

YOLO COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

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Taxpayers and Property Owners lose Conaway Ranch Ruling County's greatest challenge to come – how to pay for it?

Woodland – In response to today's court ruling in favor of Yolo County's decision to seize the Conaway Ranch from its unwilling sellers, Dudley Holman, president of the Yolo County Taxpayers Association and former Woodland mayor, released the following statement.

"Now that Yolo County is one step closer to becoming the owner and operator of a \$60 million ranch, the board of supervisors must explain why our tax dollars are better spent on a ranch than other public services such as police, fire and roads," said Dudley Holman. "In order to acquire and maintain one of the largest farming operations in Northern California, the board of supervisors will have to cut other public services or raise taxes. The county can achieve its goal of protecting the ranch's farmland without spending one penny by simply maintaining its agricultural zoning laws."

Up to this point, the board of supervisors has also refused to disclose the nature of the Rumsey Tribe's offer to loan or gift the county more than \$60 million to finance the taking of the ranch. With eminent domain's valuation and financing process about to begin, the county has an obligation to publicly disclose the terms of the tribal agreement and what impact it will have on county services. Yolo County has furloughed public employees in order to balance its budget and county staff predicts financial shortfalls for years to come.

"Yolo County can't afford to borrow \$60 million financed by Cache Creek Casino gambling profits," said Holman. "County Supervisors need to demonstrate that they can get county finances in order before embarking on the ambitious goal of getting into the farming business."

For more than 30 years, Yolo County Taxpayers Association (YCTA) has been protecting Yolo County taxpayers and private property rights. For more information on Conaway Ranch and YCTA, visit www.yolotaxpayers.com.

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