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## **California Endangered Species and Habitat Alliance**

Butte Environmental Council \* California Native Plant Society \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Protect Our Water \* San Joaquin Raptor and Wildlife Rescue Center \* San Joaquin Valley Conservancy \* The Nature Conservancy \* VernalPools.Org

### **October 5**

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## **CESHA Comments on Proposed New UC Merced Footprint**

MERCED, CA (Oct. 5, 2007) –

The California Endangered Species and Habitat Alliance (CESHA) is a coalition of national, statewide, and local groups working to protect endangered species and habitat in California. We are committed to effectively and strategically advocating for and educating towards changes in California's policy, politics, and public awareness that will enable protection of California's endangered species and threatened habitats.

Members of CESHA, including Butte Environmental Council, Defenders of Wildlife, California Native Plant Society, Protect Our Water, San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center, San Joaquin Valley Conservancy, and VernalPools.Org, have been meeting with UC Merced officials, plus federal and state resource agency officials for more than two years in a dialogue about the Merced campus impacts on the habitat for endangered species.

“VernalPool.org supports the UC's announcement today regarding the reduced footprint” said Carol Witham of VernalPools.org, “because it is environmentally more balanced than the original proposal and reduces impacts to vernal pools and endangered species.”

“We look forward to seeing new plans and participating in the public review process on the new campus,” said Lydia Miller, president of the San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center.

“CESHA's open discussions with UC may prove beneficial for the species, habitat, and the Merced campus, which has been a collaborative opportunity too good to miss,” stated Barbara Vlamis of Butte Environmental Council.

CESHA has been in continual dialogue with federal and state resource agencies concerning the impacts to and disappearance of endangered species habitat, most notably in the eastern Central Valley. Among CESHA achievements is the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, a group of environmental organizations and cattle-ranching groups that work together for the preservation of working cattle ranches and endangered species habitat in California.

UC Merced's announcement may be found at

[http://www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/10052007\\_uc\\_merced\\_modifies\\_plans.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/10052007_uc_merced_modifies_plans.asp).