



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

*Chad Rinde, CPA*  
Interim County Administrator

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November 24, 2021

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer  
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy  
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6  
West Sacramento, CA 95691

**RE: Grant Solicitation for the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase II**

Dear Mr. Ingram:

Yolo County strongly supports the Ducks Unlimited application for Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project, Phase II submitted to the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant. The Project will help further the goals of the grant program, implements components of the Delta Plan, California Water Action Plan, and is consistent with Yolo County's local priorities related to the Yolo Bypass.

Ducks Unlimited seeks funding for Phase II of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project. The Delta Conservancy awarded financing for Phase I (components 1, 3 and 5) in 2016, so this grant will complete a project that will restore and enhance floodplain and terrestrial habitat in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and Drainage Improvement Project is the top priority in the 2014 Yolo Bypass Drainage and Water Infrastructure Improvement Study, developed collaboratively by Yolo County with local agencies, farmers, wetlands managers, and other stakeholders.

Phase II (Components 2 and 4) directly facilitate increasing water conservation and efficiency in agricultural and wetland management practices by improving the ability to manage the water delivery and drainage function within the Wildlife Area. Together, the subprojects will enhance water management within existing and expanded wetlands, which is a key element in creating diverse habitat while also managing vegetation, minimizing mosquito larvae populations and controlling avian disease. Timely wetland flooding and drawdown are critical for maximizing waterfowl food resources and controlling noxious weeds. The ability to control the growth of emergent vegetation through appropriate and timely water management is also an essential tool for maintaining flood conveyance capacity in the Yolo Bypass. Phase II will enhance 513 acres of

managed seasonal wetland, 50 acres of semi-permanent wetland, and 640 acres of wildlife-friendly agriculture as well as increasing public access opportunities. The five components together will restore 220 acres of managed seasonal wetland, improve water management on 1,803 acres of existing managed seasonal wetlands, enhance 141 acres of semi-permanent wetland, and develop 1,180 acres of wildlife friendly agriculture. The combined projects will increase public access by an average of seven days per year by reducing localized flooding resulting from insufficient capacity in the existing drainage and water supply system.

The Yolo Bypass is currently a national example of the ability of local, state, and federal agencies to work together to achieve multiple benefits for flood control, wildlife habitat, education, and recreation. Yolo County takes great pride in this partnership, and especially the efforts of local stakeholders to create this national model over the course of over two decades. We believe Ducks Unlimited's proposal continues this partnership, so Yolo County strongly encourages the Conservancy to fund Phase II through the Cycle 5, Proposition 1 Delta Conservancy Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Chad Rinde, CPA  
Interim County Administrator