



Yolo Habitat Conservancy

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

To: Lucas Frerichs, Chair
Members of the Board

From: Chris Alford
Former Interim Executive Director/Consultant

Re: Receive introduction to new Executive Director

Date: May 18, 2026

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

1. Receive introduction to new Executive Director

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the sixth amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Yolo (County) and the Yolo Habitat Conservancy (Conservancy), which was approved by the Conservancy Board on May 19, 2025, the County agreed to provide ongoing staffing and general administrative services to the Conservancy including the provision of a full-time Executive Director. The County released a position announcement on December 24, 2025. The position announcement was distributed widely, including on both regional and national job boards. The County began screening applications in early 2026 and conducted two rounds of interviews in March with panel members that included the Conservancy's Board Chair, Conservancy's Interim Executive Director, County General Services Department Director and Deputy Director, and the Yolo HCP/NCCP Science and Technical Advisory Committee Chair. Cathy Little was selected from a pool of qualified applicants and began serving as the newest staff member of the County's Department of General Services and the appointed Executive Director to the Yolo Habitat Conservancy on April 20th.

Ms. Little has over 25 years of experience managing natural lands, implementing conservation programs, and conducting regulatory compliance. She most recently served as the Northern California Regional Preserve Manager at the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) where she oversaw the protection and management of preserves with sensitive habitats and listed species across northern California. Ms. Little's background experience and skills include a rare combination of skillsets that are well aligned to meet the needs and demands of the Yolo Habitat Conservancy's Executive Director position.