

Staff Report

TO: Chair and Board Members
Yolo County Habitat JPA

FROM: Jeff Pemstein
Executive Director

DATE: January 26, 2004

SUBJECT: Swainson's hawk Mitigation Fee Update

At the August 18, 2003 meeting, the Board discussed and directed staff to enter into a contract for professional services with the firm of Economic and Planning Systems (EPS) to review and update the Swainson's hawk Mitigation Fee. A contract was entered into between the JPA and EPS in September, 2003 for professional services.

As indicated in the "Agreement Regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson's hawk Foraging Habitat in Yolo County", entered into between the JPA and the California Department of Fish and Game, the Swainson's hawk Mitigation Fee (Fee) is to be reviewed by the JPA on an annual basis. The current fee, established in 2001, is \$2,509.00 for every acre of land urbanized within the County and four incorporated cities.

Based upon the draft findings by EPS, they are recommending that the Fee be increased to \$5,800.00 per acre. This new Fee includes proportional amounts for easement acquisition, transactions, monitoring endowment, legal endowment, contingencies, and administration. Teifion Rice-Evans from EPS will be available to further discuss their initial proposed findings with the Board.

Attached is a copy of the draft update prepared by EPS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Board review the Fee update information provided, allow for additional public input, and continue this item for further discussion and action to the next JPA Board meeting.