

Staff Report

TO: Chair and Board Members
Yolo County Habitat JPA

FROM: Maria Wong
Executive Director

DATE: May 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Update on the City of Davis request for shared funding on the pending Koontz and Kerr Swainson's hawk conservation easements.

Requested Action:

1. Allow staff presentation of the update,
 2. Open the public hearing, and
 3. Close public hearing and continue the item to Closed Session to discuss terms and price.
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REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Board directed staff to continue to work with City of Davis to develop a cost share proposal on the Kerr and Koontz Swainson's hawk conservation easements.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2009, the Board authorized staff to continue to work with City of Davis and Yolo Land Trust on a joint funding proposal to secure Swainson's hawk conservation easements on two properties in the Dry Slough corridor. The principals negotiating the easements have reached agreement; the only barrier to finalizing the transactions is to close the remaining funding gap.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Davis and Yolo Land Trust have submitted a letter outlining the merits of the project, history of negotiations on the two properties, and the continued need to secure outside funding. DFG has reviewed the conservation easement language and has determined that it is consistent with the JPA/DFG master easement template, making the properties creditable to the NCCP once it is adopted.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As staff indicated in September, 2009, limited funding to acquire conservation easements remains in the Mitigation Trust Account. In addition, the JPA was not funded through the Cooperative Endangered Species Section 6 grant program this year.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

DFG has reviewed and approved the terms of the subject easement.

Attachment: City of Davis – Yolo Land Trust joint correspondence