

YOLO COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION Family Water Alliance

For Immediate Release
August 31, 2005

Contact: Dudley Holman
Ph: 530-666-3646
Jeff Sutton
Ph: 530/ 438-2026

Farmers and Taxpayers Respond to Narrow Passage of AB 1747

Woodland – Today, the California State Senate narrowly passed Assembly Bill 1747 (Wolk, D-Davis) on a vote of 21-15. This bill will now move to the Assembly for concurrence. In response, Yolo County farmers and taxpayers released the following statements;

“Yolo taxpayers are united in their opposition to AB 1747, which seeks to implement an eminent domain action against an unwilling seller,” said Dudley Holman, President of the Yolo County Taxpayers Association. “Clearly, until the eminent domain proceedings have been settled, which could take years to resolve given the property’s valuable water rights and other assets, any action on AB 1747 is premature.”

“AB 1747 would effectively give an independent sovereign government long-term land use management authority in Yolo County,” said Jeff Sutton, Executive Director of the Family Water Alliance. “Ironically, AB 1747 could lead to out-of-county water sales, division and sale of Conaway Ranch and other uses inconsistent with the County’s and the Ranch’s history of preserving Yolo farmland.”

The bill was also opposed by the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The controversy involving the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians began in May of 2005 when only weeks after Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved a new 18-hole golf course for the Cache Creek Casino, the County announced a “historic” partnership with the tribe to purchase Conaway Ranch.

For more information on Conaway Ranch and the Yolo County Taxpayers Association (YCTA), visit www.yolotaxpayers.com. The mission of the Family Water Alliance (FWA) is to educate the people regarding rural issues. FWA is a Sacramento Valley coalition of family farmers and community leaders concerned with the future of agriculture, private property rights, rural communities, and a balance between man and nature. For more information on FWA, visit www.familywateralliance.com.

###