



Yolo HCP/NCCP Qualified Biologist Application

New Application
 Re-Certification

Individuals that wish to work as a qualified biologist under the Yolo HCP/NCCP must fill out and submit this application to the Yolo Habitat Conservancy. Please select the types of surveys and/or monitoring for which you can demonstrate adequate education, training, experience, and permits (if applicable) for species-specific surveys and monitoring. Submit the application to info@yolohabitatconservancy.org along with an email identifying the specific project and contact name of the individual.

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Yolo HCP/NCCP Surveying and Monitoring Categories:

By checking a box(es) below, you certify you have the education, training, experience, and any necessary permits required to conduct planning-level survey(s) and/or pre-construction survey(s) and construction monitoring and are familiar with the requirements for these surveys described in Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the Yolo HCP/NCCP Permitting Guide and the applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) described in Chapter 5 of the Permitting Guide.

Planning-Level Survey	Pre-Construction /Construction Monitoring	
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	General Planning-Level Habitat Surveys (includes identification of Yolo HCP/NCCP land cover types and habitat for all Yolo HCP/NCCP covered species)
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	Palmate-bracted bird's beak (AMM11)
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (AMM12)
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	California tiger salamander (AMM13)
---*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Western pond turtle (AMM14)
---*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Giant garter snake (AMM15)
---*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite (AMM16)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Western yellow-billed cuckoo (AMM17)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Western burrowing owl (AMM18)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Least Bell's vireo (AMM19)
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	Bank swallow (AMM20)
<input type="checkbox"/>	---	Tricolored blackbird (AMM21)

*Species-specific planning-level survey criteria covered in the general planning-level survey

Submit application and attachments to info@yolohabitatconservancy.org

Qualifications (limited to the space below and attached resume or curriculum vitae):

Applicable training:

Describe specific course work, workshops, certifications, or other relevant education and training.

Experience:

Describe years and type of experience, including number and type of surveys. Attach a list of projects with detailed experience: whether you were the lead biologist or assistant, what type of survey (e.g., protocol-level, habitat assessment, pre-construction, construction monitoring) by species, number of hours surveys were conducted and whether species was observed for each survey. Bold print each covered species in the descriptions. Be detailed on how much experience of observations and/or handling for each species. Apply experience to specific AMM requirements (AMM Table attached).

Permits:

Include species covered and permit number

Any other qualifications:

Experience training others, publications, etc.

I certify that the information provided is accurate, I have reviewed the Yolo HCP/NCCP, the Yolo HCP/NCCP permitting guide, and Frequently Asked Questions. I further certify that I understand that HCP/NCCP compliance are not the same as California Environmental Quality Act compliance and will advise clients accordingly.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Attach a copy of a current resume or curriculum vitae and any applicable permits you hold**

ATTACHMENT B

Yolo HCP/NCCP Table 4-1. Avoidance and Minimization Measures for Sensitive Natural Communities and Covered Species

Covered Species or Sensitive Natural Community	Planning-Level Surveys^a	Design Requirements^b	Preconstruction Surveys^c	Construction and Operations and Maintenance Requirements^d
Sensitive Natural Communities				
Alkali prairie and vernal pool complex (AMM9 and AMM10)	Map natural community in and within 250 feet of project footprint.	Design project to avoid vernal pools or alkali seasonal wetlands by 250 feet, or other distance based on site specific topography to avoid indirect hydrologic effects. ¹ A buffer of less than 250 feet around vernal pools or alkali seasonal wetlands will be subject to wildlife agency concurrence that effects will be avoided. Considerations that may warrant a buffer of less than 250 feet may include topography (i.e., if the surrounding microwatershed extends less than 250 feet from the pool or wetland), intervening hydrologic barriers such as roads or canals, or other factors indicating that the proposed disturbance area does not contribute to the pool's hydrology. Other considerations may include temporary disturbance during the dry season where measures are implemented to avoid disturbance of the underlying claypan or hardpan, and the area is returned to pre-project conditions prior to the following rainy season.	None	See design requirements.
Valley foothill riparian (AMM9 and AMM10)	Map natural community in and within 100 feet of project footprint.	Except for projects expected to remove Valley foothill riparian (transportation, utility crossings, flood control and drainage management improvements), design project to avoid this natural community by including a 100-foot (minimum) permanent buffer zone from the canopy drip-line (the farthest edge on the ground where water will drip from the tree canopy, based on the outer boundary of the tree canopy). A lesser buffer or encroachment into the natural community may be allowed if approved by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW, based on the criteria listed in AMM1, and all covered species AMMs are followed.	None	See design requirements.
Lacustrine and riverine (AMM9 and AMM10)	Identify streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds in and within 25 feet of project footprint inside urban planning units, and within 100 feet of project footprint outside urban planning units.	Within urban planning units, design development (with the exception of projects expected to affect lacustrine and riverine, such as transportation, utility crossings, and flood control projects) to include a 25-foot (minimum) permanent buffer zone (setback easement) from the top of bank along both sides of all natural (i.e., not including manmade ditches and canals) perennial and intermittent (excluding ephemeral) stream corridors. Outside urban planning units, the setback will be 100 feet. Any riparian habitat within this setback buffer will be avoided and protected, consistent with <i>AMM8 Avoid and Minimize Effects of Construction Staging Areas and Temporary Work Areas</i> . If an aquatic feature provides habitat for California tiger salamander, setbacks will be consistent with AMM13.	None	See design requirements.
Fresh emergent wetlands (AMM9 and AMM10)	Map natural community in and within 50 feet of project footprint.	Design project to avoid this natural community by including a 50-foot (minimum) buffer zone from the edge of the natural community (including the supporting hydrologic area), unless there is an intervening hydrologic barrier.		

¹ Alkali seasonal wetlands are seasonal wetlands within the alkali prairie natural community.

Covered Species or Sensitive Natural Community	Planning-Level Surveys ^a	Design Requirements ^b	Preconstruction Surveys ^c	Construction and Operations and Maintenance Requirements ^d
Plants				
Palmate-bracted bird's beak (AMM11)	Identify and quantify (in acres) suitable habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 250 feet of project footprint. If suitable habitat is present, conduct survey within this habitat for palmate-bracted bird's beak, consistent with CDFW guidance (California Department of Fish and Game 2009) or most current guidance. Survey period: May 31–September 30	Design project to avoid activity within 250 feet of occupied habitat, or greater distance depending on site specific topography to avoid hydrologic effects, unless a shorter distance is determined to avoid effects and approved by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW.	None	See design requirements. Avoid mortality of individuals, except as needed through management activities that provide an overall benefit to the species.
Invertebrates				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (AMM12)	Identify and map all elderberry shrubs in and within 100 feet of project footprint with stems greater than one inch in diameter at ground level. For mapped shrubs that cannot be avoided, quantify the number of stems greater than one inch in diameter at ground level, and identify any such stems with valley elderberry longhorn beetle exit holes, consistent with USFWS (1999a) guidelines. Survey period: Year-round	Design project to avoid mapped elderberry shrubs. To avoid effects on shrubs, a setback of at least 100 feet from any elderberry shrubs with stems measuring one inch or greater in diameter at ground level is required; protective measures are required, consistent with USFWS (1999a) guidelines. All restoration projects will avoid removal of elderberry shrubs.	None	Prior to construction, the project proponent will transplant elderberry shrubs identified within project footprint that cannot be avoided and quantify affected stems, as described in greater detail in AMM12 (Section 4.3.4, <i>Covered Species</i>) and in Section 6.4.2.4.1, <i>Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle</i>). Transplantation will only occur if a shrub cannot be avoided and, if indirectly affected, the indirect effects would otherwise result in the death of stems or the entire shrub.
Amphibians				
California tiger salamander (AMM13)	Identify and quantify (in acres) suitable aquatic and upland habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 500 feet of project footprint, and avoid this buffer area if possible. If a project outside an urban planning unit, as designed, will not avoid aquatic habitat by at least 500 feet, either conduct visual and dip-net surveys, consistent with CDFW protocol (California Department of Fish and Game 2003), or assume presence. Survey period: After rainfall, November 1 to May 15.	Design project to avoid any disturbance in California tiger salamander within designated critical habitat in the Dunnigan Creek Unit (70 FR 49380). If species is present or assumed to be present in aquatic habitat, design the project to avoid adverse effects within 500 feet of habitat outside urban planning units. If the species is present or assumed to be present, the covered activity will not remove aquatic habitat until at least four new occupied breeding pools are discovered or established and protected in the Plan Area. After the four new occupied breeding pools are protected, with concurrence of USFWS and CDFW, up to three occupied breeding pools may be affected. ²	None.	See design requirements.
Reptiles				
Western pond turtle (AMM14)	Identify species habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) within project footprint.	No design requirements are specified for western pond turtle; follow design requirements for the valley foothill riparian and lacustrine and riverine natural communities described above for AMMs 9 and 10. These require 100-foot setbacks.	If modeled upland habitat will be impacted, a qualified biologist will assess the likelihood of western pond turtle nests occurring in the disturbance area (based on sun exposure, soil conditions, and other species habitat requirements).	If a qualified biologist determines that there is a moderate to high likelihood of western pond turtle nests within the disturbance area, the qualified biologist will monitor all initial ground disturbing activity for nests that may be unearthed during the disturbance, and will move out of harm's way any turtles or hatchlings .

² See Chapter 6, Section 6.3.4.3.3, *Species-Specific Goals and Objectives, Objective CTS1.3, for additional detail regarding this requirement.*

Covered Species or Sensitive Natural Community	Planning-Level Surveys ^a	Design Requirements ^b	Preconstruction Surveys ^c	Construction and Operations and Maintenance Requirements ^d
Giant garter snake (AMM15)	Identify and quantify (in acres) species habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 200 feet of project footprint.	Avoid development in habitat. For avoidance, there must be no activity in or within 200 feet of aquatic habitat.	<p>For construction, if habitat cannot be avoided, conduct clearance surveys using USFWS (1997) protocol within 24 hours prior to construction activities. If construction activities stop for a period of two weeks or more, conduct another preconstruction survey within 24 hours of resuming activity.</p> <p>No surveys required for operations and maintenance unless material spoils will be placed anywhere other than an existing material spoils site within giant garter snake habitat.</p>	<p>For construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict construction to snakes' active season. • Dewater aquatic habitat and allow snakes to leave area prior to construction. • Confine land clearing to minimum area necessary to facilitate construction activities. • Provide environmental awareness training. • Employ best management practices. <p>For operations and maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When possible, restrict construction to snakes' active season. • Provide environmental awareness training. • Limit channel clearing to one side along at least 80 percent of the linear distance of canals and ditches during each maintenance year. • Confine land clearing to minimum area necessary to facility construction activities. • Place removed material in existing dredged material spoil sites. If no sites exist, place spoils only where preconstruction surveys confirm snakes are not present. • See Section 4.3.4, <i>Covered Species</i>, for further details.
Birds				
Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite (AMM15AMM16)	Identify and quantify (in acres) species habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 1,320 feet of project footprint. Identify suitable nest trees.	Avoid potential nesting trees, with 1,320-foot setbacks from the trees during nesting, to the extent practicable. Up to 20 Swainson's hawk nest trees (documented nesting within the last 5 years) may be removed during the course of the permit term, but not while occupied by Swainson's hawks during the nesting season.	<p>For construction, if activity would occur within 1,320 feet of nesting habitat, conduct preconstruction surveys for active nests, consistent with Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (2000). Survey period: March 15–August 30</p> <p>For operations and maintenance, if activity involves pruning or removal of suitable nest trees, conduct preconstruction surveys for active nests, consistent with Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (2000). Survey period: March 15–August 30</p>	<p>For construction, from March 15 to August 30, no activity within 1,320 feet of active nests (as identified through preconstruction surveys), unless a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active or the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW agree to a lesser buffer distance.</p> <p>For operations and maintenance, if occupied nest sites are present within 1,320 feet, tree pruning and removal will be deferred until the nest is no longer being used by adults and young.</p>

Covered Species or Sensitive Natural Community	Planning-Level Surveys ^a	Design Requirements ^b	Preconstruction Surveys ^c	Construction and Operations and Maintenance Requirements ^d
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (AMM17)	<p>Identify and quantify (in acres) species habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 500 feet of project footprint.</p> <p>If project, as designed, will not avoid habitat by 500 feet (or a lesser distance if approved by the Conservancy) and there are no breeding records for the species within one-quarter mile of the site from the previous three years, conduct planning-level surveys, consistent with USFWS protocol (Appendix L), to determine if an occupied territory is present.</p> <p>Survey period: June 1–August 30</p>	<p>For construction projects, avoid or minimize activities within 500 feet of suitable nesting habitat. If the covered activity would encroach within 500 feet of habitat and an occupied territory is identified during planning-level surveys, or there are records of the species occurring within one-quarter mile of the activity within the last three years, the project must be designed to avoid activities within 500 feet of suitable nesting habitat, unless a shorter distance is approved by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW.</p> <p>For operations and maintenance activities, follow the same requirements as for construction, unless activity does not remove habitat or occur during nesting season (June 1–August 30). If activity does not remove habitat or occur during the nesting season, no design requirements are necessary.</p>	<p>For construction, if activity within 500 feet of nesting habitat (whether or not active nests were discovered during planning-level surveys) must occur between June 1 and August 30, conduct preconstruction surveys, consistent with USFWS protocol (Appendix L), during the same season when the activity will occur.</p> <p>For operations and maintenance, same as above, unless activity does not remove habitat and happens outside the nesting season.</p>	<p>From June 1 to August 30, avoid activity within 500 feet of active nests (as identified through preconstruction surveys).</p>
Western burrowing owl (AMM18)	<p>Identify and quantify (in acres) species habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 500 feet of project footprint.</p> <p>If the activity will occur in western burrowing habitat, a qualified biologist will conduct planning-level surveys for occupied habitat, consistent with CDFW guidelines for Phase II burrow surveys (California Department of Fish and Game 2012).</p> <p>Survey period: February 1–August 31 during the breeding season; December 1–January 31 during nonbreeding season</p>	<p>Design project to minimize activities in the vicinity of occupied burrows, consistent with Table 4-2.</p>	<p>If burrows cannot be avoided, consistent with Table 4-2, a qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys up to 30 days prior to construction to identify active burrows in the area of impact (<i>area of impact</i> is defined in Section 8.4.1.2, <i>Land Cover Fee</i>).</p>	<p>Avoid all nest sites during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31) with a buffer consistent with Table 4-2, or as otherwise approved by the Conservancy and wildlife agencies. Construction may occur inside the disturbance buffer if the project proponent develops an avoidance, minimization, and monitoring plan, as described in <i>AMM18, Minimize Take and Adverse Effects on Habitat of Western Burrowing Owl</i> (Section 4.3.4, <i>Covered Species</i>).</p> <p>Avoid all occupied burrows outside the breeding season (February 1 to August 31) with a 250-foot buffer, unless specific criteria are met, as described in Section 4.3.4.</p> <p>A qualified biologist will monitor the site, as described in Section 4.3.4.</p> <p>Passive relocation (or active relocation upon wildlife agency approval) may be implemented, as described in Section 4.3.4.</p>
Least Bell's vireo (AMM19)	<p>Identify and quantify (in acres) species habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 500 feet of project footprint.</p> <p>If project, as designed, will not avoid habitat by 500 feet (or a lesser distance if approved by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW) and there are no breeding season (or nesting) records for the species within one-quarter mile of the site from the previous three years, conduct planning-level surveys, consistent with USFWS (2001), to determine if an occupied territory is present.</p> <p>Survey period: April 1–July 15</p>	<p>For construction projects, avoid or minimize activities within 500 feet of suitable nesting habitat. If the covered activity would encroach within 500 feet of habitat and an occupied nest is identified during planning-level surveys, or there are records of the species occurring within one-quarter mile of the activity within the last three years, the activity must be designed to avoid activities within 500 feet of suitable nesting habitat, unless a shorter distance is approved by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW.</p> <p>For operations and maintenance activities, follow the same requirements as for construction, unless activity does not remove habitat or occur during nesting season (April 1 to July 15). If activity does not remove habitat or occur during the nesting season, no design requirements are necessary.</p>	<p>For construction, if activity within 500 feet of nesting habitat (whether or not active territories were discovered during planning-level surveys) must occur between April 1 and July 15, conduct preconstruction surveys, consistent with USFWS (2012), during the same season when the activity will occur.</p> <p>For operations and maintenance, same as above,</p>	<p>From April 1 to July 15, avoid activity within 500 feet of active nests (as identified through preconstruction surveys), unless a lesser distance is approved by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW.</p>

Covered Species or Sensitive Natural Community	Planning-Level Surveys ^a	Design Requirements ^b	Preconstruction Surveys ^c	Construction and Operations and Maintenance Requirements ^d
Bank swallow (AMM20)	<p>Identify and quantify (in acres) species habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 500 feet of project footprint.</p> <p>If project cannot avoid nesting habitat by 500 feet, conduct visual surveys to determine if an active colony is present. CDFW will be notified of any active colony located during surveys.</p> <p>Survey period: March 1–August 15</p> <p>If project, as designed, will not avoid nesting habitat by 500 feet, check records maintained by Conservancy and CDFW to determine if bank swallow nesting colonies have been active within the previous five years.</p> <p>Operations and maintenance activities with temporary effects or other temporary activities that do not remove or modify nesting habitat and do not occur during the nesting season (March 1 to August 15) do not need to conduct nest surveys and do not need to implement additional avoidance measures for this species.</p>	<p>If active colony is present or has been present within the last five years, design project to avoid adverse effects within 500 feet of the colony site(s), unless a shorter distance is approved, based on site-specific conditions, by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW. If colony is not present or has not been present within the last five years, a 500-foot buffer is not necessary.</p>	None	<p>unless activity does not remove habitat and happens outside the nesting season.</p> <p>From March 1 to August 15, no activity within 500 feet of nesting colony that has been active within the last five years (as identified through planning-level surveys and record search), unless approved by the Conservancy, USFWS and CDFW.</p> <p>From July 31 to April 14, a buffer distance of less than 200 feet may be applied if approved by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW.</p>
Tricolored blackbird (AMM21)	<p>Identify and quantify (in acres) species habitat (as defined in Appendix A, <i>Covered Species Accounts</i>) in and within 1,300 feet of project footprint.</p> <p>If project, as designed, will not avoid nesting habitat by 1,300 feet, conduct planning-level surveys, consistent with Kelsey (2008), to determine if an active colony is present.</p> <p>Survey period: March 1–July 30</p> <p>If project, as designed, will not avoid nesting habitat by 1,300 feet, check records maintained by Conservancy to determine if there have been active tricolored blackbird nesting colonies within the previous five years.</p>	<p>If active colony is present or has been present within the last five years, design project to avoid adverse effects within 1,300 feet of the colony site(s), unless a shorter distance is approved, based on site-specific conditions, by the Conservancy, USFWS, and CDFW.</p>	None	<p>From March 1 to July 30, no activity within 1,300 feet of nesting colony that has been active within the last five years (as identified through planning-level surveys and record search).</p>

^a Planning-level surveys are described in Section 4.2.2.3, *Item 3: Land Cover Mapping and Planning-Level Surveys*.

^b This column includes only sensitive natural community or species-specific design requirements, as summarized from Sections 4.3.3, *Sensitive Natural Communities*, and 4.3.4, *Covered Species*. Additional design requirements are described in Section 4.3.1, *General Project Design*.

^c Although planning-level surveys are conducted well in advance of initiating the project and used to inform project design, preconstruction surveys are conducted immediately prior to initiating the project, within time windows specified for each relevant covered species, to determine necessary construction-related avoidance and minimization measures (e.g., setbacks from an active Swainson’s hawk nest until the young have fledged).

^d This column includes only sensitive natural community or species-specific design requirements, as summarized from Sections 4.3.3, *Sensitive Natural Communities*, and 4.3.4, *Covered Species*. Additional construction and operations and maintenance requirements are described in Section 4.3.2, *General Construction and Operations and Maintenance*.