



August 17, 2021

Tribal Council

Anthony Roberts
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Secretary

Mia Durham
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Member

Yvonne Perkins
Member

Chairman Jim Provenza
625 Court Street, Room 204
Woodland, CA 95695

Sent via e-mail: sustainability@yolocounty.org, jim.provenza@yolocounty.org

Re: Yolo County Climate Action Commission (YCCAC)

Dear Chairman Provenza and Honorable Board Members:

On behalf of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, we thank you for your leadership in combating climate change and establishing the Yolo County Climate Action Commission ("Climate Commission"). The Climate Commission could be an effective tool for collaborating regionally with community and government leaders, and as such, I write to request that Yocha Dehe be afforded an Ex officio position, like that of the University of California Davis, on this newly formed Commission. The Tribe's participation will provide a voice for people in the rural and tribal communities of the Capay Valley.

As one of the largest landowners in Yolo County, the Tribe takes its role as an environmental steward seriously. We have instituted sustainable practices in our farm operations, specifically reducing water consumption through crop selection and water resource diversification for drought emergencies. Yocha Dehe is also a voting member of the Yolo Sub-basin Groundwater Agency, working towards building and maintaining sustainable groundwater resources. Our Cache Creek Casino Resort uses recycled water to flush toilets and irrigate the golf course. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, food waste from the Resort is diverted from the landfill and composted locally. Yocha Dehe also provided funding to YoloBus for the purchase of natural gas busses, and incentivizes employees to take public transportation or ride share. The Resort is also pursuing electric vehicles and publicly available charging infrastructure, which is lacking in the region. To reduce energy consumption, Yocha Dehe incorporates green building techniques into its facilities, including LED lighting and photovoltaic solar arrays, and voluntarily builds to California energy efficiency standards. To improve resiliency in the face of a changing climate, and to provide

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

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reliable emergency services for the Capay Valley, Yocha Dehe has built an onsite microgrid energy system.

As part of our commitment to the environment, we are restoring native habitat on our land, with an emphasis on flood and wildfire risk reduction. We are also partnering with, or have partnered with, the Cache Creek Conservancy, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, and the Solano Resource Conservation District on various habitat restoration projects.

In looking towards a sustainable future in the Capay Valley, which encompasses the rural communities west of the 505, from Madison through Rumsey, the Tribe completed a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, and is in the process of developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan, to meet the continuing climate crisis impacts over the next 50-100 years. The Capay Valley is most at risk from larger and more dangerous wildfires, increased flooding, additional high heat days, and drought impacts on our farming communities. It is especially important that the climate concerns of the more rural parts of the County are equitably considered in a county-wide climate action plan, and that feasible strategies are developed collaboratively with the local community.

With the creation of the Yolo County Climate Action Commission, the County has taken an important step in engaging the community in this effort to transition to a carbon-negative, climate-positive footprint by 2030. Given the interconnectedness of our efforts, Yocha Dehe would urge the Board to create a non-voting position on the Climate Commission, similar to that created for the University of California Davis. We hope that our participation in the Climate Commission will provide a voice for all people in the Capay Valley, including our Tribal citizenry, as well as rural communities at risk from the effects of climate change.

For more information, please contact Sarah Morgan, Natural Resources Manager at smorgan@yochadehe-nsn.gov.

Wile bo,



Anthony Roberts
Tribal Chairman

cc: Gary Sandy
Oscar Villegas
Don Saylor
Angel Barajas