



# Yolo Habitat Conservancy

County of Yolo • City of Davis • City of Winters • City of West Sacramento  
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## **Hawk Creek Site** **STAC Evaluation Summary**

**Application Name:** Hawk Creek Site

**Application submittal date:** April 26, 2022

**STAC site visit date:** May 18, 2022

**Yolo Habitat Conservancy Board Meeting Date:** September 19, 2022

**WA Coordinating meeting date:** September 1, 2022

Covered species habitat present on the site for the species selected below:

	Palmate-bracted bird's-beak		Giant garter snake	X	Western burrowing owl
X	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	X	Swainson's hawk	X	Least Bell's vireo
	California tiger salamander	X	White-tailed kite		Bank swallow
X	Western pond turtle	X	Western yellow-billed cuckoo	X	Tricolored blackbird

### **The STAC has made the following recommendation:**

The STAC recommends the board approve the Hawk Creek Site as a candidate Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system site. The 63-acre portion of the property being considered for enrollment in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system is within the Cache Creek corridor and includes a mosaic of mature riparian forest, upper terrace oak woodland and grasslands, and seasonal wetland. Each of these natural communities support, and are essential to, the sustainability of most of the covered species. The Cache Creek corridor is a high priority acquisition area and this property would contribute to the goal of protecting and managing this important resource within the Conservancy's reserve system.

A previous tricolored blackbird colony was documented on the site. While no tricolored blackbirds were observed during the STAC's site visit, two red-winged blackbird colonies were observed within the two former gravel mining pits on the site during the site visit. Riparian habitat on the site is complex and dense with a total area of existing onsite riparian habitat is sufficient to just meet coverage objectives for yellow-billed cuckoo. Restoration plantings of riparian vegetation adjacent to the existing riparian fringe could serve to widen the riparian corridor and improve habitat for this species. Dense stands of willow scrub on the lower terrace might support vireos during the breeding season. A western pond turtle was observed by STAC members immediately adjacent to the western edge of the property. Numerous mature elderberry shrubs occur onsite and exit holes have been documented ~0.6 miles downstream. There are several locations on the site that provide opportunities for additional elderberry plantings. Large mature trees within the riparian corridor and large valley oak trees on the upper terrace of the site provide high value nesting habitat for Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite. Potential burrowing owl foraging habitat and small existing burrows were observed on the site, although no ground squirrels or burrowing owls were observed during the site visit.