

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Yolo Audubon Society

P.O. Box 886 Davis, CA 95617

April 15, 2019



Davis City Council
23 Russell Blvd.
Davis, CA 95616

RE: Mace Ranch Innovation Center

Dear Members of the Davis City Council:

The Yolo Audubon Society and its 600 members would like to add their voices to those who want permanent protection for the 25-acre city-owned parcel - APN 033-650-026 (Mace 25), and four acres near Ikeda's (Ikeda 4) in the footprint of the proposed Mace Ranch Innovation Center.

Mace 25 was purchased in 2010 as part of a 390-acre parcel with Measure O funds, and was meant to be retained as open space and habitat, not sold to a developer.

Mace 25 and adjacent areas have supported a group of breeding burrowing owls for many years. Burrowing owls were once common in the City of Davis and throughout Yolo County. However, information from several sources indicates that the burrowing owl population in and near Davis has declined significantly in recent years.

The City's Open Space and Habitat Commission has repeatedly recommended that Mace 25 be kept as open space in perpetuity. Local conservation organizations have made the same request.

The City could apply for a Yolo Habitat Conservancy conservation easement to preserve these properties as open space and to protect the burrowing owl habitat in perpetuity. Preserving nesting and foraging habitat for the burrowing owl is a priority for the Conservancy. Thank you for your time in reading this letter and taking our comments under due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Ealy".

Ken Ealy, President
Yolo Audubon Society

cc: Board of Directors, Yolo Audubon Society