, and I promise you, when I crossed that levee today, I thought I was back home in eastern Arkansas,

and I kept waiting for somebody to give me my waders and a gun to go duck hunting.

What you have done today was based on the cooperation of state, federal, and local governments. That's how we ought to be dealing with all America's problems. You can't name a single problem we've got in this country that we could not make the kind of progress on we're celebrating today, if we didn't approach it the way you have approached this.

And I would implore you to think about what you can do and what you can say to people in this state, and your friends and family members and neighbors all around America, to take this attitude and this approach, not only to our environmental problems, but to all others.

You've been working on this since the late '80s. You ought to be very proud of it. But you ought to also draw confidence from this that there is no challenge facing this country that we cannot meet if we will just do what you have done here.

I am so proud of you — I know that you believe in it or you wouldn't be standing out here in the cold and rain listening to me talk.

We're working hard across America on projects like this. We're making progress in reclaiming Florida Everglades, in restoring Lake Tahoe, in saving Yellowstone. We have funds in this latest bill, in our balanced budget plan, to continue this work. But I now can go around the country and talk to other people about what you've done here and tell them you believe in it so much you all showed up and stayed in the wind and the rain in sunny California.

Well, I've seen the wetlands here today, and some of you may have seen more than you wanted to see. But I'll tell you what else I've seen — I've seen a glimpse of America's future, and I like it. Thank you, and God bless you."

Discover the Flyway Update

by Liz Merry, Program Coordinator

Since mid-October the Yolo Basin Foundation and California Department of Fish and Game have been proud to host over 500 elementary school students through the *Discover the Flyway* program for schools. One of the first things you notice is that the students who visit the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on a classroom field trip don't always follow along with the learning activities the teacher has planned. Some of the younger



students, in second or third grade, don't necessarily have to look through the binoculars from the right direction to enjoy observing the birds. In fact, the children don't seem to need much direction at all about how to enjoy and appreciate the wetlands. Who even needs birds? The bugs are great and you can pick them up too.

Each new field trip provides a lesson that improves the program. Little clouds, like not having the children wear binoculars as they plant sedges in the mud, or leaving the students use the spotting scope unattended, only to find that some enjoy looking directly at the sun. These are the experiential lessons we incorporate into each new field trip.

Other projects in the *Discover the Flyway* program include a group of volunteers called *Wildlife Observers* who are regularly touring the auto tour route in the wetlands to observe the waterfowl, plant life, and human activity taking place. These dedicated volunteers have committed their energies to recording their observations, and describing the general state of things in the Wildlife Area. This information is then passed on to teachers to assist them in planning their trip. The volunteers include: Norm Dorris, Karen Gethan, Rick Heredia, Kristen Kolb, Dick Stanton, Penny Gordon, Gary Weaver, Laurie Wedra. The Observers are providing an important service to the teacher's in the *Discover the Flyway* program and to the Foundation. We thank them for their hard work.

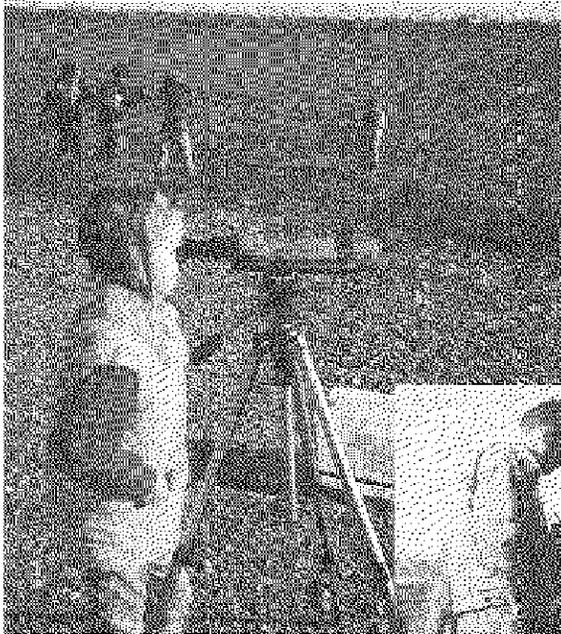
Finally, we have organized several supplementary training sessions for the volunteers, teachers and parents involved in field trips to the Wildlife Area. These evening training



Students from Rosalinda F. Vaca School in Sacramento planning wetland and enjoying the wetlands.

sessions include a one-hour orientation to the Wildlife Area and a second hour of specialty training. During the second hour on November 19th, Woody Schlein from the Sacramento Mosquito Vector Control Agency came to discuss waterfowl identification. Along with a fabulous slide show of the waterfowl, Woody enjoys near the Mosquito Fish Hatchery in Elk Grove; we were treated to waterfowl calls and stories about the long-time featherly residents who inhabit the 40 acre pond site. Woody is also an active volunteer at the Stone Lakes Refuge and will be leading a field trip for California Duck Days in February. Don't miss his trip. He's a great interpreter!

On December 19th, the final training session of 1997 took place when Michelle Stevens from UC Davis presented "Edinobotany: Wetland Plants and Ecology". Ms. Stevens' presentation was very informative and the audience truly appreciated her skill at explaining and clarifying the names of various sedges, tules, and cattails. In addition, Ms. Stevens is actively involved in Native



American basketry and cultural awareness, and is therefore able to explain the various perceptions of plants from an academic, regulatory agency, and Native American perspective. Ms. Stevens' ability to translate information between different cultures is a rare talent. Foundation members are encouraged to attend her workshop at California Duck Days. Teachers interested in attending future *Discover the Flyway* workshops should call me at (530)758-1018 or e-mail me at flyway@defn.davis.ca.us.



YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION FIELD TRIPS

February 21, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
 Leader: Mely Stevens 9 a.m. - noon Meet at the west end of the road of Chiles Road east of Davis.

March 14, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;
 Leader: John Korman 9 a.m. - noon Meet at the west levee gate at the end of Chiles Road east of Davis.

March 21, Nature and Culture Tour of the Dutch Creek Hawkwaters/ Look for Bob Taylor's Field Notebook! All day trip 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Meet at Wincham Memorial Center Parking lot, 218 East 14th, Davis. You may also meet at the Wincham Community Center parking lot at 8:45 a.m. to join the caravan.

April 4, Tour of Upper Cache Creek/ Leaders: Ann Bruce & Steve Chalmers 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Meet at the Raley's Superstore parking lot at the West Gate Center 347 W. Main St. in Woodland.

April 19, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;
 9 a.m. - noon

April 25, City of Davis Wetlands Site; Leader: Mike Hall 8:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Meet at City of Davis Water Pollution Control Plant, Road 2884 & HWY

May 2, Upper Cache Creek and Rayhouse Road;
 Leader: John Korman 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Meet at the Raley's Superstore parking lot at the West Gate Center, 367 W. Main St. in Woodland.

May 17, Tour of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area;
 Leader: Sud Eng 9 a.m. - noon

June 6, Saturday, Conway Ranch Bird Pond/
 Leader: Mike Hall 9 a.m. - noon Meet at Conway Ranch Hawkwaters parking lot at the very west end of County Road 25.

August 1 Conway Ranch Bird Banding; Leader: Mike Hall 9:00 a.m. - noon

A complete schedule with more details for the best field conditions can be e-mailed to you. Call (530)758-1018 and leave your name and address. You may also reach us by e-mail at flyway@defn.davis.ca.us.

YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION PROJECT SPONSORS

CALIFORNIA DUCK DAYS 1998

California Waterfowl Association
California Statewide Certified
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Anne Schneider
Wilson & Schneider
Navo Nordisk Biotech
Sierra Club California
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

DISCOVER THE FLYWAY, PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS

California Department of Fish
and Game
Lang Family Foundation
Teacher Foundation
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

YOLO BYPASS WILDLIFE AREA DEMONSTRATION WETLANDS

Briggs Manufacturing
California Department of Fish
and Game
California Waterfowl Association
Central Valley Habitat Joint
Venture
Hedgecrow Farms
Lucy Walker Associates
Living Farms, Center for
Sustainable Agriculture
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Work Begins on Demonstration Wetland

Thanks to rice farmer Allen Garcia's construction is underway for a two-acre demonstration wetland located adjacent to the new Yolo Bypass State Wildlife Area Headquarters on Chiles Road east of Davis. In early November Mr. Garcia began the earthwork, or earth sculpting as he calls it, to create the new two acre pond. This exciting new Yolo Basin Foundation project in partnership with the State Department of Fish and Game is funded through

Many program for schools. It is another example of a successful Yolo Basin partnership providing habitat and educational resources for the community. Look for upcoming announcements recruiting volunteers for planting days next spring.

Allen Garcia with Living Farms Center for Sustainable Agriculture, farms organic rice at Crockerme Preserve south of Sacramento. Mr. Garcia is well known for his skill in recreating wetland habitats on



Allen Garcia discussing pond design and construction with Mill Siphons in the background.

grants from California Waterfowl Association, Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The demonstration wetland will be modeled after the happy ponds in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and will serve as an easily accessible outdoor classroom for students of all ages. There will be observation areas and a trail accessing the pond for closer study. All vegetation will be native plants typical of Central Valley wetlands and riparian areas, providing an excellent opportunity for students to become familiar with native plants at a convenient study site. This project will be an integral part of the Yolo Basin Foundation's *Mission: the*

existing farmland and demonstrating wildlife friendly farming practices. The Foundation is fortunate to have the services of Mr. Garcia.

Mike Fujisawa, landscape architect with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, prepared the site plans and is working on the irrigation design. Andy Hobb and Bob Smith with Lucy Walker Associates, consulting engineers, provided the pre-design site survey. Grading and installation of water control structures will be completed by Allen Garcia and California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Area personnel this winter as ground conditions permit. Native grass plugs for a perennial grassland surrounding the pond will be provided by Hedgecrow Farms.

Thank you to the 1997 Bucks for Ducks Sponsors:

YOLO FLYWAY CLUB:

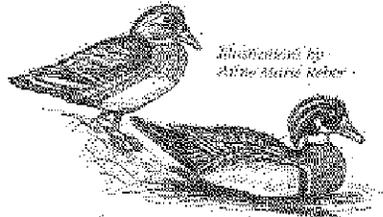
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 Yolo County Flood Control and
 Water Conservation District

BUCKS FOR DUCKS: SEVEN YEARS OLD AND GOING STRONG

The Yolo Basin Foundation would like to thank John Whitcombe, Paul Makley and Bill Roe of Tandem Properties for hosting the seventh annual "Bucks for Ducks" fund-raising reception. The picturesque setting next to the Northstar pond, created by Tandem Properties, will certainly be an appropriate place for wildlife supporters to enjoy the evening. As the evening progressed, the many geese, ducks and egrets that circled over before settling into the pond seemed to be co-sponsors of the event and certainly reminded those present of the importance of their efforts.

The proceeds from Bucks for Ducks support the Foundation's activities throughout the year including the new *Discover the Flyway* program for schools and other activities on behalf of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Thank you to our over 50 sponsors and over 150 people attending the event.

Special thanks to the following donors of event supplies or in-kind services: Maggie Ferrari, Looking Glass Framing Gallery, Mustard Seed, and V. Santoni, Strefizia Flower

Company, Valley Wine, Judy Whitcombe, and Judy Yost.

Also thank you to the following donors of raffle items: The Artery, Avid Reader, Cornflower Farms, Ual & Rosie, Cushing, Davis Food Co-op, Discoveries, Giselles Travel, Horse Plus, John Lescount, The Naturalist, The Pahr Chip and Super Salad.

Thank you to California Waterfowl Association, State Department of Fish and Game, Sandra Dunne and Tom & Meg Stallard for donations of art work and other items to the silent auction. Thank you to also to the following artists for donations of their work: Harry Adamson, Carol Brandt, Adele Farrishaw, Keith Hansen, Thomas Quirin, Vicki Hipsley, Dave Sellers, Robert Solari, Sherrie Russell Melina, and Judy Whitcombe.

Thank you to our hardworking volunteers: Mickey Barlow, Barbara Nesch, Joan Humphrey, Bill Julian, Liz Merry, Tandy Maxwell, Bob Logan & Charlie Schfelder, Pamela Roemer, May Schlect, Iris Tennerbaum. We thank our many community supporters for making the event a great success for the seventh year in a row.

WELCOME TO DUCK DAYS

"At last, the event
that's all it's
quacked up to be!"

Join the thousands of wildlife
enthusiasts headed for the
Veterans Memorial Center
in Davis, February 7 and 8th at
California Duck Days 1998.

The brand new duck festival in Northern
California Duck Days caters to top
coordinators, hunters and lovers of the great
outdoors for two days of seminars, field
trips and fun for the whole family.

Live workshops and demonstrations will
please sportsmen and women, clients,
backyard naturalists and kids. Activities
include decoy carving, fly casting,
waterfowl identification, duck riding, and
arts and crafts displays. Best of all, you
can watch hundreds of ducks, geese,
ducks, and herons, traveling the Pacific
Flyway.

Registration is \$4 per adult, or
just \$1.75 for a non-trip local children's
and under-16s combined fee. Volunteer
opportunities are available. To find out
more about California Duck Days, visit our
web site at www.duckdays.org or call
758-1222 or 800-423-5200.

California Duck Days turns Five Years Old!

by Liz Merry, Duck Days Coordinator

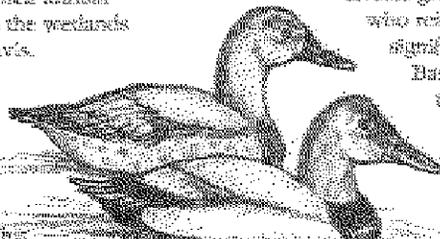
California Duck Days will
celebrate its fifth anniversary
on February 7th and 8th,
1998. Few California wildlife festivals
claim such a small accomplishment. The
festival includes an impressive array
of workshops, field trips,
demonstrations, and a large
Exhibition Hall full of educational
displays and vendors. For the first
time, the California Waterfowl
Association (CWA) will co-host the
festival with Yolo Basin Foundation
by combining their annual
Exposition into the weekends
weekend in Davis. CWA's
participation adds a whole
new level of content and
volunteer commitment. This
year the World
Duck Symposium
will also be taking place at UC Davis
during the festival.

Each year since its inception, the
planners of Duck Days have noticed
more and more wildlife festivals
springing up in California. In
November, 1996, we met with festival
coordinators from throughout
California at the National Warchable-
Wildlife conference. During those
discussions it became clear there are a
few key ingredients that make
California Duck Days a cherished
event for everyone involved.

First, this festival is run by and for
people passionate about wetlands
and wildlife. The mission of the
festival is to "educate and inspire,"
and the volunteers who lend their
knowledge and skills to the festival
pass on their own inspiration to the
participants.

Second, the mixture of talent,
knowledge, and interest in the Davis
area seldom surpassed. At UC Davis,
professors, graduate students,
administrators, undergraduates and
retired understand the importance of
translating knowledge into action in
order to support wildlife and habitat.
The California Duck Days experience
could not be equaled without the
energy and creativity lent by the
folks at UC Davis.

Third, the festival began as a
vision of Bob Schneider's and a
diverse group of people
who realized the
significance of the Yolo
Basin wetlands to
the Pacific Flyway.
In order to
celebrate the
wetlands and
provide a fun,
educational
event to the
public they



organized under the auspices of the
Yolo Environmental Resource Center,
with Elaine Hébert at the helm as
Coordinator and Bob Barnes lending
his support and experience from
many other wildlife festivals. The first
Duck Days was held only five months
after the first "Steering Committee"
decided the event would take place.
In 1995 Duck Days became a project
of the Yolo Basin Foundation.

Today we begin planning the
festival almost the day after it ends.
The energy created from the event
last February was tangible with each
Steering Committee excited about
making it even better in 1998. I'm
extremely proud to let you know,
they've done it. The festival will be an
amazing, diverse, content-rich and
activity-rich weekend full of fun. It's
going to be the best California Duck
Days yet! We'll see you there.

EAGLES

by John Kamper

When we think of Yolo County, we generally don't think of eagles, but we should. We've got both kinds of eagles here, and seem to be getting more of them.

The classic eagle, of course, is the Bald Eagle, our national emblem. Almost everyone recognizes an adult Bald Eagle, with its white head and tail. Recognizing an *immature* Bald Eagle, however, is not so easy, and we'll talk about that later.

Bald Eagles have been on the increase everywhere, including in Yolo County. There is a significant winter population in Cache Creek Canyon, and birds from there regularly drift downstream as far as Ramsey and Guinda. In November 1997, one was even spotted in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and we can probably count on seeing them there more often, as the duck population increases.

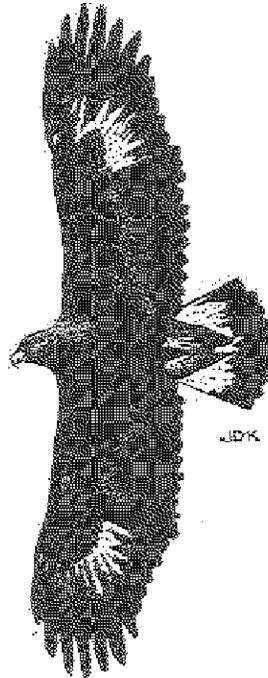
The wildlife programs on TV tell us that Bald Eagles are principally consumers of fish, and so they are, provided there are fish around for them to get. But when fish aren't readily available, they live on geese, ducks, and coots, and to some extent on small mammals. Do they occasionally prey on lambs, as charged by many ranchers? Some observers claim they have seen them do that, although in many cases the eagles probably picked up the lambs after they were already dead.

Bald Eagles are capable of taking ducks on the wing, and frequently do, so. However, another technique they use is to harass a duck on the water. The duck dives each time it is attacked, but the eagle pursues it and attacks each time it surfaces until the duck is exhausted.

If the duck can get airborne, it generally has a better chance of

escaping, but some ducks require a long and clumsy takeoff before they can get aloft. Occasionally, such clumsy risers have escaped by surfacing directly under the eagle's tail, and taking off before the eagle can turn around.

Our other eagle is the Golden Eagle. Usually these are birds of the foothills and mountains, but again, one was recently spotted in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Golden Eagles mostly prey on small mammals, but



have been known to attack animals as large as antelope, deer, lambs, dogs, cats, young pigs, and foxes.

Do they also carry off human babies? The answer appears to be no, although that is not to say they wouldn't do so if given the opportunity. There is at least one case, apparently authentic, of a Golden Eagle attacking a nine-year-old girl, although the attacker was beaten off. A factor that works against such attacks is the limit of how much

an eagle can lift off the ground. In one experiment, an eagle weighing 31 pounds could not lift a weight of 5 1/2 pounds, but in another case, an observer saw an eagle carry off a 7-pound jackrabbit.

What about this business of identifying immature eagles? Well, that's one of the tougher problems for birds, because immature Bald Eagles and immature Golden Eagles can look much alike. It takes 4 to 5 years to gain adult plumage, for both kinds of eagles. As immatures, they are generally brown with blotchy white areas. The location of these white areas provides one of the keys to identification.

If the eagle shows white areas at the base of the primaries (the major flight feathers), it's a Golden Eagle, because Bald Eagles don't do that. (See accompanying illustration.) If it shows white in the "arm-pits" (called the *axillaries*), it's a Bald Eagle, because Golden Eagles don't do that. But immature eagles can get very creative about how much white they're going to show in these areas, so it's not always quite so easy.

Another place to look is in the white areas of the tail. In both species, there will probably be some white at the base of the tail when they're young. If the white area is sharply delineated from the black at the end of the tail, that's a sign it's probably a Golden Eagle. The white on Bald Eagles tends to be more diffuse.

Another key is how much the eagle's head projects in front of the wing, when the bird is soaring. If the head projection is less than half the tail length, then it's a Golden Eagle. If it's more than half the tail length, it's a Bald Eagle.

Easy, isn't it? Just wait until you get one with intermediate characteristics, and also find yourself unable to decide whether the head sticks out more than, or less than, a half-tail length. You might have to put it down as "Eagle, unidentified."

CITY OF DAVIS WETLANDS UPDATE

by Mike Corner, Wildlife Resource Specialist, City of Davis,
Public Works Dept.

The earthwork for the City's wetlands has been completed. The final inspection for acceptance from the contractor is scheduled for the end of December. Presently, the city is filling the site with reclaimed water at a rate of five million gallons per day and four of the seven permanent areas are inundated. Although the wetland is mostly devoid of vegetation, some waterfowl including mudra swans have begun using the site. The planting contract will begin January 1, 1998. The City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are pleased to announce that Sierra View Landscapes Inc. was awarded that contract. Sierra View has a great track record with their work for the City's Woodbridge Park project and

the California Department of Fish & Game's Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. During the next year the City wetlands will be planted with over 6,000 trees and shrubs, and the entire 400 acres will be seeded with native grasses and forbs. Emergent aquatic species such as bulrush and spike rush will be plug planted. During the fall of 1998 volunteers will be supplied with native grass seeds, soil and containers to grow plugs that will be planted into the city wetlands in December. If you are interested then please leave your name and address with Mike Corner at (530) 757-5888 x7531. Public access to the area should begin sometime in 1998.

Visit the new Yolo Basin Foundation website at www.yolo-basin.org. There you will find information on Yolo Basin Foundation programs including a detailed lake trip schedule. Thank you to IRL Thompson and Lori Baker for many hours of volunteer time getting the site up and running.

JOIN THE YOLO BASIN FOUNDATION

I would like to become a friend of the Yolo Basin Foundation. Enclosed is a donation of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 other

Please make checks payable to Yolo Basin Foundation and send to P.O. Box 943, Davis, CA 95617. Donations of \$15 or more will receive a complimentary set of Yolo Basin Waterfowl Identification cards. Donations are not deductible. Thank you for your support!

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Figure 6

Yolo Basin Foundation Background Flyer



"There is no challenge facing this country that we cannot meet if we will just do what you have done here."

—President Bill Clinton at the dedication ceremony for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, November 15, 1997

When you drive on Interstate 80 east toward the Yolo Causeway between Davis and Sacramento, you may see 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 west of the Everglades. 3,700 acres of land in the Yolo Bypass floodway have been converted to wetlands and other habitats.

When President Bill Clinton visited on November 15 to dedicate this remarkable Area, he hailed the project as a national model for meeting the challenge of "trying to grow our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing, our environment." He acknowledged the extraordinary collaboration and effort that have enabled this mosaic of seasonal and year round ponds, grasslands and riparian forest - covering six square miles and home to nearly 200 species of birds - to thrive alongside Interstate 80, one of America's busiest people thoroughways, next to a bustling metropolitan area and in the heart of one of the country's richest agricultural areas.

Biologists for the California Department of Fish and Game, the new managers, have opened portions of the area to the public for wildlife viewing and waterfowl hunting. The Yolo Basin Foundation is pleased to have reached this milestone and is offering numerous opportunities to introduce people to the Wildlife Area.

Yolo Basin 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. Its 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 partnership that created the Yolo Basin Wetlands project. Yolo Basin Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in creating and managing the wildlife area.

A principal goal of the Foundation is facilitating environmental education in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Now that the restoration of the wildlife area is complete, the Foundation is ready to move forward with its educational mission. We want to share this spectacular resource with the world.

In August 1997 we held the first of our **Discover the Flyway** teacher workshops. The purpose of this new program is to introduce Sacramento area teachers to the Wildlife Area so that they can bring their classes out for exciting



and productive field studies. Each teacher is given a handbook with background information and suggested hands-on field and class activities for enhancing their studies. The fifty teachers attending the first workshops plan to take their classes to the Wildlife Area at least once this year. Over 600 second through sixth-graders visited the wildlife Area between October and December, more than halfway toward our goal of 800 students during the 1997-98 school year. Construction is underway for a three-acre demonstration wetland that will serve as an easily accessible outdoor classroom. Additional **Discover the Flyway** workshops will be scheduled in the future. The Foundation is also recruiting and training a cadre of volunteers to participate by assisting teachers or getting involved in other aspects of the program.

Other educational programs underway include: sponsoring the fifth annual California Duck Days - a two-day waterfowl and wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway to be held February 7-8, 1998; publishing the Yolo Flyway newsletter; maintaining a web page at www.yolobasin.org; bringing wetlands education into the schools with our Wild About Wetlands classroom 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.

In addition to our educational programs, the Foundation recently established a working group to plan for the building and operation of an internationally recognized Pacific Flyway Center near the wildlife Area. Costs are estimated at \$10 million to create a world-class visitor center.

The establishment of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the work of the Foundation have been widely regarded as a model for planning and completion of other wetland projects in the Yolo Bypass. 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.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

The Foundation has a proven record of success. Our efforts have been recognized in many ways. In August 1995, over 150 people attended a groundbreaking celebration at the Yolo Basin Wetlands site. There the Foundation was presented with a National Wetlands Conservation Award from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. At that ceremony, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt lauded our success at 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 and The People at Chevron. At the State of Estuary Conference in October, 1996, the Foundation was recognized for outstanding implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the San Francisco Bay Estuary. In 1997, California Duck Days was honored at the State of the Sacramento Watershed Conference for excellence in education.

Our dream is to reach all the children in the region, and let them experience for themselves the joy of seeing 100,000 geese and swans in a vast wetland. We feel that the most crucial element in conservation of wildlife resources is to make the next generation understand why wildlife habitat deserves protection. We want children to see first-hand this regional treasure, and to help them understand why all of us must preserve the wetlands of the Pacific Flyway.

"This project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it."

—President Bill Clinton



YOLO *b*ASIN FOUNDATION

PO Box 943, Davis, CA 95617 (530) 756-7248

Visit our website at www.yolobasin.org

For *Discover the Flyway* or field trip information: call (530)758-1018, email flywayyb@yolobasin.org

For *Duck Days* information call: (800)425-5001 or (530)758-1286, email: duckdays@yolobasin.org

For *Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area* access information contact **State Fish & Game Wildlife Area Headquarters** at (530)757-2461; 45211 County Road 32B (Chiles), Davis, CA 95616

Staff: Robin Kulakow, Executive Director; Liz Merry, Program Coordinator; Bob Schneider, Pacific Flyway Center Coordinator; Administrative assistants: Mickey Barlow and Iris Tennenbaum

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Figure 7
Newspaper Articles

Los Angeles Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1997
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LOS ANGELES TIMES

B8

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1997 *

Wetlands Victory

Massive effort takes shape as Sacramento-area bird refuge

For more than a century, farmers and developers have transformed California's wetlands and marshes into cropland and housing tracts. Only about 5% of the state's original wetlands remain. But now, in a cooperative venture that is a model for the rest of California, part of the Sacramento Valley has been returned to a more natural state as the 3,400-acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

More than eight years of effort, including habitat development costing \$17 million, will culminate Saturday with President Clinton's dedication of the new refuge in the Yolo Bypass, a massive flood control channel just west of Sacramento. The area will be managed by the state Department of Fish and Game as a new stopping ground for the hundreds of thousands of waterfowl migrating along the Pacific Flyway.

The lesson of the Yolo refuge, Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt said when construction began, is that "agriculture, wildlife and a dynamic urban area can work together."

The two-mile-wide bypass, essentially a huge ditch, was originally built to carry floodwaters of the Sacramento River around the

capital during winter storms. In dry periods, the table-flat land is planted in crops. For years, environmentalists have sought ways to make portions of the bypass more amenable to migratory birds, including ducks, geese, swans, cranes and even eagles. But the project was immensely complicated. Land had to be purchased from private owners. State and federal flood control agencies had to be convinced that new wildlife habitat could be created without impeding flood flows. The participants had to work around endangered species laws.

At the center of the effort was the volunteer Yolo Basin Foundation. Others involved included Ducks Unlimited, a hunters organization, and the state and federal agencies dealing with flood control and wildlife management. Financing was a joint federal-state effort.

Shoreline areas have been made habitat-friendly by dredging and bulldozing. Ponds were built and sustained through the use of dikes, pumps and channels. Educational tours are beginning. Officials call it the largest wetland restoration project west of the Florida Everglades. Build a model like this and the birds will come, on whispering wings.

"It's been a lot of hard work, but it's a complicated process. It took eight years, but it's going to be here forever."

—Robin K. Shaw, executive director of the Yolo Bypass Foundation



Waiting ready for President Clinton, Mark Cowart, left, and Teresa Pocheco of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pull abandoned files

from ponds Tuesday at the western edge of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which will be dedicated Saturday.

Yolo wildlife project model of cooperation

By John P. Lee
Illustration by

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, a 10,000-acre wetland project in California's Central Valley, is a model of cooperation between government agencies and private groups.

The project, which was created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Yolo Bypass Foundation, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and other groups, is a model of cooperation between government agencies and private groups.



An egret and traffic on Interstate 80 over the Yolo Causeway head east across the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, which was created by a partnership of government agencies and private groups.

Bypass: Unusual wetlands partnership draws national attention



Continued from page A1

The idea for the wildlife area was first conceived by the Yolo Bypass Foundation, a private group that has been working to restore the wetland wildlife habitat.

The project was approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

The project is a model of cooperation between government agencies and private groups. It was created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Yolo Bypass Foundation, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and other groups.

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In search of ...



Sue Cockrell/The Enterprise

From left, Karleigh Rose, Helen Yasko and Monica Ordonez use their binoculars to get a closer look at birds in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area during a field trip to the site east of Davis Wednesday morning. The girls are students in Dorothy Petersen's second-

grade class at Pioneer Elementary School. Their visit was one of the first offered through the Yolo Basin Foundation's new Discover the Flyway educational program. For details, see story on Page A-2.

Schoolchildren discover the Yolo Bypass flyway

"I found a bug!" was one of the most common exclamations from Belinda Kesser's second-grade class as they initiated the Discover the Flyway program in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area for the first time last Friday.

The children searched wetland water for protozoan creatures, explored the difference between natural and non-natural items, and were thrilled by the presence of blue herons, great egrets and many flocks of ducks flying into the Wildlife Area for their winter layover.

The Discover the Flyway program started in late August, when 47 elementary school teachers were trained how to use the Wildlife Area as an outdoor classroom for their students.

"The teachers are very enthusiastic about the opportunity to use this new resource," said Dorothy Petersen, a second-grade teacher at Pioneer Elementary School. She brought her students to the wetlands on Wednesday to add the hands-on experience of the place to her classroom lessons about water, wildlife and the environment.

Her students sampled the wa-

ter, planted sedges in the mud and walked the "Un-Natur Trail" during their two-hour field trip to the Wildlife Area.

Jean Rissman, a teacher at Silveville Primary School in Dixon led the first classroom sedge planting in the area.

"The children enjoyed the mud and the critters," Rissman said, "and I believe they will remember this trip for a very long time."

Cornflower Farms donated the sprouted sedge plants that were planted by the children, and the California Department of Fish and Game coordinated the planting effort.

The Discover the Flyway program provides support for the teachers who completed the initial workshops by providing learning materials and volunteer assistance.

The Yolo Basin Foundation intends to provide mini-workshops about the wetlands for teachers, parents and volunteers interested in helping with the field trips in November. Anyone interested in volunteering, or teachers interested in visiting the wetlands, should call 758-1018.

DAVIS ENTERPRISE
10/16/97



"You ought to be very proud of (this project) and also draw confidence from this that there is no challenge facing this country today that we cannot face."

— President Clinton

Clinton praises wetlands project



Mark Bullard/The Enterprise

Above, President Clinton lifts his binoculars to view the wildlife during a tour of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on Saturday morning. Joining Clinton on the walking tour are, from left, Deputy Interior Secretary

John Garamendi, who once represented Davis in the state Senate, farmer Greg Schmid, who used to raise crops on the acreage now restored as wetlands, Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, and Robin Kulakow of

the Yolo Basin Foundation. At top, Clinton greets some of the invited guests who braved wind and rain — and who waited for hours in the cold and mud — to attend the dedication ceremony.

► Rain can't dampen spirits as president acknowledges his public-private venture

More stories, photos on Page A-8

by MELANIE TURNER
Enterprise staff writer

Robin Kulakow of Davis never imagined she would walk alongside the president of the United States through the wet-

lands she holds so dear to her heart.

But under dark skies and drizzle, and tramping through the mud, Kulakow, executive director of the Yolo Basin Foundation, pointed out various bird species to President Clinton on Saturday.

Clinton, who came to Davis to formally dedicate the 3,700-acre wildlife area, called it a model for dealing with many of the nation's problems. The delicate agreement meshing endangered species and flood control interests may set precedent

for future projects.

The public-private project shows that wildlife, flood control and agriculture can co-exist in a largely urban setting.

Clinton said the project is the "embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of the 21st Century, but how we should be doing it."

Clinton added that those who made it happen should be proud.

"You ought to be very proud of it and also draw confidence from this that there

is no challenge facing this country today that we cannot face," he said while addressing the 1,000 people who attended the wetlands dedication.

Clinton arrived via motorcade after Air Force One touched down at McClellan Air Force Base. The president's 26-car motorcade drove along a levee road to the wetlands, located in a flood control channel south of Interstate 80 and east of Davis.

See CLINTON, Page A-9

CLINTON

Continued from Page A-1

Attendance at the event was by invitation only. Attendees included local elected officials, and family and friends of the organizations that helped turn the eight-year project into a reality.

They left cold and wet, but uplifted.

"I'm still coming to grips with the fact that this truly is a national resource. Right here in Yolo County," said Dave Rosenberg of Davis, chairman of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Commonly referred to as the Putah Sinks, the area serves as a rest stop along the Pacific Flyway, a route used annually by thousands of migratory birds. Some of the land is reserved for hunting, hiking and wildlife watching, while other areas are sealed off as a wildlife sanctuary.

On Saturday, Clinton donned a red U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cap, a blue-green windbreaker and khakis. He stood atop a podium in the rain with a grassy pond as a backdrop, recognizing the cooperative efforts of public and private partnerships.

The result — the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area — is now the largest wetlands restoration project east of the Florida Everglades.

Clinton said the land reminded him of his home state.

"When I crossed that levee today, I thought I was back home in Eastern Arkansas, and I kept waiting for someone to get me my waders and a gun to go duck hunting."

Clinton said one of the biggest challenges the nation will have to face is how to increase our economy while improving, not diminishing our environment. Whereas once people thought the environment would "take care of itself," or thought, "It's a necessary price we'll have to pay," now we know better, he said.

Many observers of the long process agree that without the tireless work of Kulakow, 40, and the Yolo Basin Foundation, the project would have washed away long ago.

A group of people from Yolo Audubon Society and Putah Creek Council, including Ted Beedy and Steve Chainey, first conceived of the idea in 1989 for re-creating a wetlands habitat.

The Yolo Basin Foundation is a non-profit corporation dedicated to educating people about wetlands and wildlife. It formed that same year to promote the establishment of the wildlife area.

Around 1900, the area was developed into a facility for diverting Sacramento River floodwaters away from the city and into the Delta.

Kulakow picked up the project after

"(Rep. Vic Fazio) has been truly the major supporter and sponsor of this effort. No matter what obstacle was thrown up against it, he managed to negotiate a solution through consensus and compromise. And it's quite a legacy for him, I believe. And for all of us."

— Davis Mayor Lois Wolk

some initial discussions and invited more people to join in their vision. Eventually, she quit her job as a soils scientist with the state to be a full-time volunteer on the project.

Later, volunteers managed to convince the state and federal government of the project's value. The wetlands restoration project ultimately was created with state, federal and private support. The federal government contributed \$12 million of the \$17 million cost, with the state contributing the balance.

After years of negotiations between the Army Corps of Engineers, private organizations, the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture Coalition, the state Reclamation Board, Department of Water Resources, state Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agreement was reached to balance the needs of floodplain managers and environmentalists.

The Yolo Basin Foundation helped to negotiate an agreement among all the agencies that addressed their concerns about endangered species and management of vegetation and recognized the first function of the bypass as flood control.

Many on Saturday, including Clinton, thanked Rep. Vic Fazio, D-West Sacramento, for his constant support of this and other environmental efforts. Fazio worked to secure federal funds for the project.

"Vic has been truly the major supporter and sponsor of this effort," Davis Mayor Lois Wolk said afterwards. "No matter what obstacle was thrown up against it, he managed to negotiate a solution through consensus and compromise. And it's quite a legacy for him, I believe. And for all of us."

Fazio has spoken many times before the people of Yolo County about wetlands issues. But he said he's never had a better time doing it than he did on Saturday.

"I don't think I've ever had more fun than the day I brought along the president of the United States," Fazio told the crowd.

The permanent ponds in the bypass already are attracting more waterfowl than ever before. Almost 10,000 ducks showed up one recent morning in one small area of the wetlands that wasn't flooded last year.

Less than 5 percent of California's historical wetlands remain today, Fazio said.

The wetlands project mimics seasonal flooding, explained Bill Gaines, director of government affairs and chairman of the Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture.

"In essence, you're farming for ducks," Gaines said. "You build it and they will come."

Ten years ago, waterfowl populations had dropped to about 50 million birds on the North American continent. Already, because of similar efforts inspired by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan signed by the United States and Canada, and with some help from mother nature, those numbers are up to from 90 to 100 million birds of various species, Gaines said.

Ground work on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area project began two years ago. For starters, an eight-acre riparian forest was planted. It's now thriving. Some trees are as tall as seven feet. Earth in the bypass has been sculpted into large, shallow ponds.

Contractors under the supervision of Ducks Unlimited did the earth-moving work to create the thousands of acres of seasonal and permanent ponds that make up the wildlife area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited also contributed to the project's construction.

Oversight of the area was transferred Saturday to Fish and Game.

Clinton said efforts like the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area will actually help the state conserve water by, as one example, using less water runoff in the future.

"You're doing the right thing and you're doing it in the right way," he told the audience.

"...I've seen a glimpse of America's future and I like it."

WETLANDS

Continued from Page A-1

"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 schoolchildren. The foundation's primary goal is education.

When completed late 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 worked on the project.

As she listed the names, she was near tears.

"Go for it, Robin." Supervisor Betsy Marchand said from her 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.



Bee/Bryan Patrick

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

3,000-acre wildlife refuge designated in Yolo Bypass

By Jim Mayer
Bee 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 tules.

But the Yolo project stands out from other efforts to reverse the drying 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 loss, 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 Stahr, deputy district director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento. "We need to look at what we can gain."

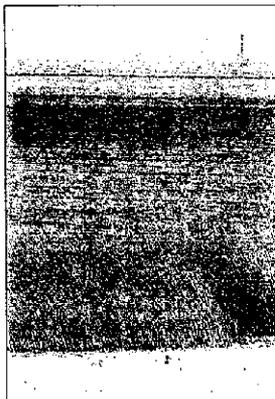
Stahr was among the dignitaries chased off a levee by rain and into a Post of Sacramento meeting room for the official signing and proclamations ending years of difficult negotiations.

"It's probably a great day to be a duck," Stahr 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 B4



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

• • The Sacramento Bee Final • Tuesday, April 26, 1994

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 coiled out of the Coast Range and dumped into the swampy lowlands that its wet meadows were filled by the overflowing Sacramento River.

The area is now blocked by Monticello 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 Chaine, 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 animosity 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 hamstring maintenance in the by-pass.

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 these 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 Ray Barosh, 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 good."

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

"We really felt they were going as far as they could go," Barosh said. "But if you look at the picture this is an attempt to retrieve something that was lost in negotiation."



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 Hetsy 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 and 8 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 will be managed completion 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.

OPINION

The Sacramento Bee

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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.

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.

Page 4 • The West Sacramento Press • Wednesday, February 19, 1992

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.

Yolo: Working together

Continued from page B1
Yolo Environmental Resource Center, the Yolo Basin Foundation and the Yolo Land Trust. Ecological politicians have been elected that conservation can be achieved without giving all development or alienating landowners.

"It was a matter of getting people to work together and cooperate to preserve and enhance natural resources," said Yolo Superior Betty Marchand. Cooperation, she said, is hard work, someone's concerns must be resolved. Every obstacle must be

grazed through. "We don't have enough money this county to be fighting and suing and carrying on," she said. "We try to use resources to get something done."

Resources are always relative. Even Chaney agrees, it is not infinite. "This is not an area where people come to see amazing spectacular landscapes," he said. "That really prevents us from encouraging Yolo conservationists to exert their activities. Today, it hampers the current agenda. Preserving Yolo's groundwater is as important as saving oak trees. Tule fields are open space."

And increasingly, Yolo is finding cooperation is what once was. Tule and Cache creeks are dammed and diverted. But they once tumbled freely out of the Coast Range and flooded the Yolo basin, now the engineered bypass. The broad swamp that apparently served the county for centuries, Yolo's historian says, is the Indian word for tule - was long ago engineered by the U.S. Army into a wide stem drain to save Sacramento from its name sake river.

Today the top Yolo goal is to manage the Goose and Tule wetland in a way also conducive to wildlife. After four hard years, the Yolo Basin Foundation now predicts it is only a year away from "breaking ground" on a 3,100-acre restoration project, where Tule Creek flows into the bypass.

Having some cooperation, conservationists are harvesting hope. This year, some basin growers flooded their land, and thousands of tundra swan, geese and wildfowl are wintering there.

"Why Yolo?" The answer is a source of science and education and controversy. Environmentalism has always been solid in Davis, where the Sierra Club boasts its highest per capita membership. The agricultural tradition is still dominant here - by nature, a conservative force. And the county is small enough for personal relationships between the major players. A majority of local officials usually stand by commitment to certain urban development. And its congressman, Rep. Vic Fazio, D-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 evolved attitudes, who have blended scientific understanding and diplomacy.

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

He mastered these skills at Putah Creek and learned still more. "It's important to have a sustained effort, not just a dabble," he said. Set sights on realistic accomplishments. Respect diverse interests and be patient with adversaries. Don't just fight.

"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 towns angry."

The bees and flies in Yolo Basin

biology from Davis. Beedy also works at Jones and Stokes Associates, who was doing in Putah Creek, is mothering their two children full-time. Beedy remembers the night in their Woodland home when Superior Marchand arrived as an adversary and left as an ally. He remembers years before, before his then-girlfriend convincingly - that it wasn't enough to understand biology.

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

Robin Nakawo also was baptized in Putah Creek. A former Forest Service soils scientist, Nakawo 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 between the Yolo and Putah Creek flows into the basin.

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

Bob Schneider, now conservation chief of the local Sierra Club chapter, cofounded the California Wilderness Coalition in his younger years, then became a hunter. 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 particularly hard necessity, said power Richard Rominger, whose family has stewarded 200 land for 100 years. The 1980s real estate boom pushed outward up Interstate 80 from the Bar 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 Food and Agriculture during the 1970s. "I've seen how people at work to find where we have common ground, rather than emphasize the differences."

Yolo finds that cooperation aids environment

By Jim Meyer
 The Staff Writer

The people in Yolo have a long history of caring about the environment, not simply as a hobby. They want to save Mont Lake and Hazlett rain forests.

And out struck Steve Chaney as wants that Putah Creek, which flows south through the University of California, was about ground.

People need to respect and inter-

act with the environment, they are open in contact with," said Chaney, a Davis alumni, a landscape architect and chairman of the Putah Creek Council.

Chaney and others set out in the mid-1980s to increase appreciation for the creek and plant a few trees. They thought as in. Concern became a crisis, and to save the creek from slow death, the council sought to get water released from Mont Lake Dam at Lake Berryessa.

"We were unpelled into the political arena this time," Chaney said. Legislative, Congressional, Environmental legislation. After all, this was winter. Although fish have died and trees have withered, the creek bled.

The skirmish at Putah Creek was the Lexington and Concord for a non-violent revolution in Yolo County. It is one that flows through more environmental education over their passion for localism.

"Instead of putting our lives, 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 of working to restore habitat in the Yolo Basin.

The last five years has given rise to

Please see YOLO, page B1

B METRO STATE

▶ EDITORIALS
 ▶ OBITUARIES



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

B1 - The Sacramento Bee Staff • Thursday, February 9, 1990

Conserving close to home

Yolo County residents are working to Putah Creek, though they find the value of realizing compromise

