

**Staff Report**

TO: Chair and Board Members  
Yolo County Habitat JPA

FROM: Maria Wong  
Executive Director

DATE: July 19, 2010

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

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**1. BDCP Update**

BDCP continues to move forward at a rapid pace. The BDCP draft chapter addressing terrestrial species has been released. JPA staff is reviewing the information and working with the BDCP to identify opportunities and conflicts related to the terrestrial objectives of both plans.

**2. Status Update on EIR/EIS**

The EIR/EIS process reached an important milestone with the completion of the draft background chapters. An update on the status of the EIS/EIR process will be provided at the July Board meeting.

**3. Public outreach**

The NHP is featured on this year's Yolo County State Fair exhibit. The JPA's contribution was underwritten with funds from the 2007 section 6 planning grant allocated to public outreach. Additional funding support comes from the Yolo Farm Bureau, the Yolo County Visitors Bureau, local businesses, and private donations.

**4. Prop 84/NCCP funding**

Proposition 84 authorized \$90M to assist in the development and implementation of NCCPs. SB 8, part of the water legislation package signed into law in 2009, appropriated \$24M of those funds for Delta NCCPs. The Yolo NHP is eligible to apply for grants from both fund sources (the original Prop 84 funds and the \$24M from SB 8). Retaining the \$24M for use by Delta counties has come under fire by various groups struggling to resolve the state budget crisis. Yolo County, along with the other Delta Counties, has taken the lead in preserving the funds for their original intended use. JPA staff is working closely with county staff on this issue.

**5. California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition**

The CHCPC held its second annual business meeting in May. The Coalition is comprised of agencies, businesses and NGO's with an interest in promoting HCP and NCCP planning. The JPA's continued participation in the Coalition is an effective and efficient way to pursue the JPA's legislative platform and to advocate for issues that are important to the JPA. This year's business meeting focused on HCP funding at the federal level, Prop 84 funding for NCCPs, and how to integrate NCCPs into California's climate change strategy.

The Coalition will be hosting a two-day meeting in October in Coalinga. JPA staff will attend the business meeting by phone on the first day (the second day is a field trip to several conservation sites managed under the Coalinga HCP).

**6. Proposed Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area**

Staff attended a Delta Protection Commission public meeting on a proposal to create a National Heritage Area in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The DPC's public outreach is mandated by the 2008 water legislation. Senator Feinstein has authored a bill to accomplish the same purpose. The National Heritage Area process is designed to elevate local areas to national prominence. At this time, no significant issues have been identified that are incompatible with the Yolo NHP as it is currently envisioned. Staff will continue to monitor these efforts and advise the Board accordingly.