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APPENDIX RESPONSES TO THE 2016 - 2017 FINAL REPORT

APPENDIX

**RESPONSES TO THE
2016 – 2017
YOLO COUNTY GRAND JURY
FINAL REPORT**



Responses to 2016 – 2017 Grand Jury reports had not been received as of June 20, 2017. Responses will be posted as they are received at <http://www.yolocounty.org/residents/yolo-county-grand-jury>

APPENDIX RESPONSES TO THE 2015 - 2016 FINAL REPORT

APPENDIX

**RESPONSES TO THE
2015 – 2016
YOLO COUNTY GRAND JURY
FINAL REPORT**



The Yolo County Health and Human Services department: Personnel Practices



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

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To: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

July 25, 2016

To: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

RE: 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – The Yolo County Health and Human Services Department: Personnel Practices

Honorable Judge Richardson:

The following is the response to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report titled, “The Yolo County Health and Human Services Department: Personnel Practices” from Yolo County Administrator Patrick Blacklock, Health & Human Services Agency Director Karen Larsen and Human Resources Director Gina Rowland (formerly Health & Human Services Agency Human Resources Director). For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury’s recommendations in **bold**.

F1 The Grand Jury found the Yolo County Health and Human Services Department, Emergency and Intensive Services supervisors and manager do not foster a culture of open communication in addressing personnel complaints.

Response: The respondents partially disagree with the finding. This Grand Jury report focuses on a work unit that comprises less than 5% of the Health & Human Services Agency. There is one manager and four supervisors in the Employment & Intensive Services work unit. It is not accurate to say that all five individuals do not foster a culture of open communication in addressing personnel complaints.

F2 The Yolo County Health and Human Services Department has awarded permanent employment status to some probationary employees without proper performance evaluations.

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. There was no evidence or examples provided by the Grand Jury to assist the Health & Human Services Agency

The Yolo County Health and Human Services department: Personnel Practices

in substantiating or quantifying this finding. Agency staff reviewed all current performance evaluation due dates. Of the 530 current employees, there was only one incident in which a person passed their probationary period without a performance evaluation being performed. Given that this is less than 0.19%, this was likely an unfortunate oversight or anomaly, and does not reflect standard practices within the Agency.

F3 The Yolo County Health and Human Services Department does not consistently conduct timely annual performance evaluations for permanent staff.

Response: The respondents disagree partially with this finding. Timely performance evaluations were identified by the Health & Human Services Agency as an issue in July 2015, and thus prioritized and included in the Agency's 2015-16 goals. The Agency has made good progress in this area; in December 2015, 65% of employee performance evaluations were completed on time; by late May 2016, the timely completion of employee evaluations increased to 85%. This is an area that will continue to be a priority for the Agency.

F4 The Grand Jury found many front line staff do not understand the procedure for hiring internal applicants versus external applicants as it applies to hiring preferences.

Response: The respondents agree with the finding

R1 By September 1, 2016, the Yolo County Health and Human Services Department will provide additional training for supervisors and managers to promote open communication and resolution of personnel issues.

Response: This recommendation was implemented prior to the Health & Human Services Agency's knowledge of the Grand Jury investigation and subsequent report. The manager of this unit attended the UC Davis Management Development Program in late 2015 and early 2016. One supervisor in this unit attended the ICMA Effective Supervisory Practices training from January through June 2016. Both training programs emphasize open communication and resolution of personnel issues. In addition, ongoing training for supervisors and managers is offered countywide, including Agency staff.

R2 By January 2, 2017, all probationary and permanent employee evaluations are to be up to date, and the Department will conduct all evaluations in a timely manner.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented by January 2, 2017.

Wild Wings Service Area: Management and Service Concerns



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July 26, 2016

To: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

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RE: 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Wild Wings County Service Area:
Management and Service Concerns

Honorable Judge Richardson:

The following is the response to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report titled, “Wild Wings County Service Area: Management and Service Concerns” from the Wild Wings County Service Area Board of Directors, Yolo County Director of Community Services (formerly Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services) Taro Echiburu, County Administrator Patrick Blacklock (currently overseeing Community Service Area management) and Chief Financial Officer Howard Newens. For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury’s recommendations in **bold**.

F1 There is a lack of transparency and accessibility of information regarding the operations of the Wild Wings CSA.

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. While there may have been instances of break-downs in communication or occasions where information was not readily available, generally, information regarding the operations of the Wild Wings CSA is posted online and/or obtainable from County staff.

F2 The Wild Wings CSA meeting times are inconvenient for working families. Meeting dates are not always consistent.

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. The meeting times and dates are set by the Advisory Committee, who are members of the community and working individuals. The general Advisory Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. and the Golf

Wild Wings Service Area: Management and Service Concerns

Course Subcommittee meets at 5:00 p.m. The meetings are generally held every other month on a Wednesday and are also set by the Advisory Committee.

F3 Wild Wings CSA meeting agendas and minutes are not posted online in a timely manner.

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. Meeting agendas are posted online prior to the meeting date and in compliance with the Brown Act. Meeting minutes are typically posted in a timely manner when provided by the Wild Wings CSA Advisory Committee.

F4 KemperSports' monthly updates are not regularly posted to the Yolo County Wild Wings Golf Club web page.

Response: The respondents agree with the finding.

F5 The Yolo County website is not user-friendly and is difficult to navigate. Information is not updated on a regular basis.

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. While there are sections of the Yolo County website that could be improved upon, the website generally is user-friendly, easy to navigate and updated on a regular basis.

F6 The Wild Wings CSA failed to fully fund reserve accounts (capital improvement, sewer, and water) during the years 2011, 2013, and 2014.

Response: The respondents disagree wholly with the finding. Amounts were transferred to fund the reserve accounts for the years 2011, 2013 and 2014.

F7 The Wild Wings CSA borrowed from restricted funds to cover general expenses.

Response: The respondents agree with the finding. Though funds might be restricted for various purposes, occasionally circumstances could warrant a loan to another fund when the governing board determines that such a transaction advances the goal of the organization and serves the best interest of the organization in the long term. In such cases, the governing board could authorize an inter-fund loan with certain conditions that guarantee timely and full repayment, and hold the lending fund harmless. The loan for the purchase of the golf course was properly authorized and repaid in full.

Wild Wings Service Area: Management and Service Concerns

- F8 Wild Wings CSA management is frequently unresponsive or gives incomplete responses to requests for information.**

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. Staff endeavors to provide all information requested to the extent that the information is available. In some cases however, there has been a break-down in communication, resulting in the provision of incomplete information. In other cases, time is required to gather information or the information does not exist.

- R1 Beginning with the next meeting following the publication of this report and for all ensuing meetings, the draft minutes from Wild Wings CSA meetings should be posted online within 10 working days of the meeting date.**

Response: This recommendation will be implemented.

- R2 By September 1, 2016, Wild Wings CSA public meeting dates should be scheduled and held on a consistent basis, for example, the second Tuesday of every other month.**

Response: This recommendation will be implemented by before 2017.

- R3 By September 1, 2016, Wild Wings CSA meeting start time should be no earlier than 7:00 p.m. to allow for greater resident participation.**

Response: This recommendation requires further analysis. As stated above, meetings times have been set by the Advisory Committee. However, before 2017, staff will survey CSA members to determine the best meeting start time for CSA residents and will agendaize reconsideration of meeting start times.

- R4 By September 1, 2016, KemperSports' monthly updates should be posted by CSA management or staff within 30 days of the end of the month to the Yolo County Wild Wings Golf Club web page.**

Response: This recommendation will be implemented by November 1, 2016. However, as the Wild Wings Golf Club webpage is meant as a marketing tool to provide non-CSA residents information about the golf course, KemperSports' monthly updates will instead be posted on a webpage dedicated for CSA residents.

Wild Wings Service Area: Management and Service Concerns

- R5** By January 2, 2017, Yolo County will maintain a regularly updated and easy-to-navigate website related to the Wild Wings CSA.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented by January 2, 2017.

- R6** Water and sewer rates should be adjusted on a yearly basis to fund reserve accounts (capital improvement, sewer, and water) as recommended by the most current Engineer's Report.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it requires further analysis to determine whether it is warranted. Annually, CSA staff and fiscal teams will evaluate the amounts needed to fund reserve accounts as recommended by the most current Engineer's Report, and adjustments will be made as appropriate and in a timely manner.

- R7** By September 1, 2016, Wild Wings CSA staff should acknowledge complaints and concerns in writing within ten calendar days of receipt and then issue a response within 30 calendar days.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented by September 1, 2016.

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review



COUNTY OF YOLO

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via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

RE: 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review

Honorable Judge Richardson:

The following is the response to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report titled, "Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review" from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and Health & Human Services Community Branch Director Jan Babb. Response from the Yolo County Sheriff Ed Prieto, on behalf of his office and the Detention Commander Carter Vaughn, came under separate cover on June 30, 2016. For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury's recommendations in **bold**.

Correction to the Report:

The \$36 million referenced in page 2 of the report is an AB 900 Phase 2 grant being utilized for improvements to the Monroe Detention Center which include expanded and modernized health and mental health care facilities. Replacement of the Leinberger facility with enhanced program space is being funded by \$30 million in SB 863 funds.

F1 The Grand Jury found hazards regarding emergency egress practices.

R1 By September 1, 2016, instruct all staff in writing that all emergency exits must be free from impediments at all times.

Response: See Sheriff Office's response below.

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review

Yolo County Sheriff & Detention Commander response under separate cover:

By September 1, 2016, the Sheriff's Office will place signage at each emergency exit stating that the door shall not be blocked.

F2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are not properly maintained.

R2 By September 1, 2016, all SCBAs must be fully operational. Defective or inoperable SCBA units shall be removed and replaced. Staff must be educated and trained as necessary to ensure SCBAs are operable and secure.

Response: See Sheriff Office's response below.

Yolo County Sheriff & Detention Commander response under separate cover:

The Sheriff's Office will continue to inspect the SCBAs on a regular basis and will remove from service those that are inoperable. Staff have been and will continue to be educated and trained on the proper use and inspection of the SCBAs. One SCBA had been designated "for training use only" and is located in the Booking Area. The training SCBA is used to train Correctional Staff in the proper donning and doffing of a SCBA, additionally it is used to train Correctional Staff in the proper inspection procedures. This SCBA will be clearly marked "For Training Use Only."

F3 The Grand Jury found poor housekeeping of dental/medical exam rooms and equipment.

R3 By September 1, 2016, all medical equipment and offices must be cleaned and sanitized to regulated industry standards. Procedures shall be put into place to ensure maintenance and cleanliness is sustained.

Response: The respondents disagree wholly with the finding and the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The most recent Local Detention Facility Health Inspection Report (inspection on 12/3/15) found all components for Facility Sanitation, Safety and Maintenance were passed, which include:

- There are policies and procedures for the maintenance of an acceptable level of cleanliness, repair and safety throughout the facility.
- The plan provides for a regular schedule of housekeeping tasks and inspections to identify and correct unsanitary or unsafe conditions or work practices.
- Medical care housing as described in Title 24, Part 2, § 470A.2.14 is cleaned and sanitized according to policies and procedures established by the health authority.

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review

Additionally, upon June 2016 visits from the County Health Officer and the Community Health Branch Director, housekeeping in the dental rooms appeared to be adequate for provision of quality dental services.

Yolo County Sheriff & Detention Commander response under separate cover:

The Jail is inspected annually by trained and certified employees of the Yolo County Health Department. No notation of such violation has been made in the past. In addition, since this Grand Jury Report was published, the Sheriff's Office asked Dr. Ronald Chapman, the Yolo County Health Officer, to inspect the Dental Office to ensure that it is in compliance with industry standards. His observations were that the staining that was observed by the Grand Jury was cosmetic in nature and would not have an impact on the quality of care.

F4 Unlabeled chemical containers were improperly stored in the dental exam room.

R4 By September 1, 2016, all chemicals must be safely secured, labeled, and with the proper Safety Data Sheets on file. Safety Data Sheets must be accessible to staff.

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. During a June 2016 visit from the Community Health Branch Director, unlabeled chemical containers were not noted, however, it was noted that the organization of the room would benefit by having the chemicals stored in a cupboard. See Sheriff Office's response below concerning the recommendation.

Yolo County Sheriff & Detention Commander response under separate cover:

The Sheriff's Office has placed Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on file and they are available to all staff. All chemicals have been secured.

F5 There is no onsite person charged with overseeing the health and safety of the entire facility.

R5 By January 1, 2017, YCSO should employ or designate a qualified health and safety officer/industrial hygienist to be responsible for the operation, equipment, and training of personnel, to ensure a comprehensive health and safety program.

Response: This recommendation will be implemented in part in that the County will assist the Sheriff's Office in assessing the needs and identifying resources necessary to ensure a comprehensive health and safety program by January 1, 2017.

Yolo County Sheriff & Detention Commander response under separate cover:

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review

The County of Yolo, Probation and the Sheriff's Office are currently in contract negotiations with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) to provide medical/mental health services. A component of the contract is to employ a qualified health and safety officer.

F6 Discrepancies in the Inmate Grievance procedure demonstrate a lack of serious attention to resolving inmate grievances by the Detention staff.

R6 By January 1, 2017, a comprehensive policy, including staff training and an updated inmate handbook, shall be in place to ensure that complete processing and proper attention is given to inmate grievances. This shall include a form that matches both staff and inmate procedures.

Response: See Sheriff Office's response below.

Yolo County Sheriff & Detention Commander response under separate cover:

The Jail is inspected biennially by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) per Penal Code Section 6031. This inspection is conducted to confirm compliance with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Titles 15 and 24. This is an in depth process that includes a desk audit of facility policies and procedures manual, reconciling policy content against relevant Title 15 regulations and best practices, a site visit to inspect the physical plant and a review of documentation to verify that practices follow written procedures as well as Title 15. The last inspection prior to this Grand Jury Report was concluded on July 10, 2014 with the Inmate Grievance policy and procedure being in compliance. The latest BSCC inspection occurred on June 24, 2016. Although the inspection report has not been finalized, the inspector advised that we continue to be in compliance.

R7 By September 1, 2017, properly secure all medical records. All medical staff and practitioners shall receive training on the security of HIPAA information. All medical file cabinets must be equipped with an operable lock.

Response: See Sheriff Office's response below.

Yolo County Sheriff & Detention Commander response under separate cover:

The County contracts with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) to provide medical/mental healthcare to the inmates confined within the Jail. As part of the contract, the contractor is responsible for the custody of all medical records and shall comply with, and shall ensure that its officers, agents, employees, participants and volunteers comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and its implementing regulations. The contractor will be held to these terms of the contract.

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review



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INMATE EDUCATION
INMATE PROGRAMS
INMATE TRAINING

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Paul Richardson,
Superior Court Judge

From: E.G. Prieto, Sheriff ~ Coroner

Subject: Response to the 2015 – 2016 Grand Jury Report

Date: June 30, 2016

Background:

The Sheriff of Yolo County is responsible for the care and custody of adult inmates that are housed within the County's Jail System. Members of the Yolo County Grand Jury met with the Yolo County Sheriff's Office as part of the Grand Jury's annual oversight function.

Yolo County Sheriff's Office
Detention Facility Review

Findings of the Grand Jury:

F1 The Grand Jury found hazards regarding emergency egress practices.

Recommendations of the Grand Jury:

R1 By September 1, 2016, instruct all staff in writing that all emergency exits must be free from impediments at all times.

Response from the Sheriff:

By September 1, 2016, the Sheriff's Office will place signage at each emergency exit stating that the door shall not be blocked.

Findings of the Grand Jury:

F2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are not properly maintained.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

R2 By September 1, 2016, all SCBAs must be fully operational. Defective or inoperable SCBA units shall be removed and replaced. Staff must be educated and trained as necessary to ensure SCBAs are operable and secure.

"Service Without Limitations"

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review

Response from the Sheriff:

The Sheriff's Office will continue to inspect the SCBAs on a regular basis and will remove from service those that are inoperable. Staff have been and will continue to be educated and trained on the proper use and inspection of the SCBAs. One SCBA had been designated "for training use only" and is located in the Booking Area. The training SCBA is used to train Correctional Staff in the proper donning and doffing of a SCBA, additionally it is used to train Correctional Staff in the proper inspection procedures. This SCBA will be clearly marked "For Training Use Only."

Findings of the Grand Jury:

- F3 The Grand Jury found poor housekeeping of dental/medical exam rooms and equipment.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R3 By September 1, 2016, all medical equipment and offices must be cleaned and sanitized to regulated industry standards. Procedures shall be put into place to ensure maintenance and cleanliness is sustained.

Response from the Sheriff:

The Jail is inspected annually by trained and certified employees of the Yolo County Health Department. No notation of such violation has been made in the past. In addition, since this Grand Jury Report was published, the Sheriff's Office asked Dr. Ronald Chapman, the Yolo County Health Officer, to inspect the Dental Office to ensure that it is in compliance with industry standards. His observations were that the staining that was observed by the Grand Jury was cosmetic in nature and would not have an impact on the quality of care.

Findings of the Grand Jury:

- F4 Unlabeled chemical containers were improperly stored in the dental exam room.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R4 By September 1, 2016, all chemicals must be safely secured, labeled, and with the proper Safety Data Sheets on file. Safety Data Sheets must be accessible to staff.

Response from the Sheriff:

The Sheriff's Office has placed Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on file and they are available to all staff. All chemicals have been secured.

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review

Findings of the Grand Jury:

- F5 There is no onsite person charged with overseeing the health and safety of the entire facility.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R5 By January 1, 2017, YCSO should employ or designate a qualified health and safety officer/industrial hygienist to be responsible for the operation, equipment, and training of personnel, to ensure a comprehensive health and safety program.

Response from the Sheriff:

The County of Yolo, Probation and the Sheriff's Office are currently in contract negotiations with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) to provide medical/mental health services. A component of the contract is to employ a qualified health and safety officer.

Findings of the Grand Jury:

- F6 Discrepancies in the Inmate Grievance procedure demonstrate a lack of serious attention to resolving inmate grievances by the Detention staff.

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R6 By January 1, 2017, a comprehensive policy, including staff training and an updated inmate handbook, shall be in place to ensure that complete processing and proper attention is given to inmate grievances. This shall include a form that matches both staff and inmate procedures.

Response from the Sheriff:

The Jail is inspected biennially by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) per Penal Code Section 6031. This inspection is conducted to confirm compliance with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Titles 15 and 24. This is an in depth process that includes a desk audit of facility policies and procedures manual, reconciling policy content against relevant Title 15 regulations and best practices, a site visit to inspect the physical plant and a review of documentation to verify that practices follow written procedures as well as Title 15. The last inspection prior to this Grand Jury Report was concluded on July 10, 2014 with the Inmate Grievance policy and procedure being in compliance. The latest BSCC inspection occurred on June 24, 2016. Although the inspection report has not been finalized, the inspector advised that we continue to be in compliance.

Yolo County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility Review

Recommendation of the Grand Jury:

- R7 By September 1, 2017, properly secure all medical records. All medical staff and practitioners shall receive training on the security of HIPAA information. All medical file cabinets must be equipped with an operable lock.

Response from the Sheriff:

The County contracts with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) to provide medical/mental healthcare to the inmates confined within the Jail. As part of the contract, the contractor is responsible for the custody of all medical records and shall comply with, and shall ensure that its officers, agents, employees, participants and volunteers comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and its implementing regulations. The contractor will be held to these terms of the contract.

Respectfully Submitted,



E. G. PRIETO
SHERIFF ~ CORONER

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695
September 13, 2016

To: Yolo County Grand Jury
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via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

RE: 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story

Dear Judge Richardson:

On behalf of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and Chief Financial Officer Howard Newens (as to Recommendation 2 only), this letter responds to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report entitled “Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story.” For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury’s recommendations in **bold**. As indicated below, this response also incorporates by reference portions of the response submitted by the Yolo Habitat Conservancy’s Board of Directors and Executive Director, a copy of which is attached hereto (referred to hereinafter as the “Conservancy’s Response”).

F2 Since its inception, the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan.

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

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

Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with the finding for the reasons stated in the Conservancy’s Response to Finding 3, which is incorporated herein by reference.

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

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this recommendation for the reasons stated in the Conservancy’s Response to Recommendation 1, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

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

Response: The Board of Supervisors defers to and supports the Conservancy's determination that this recommendation should not be implemented because it is not presently warranted for reasons stated in the Conservancy's Response to Recommendation 2, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Separately, the Chief Financial Officer responds that the Department of Financial Services provided input to the Conservancy in connection with this recommendation as the Conservancy developed its response to the Grand Jury. That input is reflected in the Conservancy's response (attached hereto). In particular, the Department will remain available as a resource to the Conservancy as it considers whether to undertake regular performance audits or similar reviews during implementation of the Yolo HCP/NCCP, and the Department stands ready to assist the Conservancy in its effort to develop performance measures on organizational and budget goals (as well as the twice annual review thereof).

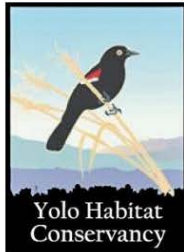
Attachment:

July 18, 2016 response by the Yolo Habitat Conservancy

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

ATTACHMENT

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story



Yolo Habitat Conservancy

County of Yolo • City of Davis • City of Winters • City of West Sacramento
City of Woodland • University of California, Davis

July 18, 2016

TO: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street Street
Woodland, CA 95695

TO: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776
via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

Re: *2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story*

Dear Judge Richardson:

This letter responds to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report entitled “Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story,” as well as provides some corrections to the report. This response is provided by the Board of Directors of the Yolo Habitat Conservancy and its Executive Director. For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury’s recommendations in **bold**.

Corrections to the Report:

On Page 1, Paragraph 1, there was no JPA prior to 2002 and therefore no Yolo Natural Heritage Program. The previous Board of Directors rebranded the Yolo County HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Agency to the “Yolo Natural Heritage Program” in about 2007. The Board of Directors dropped the Yolo Natural Heritage Program name in 2014 in favor of the “Yolo Habitat Conservancy.” In addition, the efforts in the early 1990s focused only on developing an HCP, not an NCCP (which is significantly more ambitious and guided by the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act, a state law). After the City of Davis did not adopt the HCP in the late 1990s, the effort was on hiatus until formation of the JPA in 2002. At this time, the JPA elected to pursue an HCP/NCCP.

On Page 1, Paragraph 2, \$6.53 million is the exact amount of expenditures between 2002 and 2012. It was not well in excess of this amount, as the Conservancy has clear records from the financial system and it is documented in audits.

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

July 18, 2016
Page 2

On Page 3, Paragraph 6, the statement referring to a decision maker of the YHC is inaccurate for two reasons: 1) although the Executive Director and the Project Manager both own consulting firms, they are not decision makers, as all decisions are brought to the Board of Directors; 2) the Chair approves the invoices of the Project Manager and Executive Director through a formal process approved by the Board of Directors.

On Page 4, Paragraph 2, the statement that invoices are frequently submitted in an untimely manner is inaccurate. Contractors rarely miss a deadline to submit by the 7th of the month.

F2. Since its inception, the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan.

Response: The respondents agree with this finding.

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

Response: The respondents disagree with this finding. Initially, the respondents note the finding is not supported by any evidence relevant to the value of a completed HCP/NCCP or other elements of the Conservancy's performance since its formation in 2002. The finding thus does not meet the requirements of Penal Code § 916, which states in part: "Each grand jury shall choose its officers, except the foreman, and shall determine its rules of proceeding. . . . Rules of procedure shall include guidelines for that grand jury to ensure that all findings included in its final reports are supported by documented evidence[.]" The finding expresses the Grand Jury's policy judgment, rather than a factual conclusion, and is difficult to address as a consequence.

Nonetheless, there are many reasons why the Board and Executive Director disagree with the finding, including:

- The past 20 years is not the relevant timeframe for evaluating the Conservancy's performance. The Conservancy did not exist prior to 2002, and virtually all of its work on the HCP/NCCP occurred over the past decade;
- The total cost from 2002-2017 to complete the plan is estimated to be \$10.3 million. This is similar in cost and duration to other HCP/NCCP planning efforts, including the Placer County HCP/NCCP (same stage of development; under development for 15 years at a cost of \$10.5 million to date);
- The Conservancy is now a year away from completing the final HCP/NCCP and submitting it to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for approval; and
- The Conservancy's Board of Directors and Executive Director anticipate that implementation of the final plan will benefit public agencies and private entities by reducing the cost and uncertainty of project-by-project species permitting issues, and that the twelve species covered by the HCP/NCCP will also benefit from additional, coordinated conservation of habitat.

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



Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

July 18, 2016
Page 3

This recommendation will be implemented, as it is already included in the Board's adopted timeframe for completing the planning effort. The respondents note that good faith cooperation from other agencies is required on numerous remaining tasks, including the United States Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to assure submission of the completed plan by April 30, 2017. This cooperation is expected but is not within the Conservancy's control, and it depends upon the allocation of staff resources and other factors within the purview of the federal and state agencies.

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

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not presently warranted. The Conservancy's performance is measured by the Board of Directors based on organizational and budget goals established every year as part of the regular budget process, including a detailed schedule for deliverables related to the Yolo HCP/NCCP. As discussed below, however, the Board of Directors and Executive Director intend to implement one or more alternative methods of enhancing Conservancy oversight and accountability to achieve the underlying purpose the Grand Jury's recommendation.

- The Yolo Habitat Conservancy will consider regular performance audits or reviews of similar intent during the implementation phase of the Yolo HCP/NCCP, which will commence in 2018 after issuance of permits in 2017.
- In coordination with Yolo County's internal auditor, the Yolo Habitat Conservancy will develop performance measures around the organizational and budget goals adopted by the Board of Directors. Yolo County's internal auditor will review these performance measures every six months.



Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

625 Court Street, Room 202 Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8150 FAX (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

To: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695
September 13, 2016

To: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776
via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

RE: 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story

Dear Judge Richardson:

On behalf of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and Chief Financial Officer Howard Newens (as to Recommendation 2 only), this letter responds to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report entitled “Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story.” For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury’s recommendations in **bold**. As indicated below, this response also incorporates by reference portions of the response submitted by the Yolo Habitat Conservancy’s Board of Directors and Executive Director, a copy of which is attached hereto (referred to hereinafter as the “Conservancy’s Response”).

F2 Since its inception, the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan.

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

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

Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with the finding for the reasons stated in the Conservancy’s Response to Finding 3, which is incorporated herein by reference.

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

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this recommendation for the reasons stated in the Conservancy’s Response to Recommendation 1, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

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

Response: The Board of Supervisors defers to and supports the Conservancy's determination that this recommendation should not be implemented because it is not presently warranted for reasons stated in the Conservancy's Response to Recommendation 2, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Separately, the Chief Financial Officer responds that the Department of Financial Services provided input to the Conservancy in connection with this recommendation as the Conservancy developed its response to the Grand Jury. That input is reflected in the Conservancy's response (attached hereto). In particular, the Department will remain available as a resource to the Conservancy as it considers whether to undertake regular performance audits or similar reviews during implementation of the Yolo HCP/NCCP, and the Department stands ready to assist the Conservancy in its effort to develop performance measures on organizational and budget goals (as well as the twice annual review thereof).

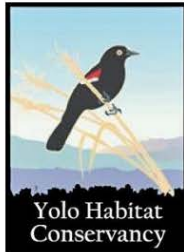
Attachment:

July 18, 2016 response by the Yolo Habitat Conservancy

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

ATTACHMENT

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story



Yolo Habitat Conservancy

County of Yolo • City of Davis • City of Winters • City of West Sacramento
City of Woodland • University of California, Davis

July 18, 2016

TO: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street Street
Woodland, CA 95695

TO: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776
via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

Re: *2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story*

Dear Judge Richardson:

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Corrections to the Report:

On Page 1, Paragraph 1, there was no JPA prior to 2002 and therefore no Yolo Natural Heritage Program. The previous Board of Directors rebranded the Yolo County HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Agency to the “Yolo Natural Heritage Program” in about 2007. The Board of Directors dropped the Yolo Natural Heritage Program name in 2014 in favor of the “Yolo Habitat Conservancy.” In addition, the efforts in the early 1990s focused only on developing an HCP, not an NCCP (which is significantly more ambitious and guided by the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act, a state law). After the City of Davis did not adopt the HCP in the late 1990s, the effort was on hiatus until formation of the JPA in 2002. At this time, the JPA elected to pursue an HCP/NCCP.

On Page 1, Paragraph 2, \$6.53 million is the exact amount of expenditures between 2002 and 2012. It was not well in excess of this amount, as the Conservancy has clear records from the financial system and it is documented in audits.

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

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Page 3

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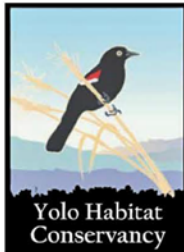
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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story



Yolo Habitat Conservancy

County of Yolo • City of Davis • City of Winters • City of West Sacramento
City of Woodland • University of California, Davis

July 18, 2016

TO: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

TO: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776
via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

FROM: Yolo Habitat Conservancy Board of Directors
Executive Director, Yolo Habitat Conservancy

Re: *2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story*

Dear Judge Richardson:

This letter responds to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report entitled “Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story,” as well as provides some corrections to the report. This response is provided by the Board of Directors of the Yolo Habitat Conservancy and its Executive Director. For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury’s recommendations in **bold**.

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

July 18, 2016
Page 2

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F2. Since its inception, the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan.

Response: The respondents agree with this finding.

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Response: The respondents disagree with this finding. Initially, the respondents note the finding is not supported by any evidence relevant to the value of a completed HCP/NCCP or other elements of the Conservancy's performance since its formation in 2002. The finding thus does not meet the requirements of Penal Code § 916, which states in part: "Each grand jury shall choose its officers, except the foreman, and shall determine its rules of proceeding. . . . Rules of procedure shall include guidelines for that grand jury to ensure that all findings included in its final reports are supported by documented evidence[.]" The finding expresses the Grand Jury's policy judgment, rather than a factual conclusion, and is difficult to address as a consequence.

Nonetheless, there are many reasons why the Board and Executive Director disagree with the finding, including:

- The past 20 years is not the relevant timeframe for evaluating the Conservancy's performance. The Conservancy did not exist prior to 2002, and virtually all of its work on the HCP/NCCP occurred over the past decade;
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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

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uncertainty of project-by-project species permitting issues, and that the twelve species covered by the HCP/NCCP will also benefit from additional, coordinated conservation of habitat.

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

This recommendation will be implemented, as it is already included in the Board's adopted timeframe for completing the planning effort. The respondents note that good faith cooperation from other agencies is required on numerous remaining tasks, including the United States Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to assure submission of the completed plan by April 30, 2017. This cooperation is expected but is not within the Conservancy's control, and it depends upon the allocation of staff resources and other factors within the purview of the federal and state agencies.

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

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not presently warranted. The Conservancy's performance is measured by the Board of Directors based on organizational and budget goals established every year as part of the regular budget process, including a detailed schedule for deliverables related to the Yolo HCP/NCCP. As discussed below, however, the Board of Directors and Executive Director intend to implement one or more alternative methods of enhancing Conservancy oversight and accountability to achieve the underlying purpose the Grand Jury's recommendation.

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

23 Russell Boulevard – Davis, California 95616
530/757-5602 – FAX: 530/758-0204 – TDD: 530/757-5666



September 20, 2016

Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776
(via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net)

Re: Davis City Council Response to Grand Jury Report Entitled *Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story*

Dear Judge Richardson,

On behalf of the Davis City Council, this letter responds to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report entitled "Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story" dated June 23, 2016. The report makes three findings (F1, F2 and F3) and two recommendations (R1 and R2). Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05, the Grand Jury requested that the Davis City Council respond to Findings F2 and F3 and Recommendations R1 and R2. The City of Davis's responses are below, along with the required response form, which is attached to this letter as Exhibit 1:

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

F2. Since its inception, the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan.

The Davis City Council agrees with this finding. However, the City Council would like to note that part of this delay is due to the fact that initial efforts to produce a Habitat Conservation Plan were abandoned in favor of producing a Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan ("HCP/NCCP"), a far more ambitious effort.

The City Council also notes that since the restructuring in 2012, the Yolo Habitat Conservancy ("YHC") has made significant progress towards a final HCP/NCCP. Each draft of the plan since then has resulted in necessary refinements at the request of the wildlife agencies, member agencies and advisory committee members to ensure a feasible plan. The public review draft of the HCP/NCCP was submitted to the wildlife agencies for review on August 30, 2016.

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

*Letter to Judge Paul Richardson – Grand Jury Report – Yolo Habitat Conservancy
Page 2 of 2*

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

The Davis City Council disagrees with this finding for the reasons stated in the YHC's response to Finding #3 (the "YHC Response"), which is incorporated herein by reference (Exhibit 2).

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

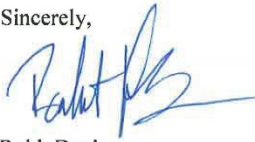
The Davis City Council agrees with this recommendation for the reasons stated in the YHC Response to Recommendation #1, which is incorporated herein by reference (Exhibit 2). The City Council would also like to note that the YHC delivered the public review draft of the HCP/NCCP to the wildlife agencies on August 30, 2016, as planned. Comments from the agencies were requested by September 21, 2016. In addition, all member agencies approved all permit applications. On July 19, 2016, the Davis City Council took the steps necessary to complete and execute the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") HCP Permit Application for submission by August 1, 2016, as required by USFWS for each member agency participating in the plan. The YHC delivered copies of these permits applications to the wildlife agencies.

In addition, the YHC has created monthly liaison meetings with the wildlife agencies in an effort to ensure continued timely completion of work on the Yolo HCP/NCCP and create a forum through which high-level issues can be resolved.

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

The Davis City Council defers to and supports the YHC's determination that this recommendation should not be implemented because it is not presently warranted for reasons stated in the YHC Response to Recommendation #2, which is incorporated herein by reference (Exhibit 2).

Sincerely,



Robb Davis
Mayor

Exhibit 1: City of Davis Completed Response Form
Exhibit 2: YHC Response to Grand Jury Report

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

Exhibit 1

AGENCY'S RESPONSE PROCEDURE

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

The governance of responses to the Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within sixty (60) days, governing bodies (for example, the Board of Supervisors) must respond within ninety (90) days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury Foreperson.

Report Title: Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story

Report Date: June 23, 2016

Response by: City Council, City of Davis Title: *Mayor*

FINDINGS

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

F2

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

F3

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations numbered: *R1*
have been implemented (attach a summary describing the implemented actions).

Recommendations numbered:
require further analysis (attach an explanation of the analysis or study, and the time frame for the matter to be prepared by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body where applicable. The time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of the Grand Jury Report).

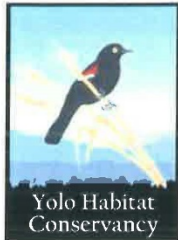
Recommendations numbered: *R2*
will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable (attach an explanation).

Date: *9/20/2016* Signed: *Rahit*

Total number of pages attached *6*

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

Exhibit 2



Yolo Habitat Conservancy

County of Yolo • City of Davis • City of Winters • City of West Sacramento
City of Woodland • University of California, Davis

July 18, 2016

TO: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street Street
Woodland, CA 95695

TO: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

July 18, 2016
Page 2

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

Exhibit 2

July 18, 2016

Page 3

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Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story



CITY HALL
1110 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691

City Council
(916) 617-4500

City Manager's Office
City Clerk
Early Learning Services
Information Technology
(916) 617-4500
Economic Development
(916) 617-4535

Community Development
Planning/Development Engineering
(916) 617-4645
Housing & Community Investment
(916) 617-4555
Building
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Code Enforcement
(916) 617-4925

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Environmental Services
(916) 617-4590
Utility Billing
(916) 617-4589

Administrative Services
Finance
(916) 617-4575
Human Resources
(916) 617-4567

Parks & Recreation
Administration
(916) 617-4620
Recreation Center
2801 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4770
Community Center
1075 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-5320

FIRE
2040 Lake Washington Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4800
Fax (916) 371-5017

POLICE
550 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(916) 617-4900

PUBLIC WORKS
Operations
1951 South River Road
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4850

www.cityofwestsacramento.org

July 20, 2016

Honorable Paul Richardson
PO Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

Re: West Sacramento City Council Response to Grand Jury Report—
Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story

Dear Judge Richardson,

The City Council is in receipt of the Grand Jury's report on the Yolo Habitat Conservancy dated June 23, 2016. The report makes three findings (F1, F2 and F3) and two recommendations (R1 and R2). Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05, the Grand Jury requested the City Council respond to Findings F2 and F3 and Recommendations R1 and R2. As requested, the City Council has completed the response form provided by the Grand Jury (see attached), and provides additional support for such responses below.

GRAND JURY FINDINGS

F2. Since its inception, the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan.

The City Council disagrees partially with Grand Jury Finding F2. The City Council concurs with the Grand Jury's finding that the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan, but notes that since the restructuring in 2012, the YHC has made significant progress towards a final plan. Each draft of the plan since then has resulted in necessary refinements at the request of the wildlife agencies, member agencies and advisory committee members to ensure a feasible plan.

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

The City Council disagrees partially with Grand Jury Finding F3. The City of West Sacramento, as a member agency, was concerned about the performance of YHC leading up to 2012 and actually pushed for the restructuring. Many of the transparency and accountability measures that were put in place post-2012 were under the guidance and leadership of our Councilmember Chris Ledesma, who sat as chairperson of the YHC Board from August 2013-April 2015.

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

Honorable Paul Richardson
West Sacramento City Council Response to Grand Jury Report on YHC
Page 2 of 2

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS


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

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

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

Recommendation R2 requires further analysis. The City Council concurs with the Grand Jury's recommendation and will work with other member agencies on the implementation.

Sincerely,



Christopher Cabaldon
Mayor

Enclosure

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

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

AGENCY'S RESPONSE PROCEDURE

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

The governance of responses to the Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within sixty (60) days, governing bodies (for example, the Board of Supervisors) must respond within ninety (90) days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury Foreperson.

Report Title: Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never Ending Story

Report Date: June 23, 2016

Response by: City Council, City of West Sacramento Title: Mayor

FINDINGS

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

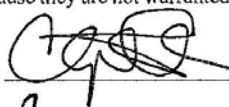
F2, F3

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations numbered: R1
have been implemented (attach a summary describing the implemented actions).

Recommendations numbered: R2
require further analysis (attach an explanation of the analysis or study, and the time frame for the matter to be prepared by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body where applicable. The time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of the Grand Jury Report).

Recommendations numbered: _____
will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable (attach an explanation).

Date: 7-20-16 Signed: 

Total number of pages attached 2

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story



October 4, 2016

Honorable Paul Richardson
PO Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

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

Dear Judge Richardson,

The City Council has received and reviewed the Grand Jury's report on the Yolo Habitat Conservancy dated June 23, 2016. As requested, the City Council has completed the response form provided by the Grand Jury (see attached), and provides additional support for such responses below.

Grand Jury Findings

F2. Since its inception, the YHC has yet to produce an approved HCP/NCCP plan.

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

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

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

Yolo Habitat Conservancy: A Never-Ending Story

Honorable Paul Richardson
Woodland City Council Response to Grand Jury Report on YHC
Page 2 of 2

Grand Jury Recommendations

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Jim Hilliard
Mayor

Enclosure

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

Continuity Report for the 2015 -2016 Yolo County Grand Jury: Fostering Positive Change



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

625 Court Street, Room 202 Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8150 FAX (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

To: Honorable Judge Paul Richardson
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

July 26, 2016

To: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

via e-mail: grand-jury@sbcglobal.net

RE: 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Continuity Report for the 2014-2015 Yolo County Grand Jury: Fostering Positive Change

Honorable Judge Richardson:

The following is the response to the findings and recommendations in the 2015-2016 Yolo County Grand Jury Report titled, “Continuity Report for the 2014-2015 Yolo County Grand Jury: Fostering Positive Change” from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, County Administrator Pat Blacklock and Community Services (formerly Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services) Director Taro Echiburru. For purposes of readability, we have included the Grand Jury’s recommendations in **bold**.

F1 Respondents’ comments contained in the 2014-15 Grand Jury Final Report were timely and comprehensive in addressing both findings and recommendations.

Response: The respondents agree with the finding.

F2 The Planning, Public Works and Environmental Services respondents indicated an assessment plan addressing the possibility of utilizing solar panels on the Yolo County Central Landfill property would be implemented in the future but did not provide a time frame for completing the action as required by Penal Code Section 933.05(b)(2).

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. While the department did not provide a specific time frame for completing the action, they did provide the following response as explanation:

Continuity Report for the 2015 -2016 Yolo County Grand Jury: Fostering Positive Change

This recommendation will be implemented, however, due to budget and staffing limitations, will likely not be implemented by July 1, 2016.

The division previously looked into the possibility of using solar panels on the landfill property to produce electricity. It was determined at the time that moving forward with a solar project was not economically feasible, especially as the landfill is regulated by many different local, state and federal agencies which apply additional and costly requirements that do not apply to other sites. A fresh look into this issue may result in a more feasible and economical approach, which the landfill would welcome.

- F3 The County maintains a *Grand Jury Reports Response and Follow-up Schedule* tracking implementation of Grand Jury recommendations, which contains important information of significant interest to the Grand Jury and the general public.**

Response: The respondents disagree partially with the finding. The response and follow-up schedule is an internal tracking tool and does not “contain important information of significant interest.” The public was made aware of the tracking tool via the “2014-2015 Yolo County Grand Jury Report – Closing the Loop: How Yolo County Implements Its Responses to the Grand Jury” and the County’s subsequent response. With the exception of the Grand Jury, the County has not received any requests for the document or the information contained within.

- F4 The Grand Jury found that, while the *Grand Jury Reports Response and Follow-up Schedule* can be obtained by request, it is not currently released to the general public on a scheduled basis or conveniently available through internet access or other electronic means.**

Response: The respondents agree with the finding.

- R1 The Yolo County Administrator shall post an updated version of the *Grand Jury Reports Response and Follow-up Schedule*, quarterly, on the publically accessible web page currently used for the Yolo County Grand Jury Final Reports and Responses to Final Reports.**

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and not reasonable. There has been no interest from the public in viewing the response and follow-up schedule and the County does not believe it would be a meaningful resource for the general public in its current format. As an internal tracking tool, it is compiled in an abbreviated format. Typically the County invests extra staff time in preparing documents meant to be shared publicly so that they can be easily understood by those unfamiliar with local government. That process takes time and is not seen as a good investment of limited resources where there is no public interest. The County, however, is pleased to provide the document to the grand jury whenever requested, as well as the public.

