



Yolo Habitat Conservancy

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

To: Gary Sandy, Chair
Members of the Board

From: Alexander Tengolics
Executive Director

Re: Receive presentation on Yolo Habitat Conservancy fees associated with Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle mitigation and hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution eliminating the per acre non-riparian elderberry transplant maintenance fee and increasing the per acre land cover fee and the valley foothill riparian fee

Date: September 19, 2022

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

1. Receive presentation on Yolo Habitat Conservancy fees associated with Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle mitigation; and
2. Adopt a resolution eliminating the per acre non-riparian elderberry transplant maintenance fee and increasing the per acre land cover fee to \$15,629 and the valley foothill riparian fee to \$85,009 (Attachment B)

BACKGROUND:

Projects that occur within 100 feet of a Valley Elderberry shrub must comply with AMM12, *Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle*. To mitigate impacts on the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the Yolo HCP/NCCP requires project proponents to transplant to a riparian restoration site elderberry shrub that cannot be avoided directly within a project footprint and within a 100-foot buffer distance.

Last year, the Board updated the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) mitigation policy to transfer the responsibility for planting elderberry shrub native associates as required by the policy from the Conservancy to the project proponent which in turn reduced valley foothill riparian wetland fee as the proponent was assuming additional responsibilities and costs. The Board also established a non-riparian Valley Elderberry maintenance fee to cover the cost associated with maintaining Valley Elderberry

bushes transplanted from non-riparian land cover types. Previously there was no established fee for this activity type.

Since that time, the Conservancy has proceeded with several elderberry mitigation and restoration projects. In the course of these activities, it became evident the Conservancy was not fully covering its costs associated with VELB mitigation and that the newly established non-riparian maintenance fee added additional complexity to fee calculations. Conservancy staff shared these concerns with the Conservancy's fiscal consultants and at staff's direction reanalyzed the current fees associated with VELB mitigation and produced the attached memo (Attachment A).

As discussed in more detail in the attached, the memo makes the following recommendations:

- Combine the non-riparian Valley Elderberry Transplant Maintenance fee with the standard land cover fee which will reduce the administrative burden of both staff and applicants in calculating mitigation fees. This in turn would increase the 2022 landcover fee from \$15,571 to \$15,629 per acre (0.37% increase).
- Increase the valley foothill riparian wetland fee from \$66,560 to \$85,009 (27.72% increase) to ensure full cost recovery. This fee adjustment would not alter the responsibilities of the project proponent; the fee adjustment is solely to ensure full cost recovery.

Staff recommends the Board adopt the attached resolution which would implement the above discussed fee adjustments (Attachment B).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A. Updated Land Cover Fee & Valley Foothill Riparian Fee Memo
Attachment B. Resolution

