Petrea Marchand is Executive Director of the Yolo Habitat Conservancy and owner of a public policy consulting firm in Davis, California that focuses on helping local organizations succeed.

Petrea led the Yolo Habitat Conservancy’s successful effort to complete a countywide conservation plan for 12 endangered and threatened species after saving the plan from near abandonment as it floundered in 2012 after two decades of work. Overcoming significant financial and political obstacles, she worked with four cities, Yolo County, state and federal governments, local environmental groups and other stakeholders to develop the plan over the course of six years. The plan was unanimously adopted in 2018 by all governments and agencies and enthusiastic support from environmental groups.

The Yolo Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan will result in coordinated mitigation for the impacts on habitat from future development in Yolo County; a significant improvement over the existing piecemeal approach. The plan will also result in the conservation of over 8,000 acres of additional habitat above and beyond mitigation requirements. Over the next 50 years, the reserve system will encompass over 33,000 acres of natural and working lands in Yolo County.

In addition to her work with the Yolo Habitat Conservancy, Petrea provided critical support Yolo County’s efforts to
● implement the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan;
● conserve important native grasslands habitat at Grasslands Regional Park in Yolo County; and
● respond to multi-benefit habitat conservation proposals in the Yolo Bypass.

As Capitol staff to then Assemblywoman Helen Thomson, she helped to establish the Oak Woodlands Conservation Program at the Wildlife Conservation Board and supported the Assemblywoman’s efforts to encourage wildlife-friendly agriculture through state legislation and other policy proposals.

Petrea continues to help local governments and non-profit organizations develop, implement, and fund broadly supported habitat conservation projects. In recognition of her years of devoted service to the environment, we commend Petrea Marchand and honor her with this year's Yolano Group award for meritorious service. The Yolano Group is very grateful to be a beneficiary of Petrea's dedication and commitment and we hope to keep her very busy for many years in the future!