PRESS RELEASE

Contact Person: Captain Larry Cecchettini

Date: May 7, 2014

Subject: Reports of Stranded Cat on the Sacramento River - UNFOUNDED

Since last Thursday, April 25, 2014, the Yolo County Sheriff’s Office’s Animal Services Section has been receiving notifications from the public that a cat has been seen on a large driftwood pile on the Sacramento River, under the I-5 Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Bridge. Animal Services has been unable to locate the cat.

This driftwood pile is approximately 20 feet by 50 feet and is located 30 feet from the west bank of the river, on the Yolo County side of the bridge. After receiving several reports of a cat on the pile, Yolo County Animal Services officers have inspected the pile, with the assistance of the West Sacramento Fire Department rescue boat. No cats have been located, however Animal Services officers located three empty cat traps which appear to have been placed there by individuals not affiliated with any public safety agency.

The Sheriff’s Office’s staff veterinarian, Dr. Cynthia Delany, advises if a cat were on the driftwood pile and truly in distress it would have gone into one of the traps to get the food. Traps recovered by Animal Services still contained food containers that were untouched. Dr. Delany also advised that the distance between the shore and the driftwood pile is a distance a cat would certainly be able to swim.

“The driftwood pile appears to be the gradual accumulation of debris over the past several months.” said Yolo Sheriff Ed Prieto. He further stated “Our visits to the pile, since these reports surfaced, have not resulted in the location or observance of cats or any other animals. Though not an immediate threat of breaking loose and heading down stream, we have determined that this pile is extremely unstable and a danger to people walking on it.” The Sheriff’s Office is cautioning the public not to board this pile for any reason.

The attached photo is of an Animal Services Officer inspecting the pile in search of the cat.