



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 11, 2012

Michael Machado
Executive Director
Delta Protection Commission
2101 Stone Blvd., Suite 210
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Dear Mr. Machado:

Thank you for mailing the *Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (June 2012)* and cover letter that identified the changes made to the study in response to our February 22, 2012 comment memo. Your prompt and thorough revision and submittal process was very much appreciated.

The National Park Service (NPS) has reviewed the *Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (June 2012)* for consistency with our interim *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. While it is not the role of NPS to make a recommendation regarding National Heritage Area designation except in testimony on a bill before Congress, we find that the final study has addressed and met all ten interim feasibility study criteria.

We would like to commend you for the hard work and attention to detail that went into the preparation of the final study. As you move forward with National Heritage Area designation and building partnerships to support heritage area projects and programs, please consider the following observations and suggestions:

- While the theme statements identified in the study are adequate for assessing national importance, consider refining the themes for a broader audience of residents, visitors, and partners. Ideally, the theme statements should help residents and visitors understand and appreciate the "Delta as Place" and should inspire work to conserve its heritage values. Further refinement of the themes will prove very helpful for engaging partners in partnership projects that meet the proposed heritage area goals.
- The figures in Chapter 8 of Delta waterways and levees, key components of the region described in the Study, are illegible. Better illustrations of these important features would support understanding of the unique landscape that exists today.

- We suggest revising the statement “No federal strings are attached with NHA designation” (page 127). While national heritage area designation does not result in land use or land acquisition authority, as stated in Chapter 10, receipt of federal funds does come with federal requirements, such as financial accountability and reporting requirements.

We wish you success in your efforts to protect, enhance, and sustain the unique cultural, historical, recreational, agricultural, and economic values of the Delta as an evolving place. If you would like further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact Linda Stonier, Pacific West Regional Coordinator for Heritage Areas in San Francisco, at 415-623-2322, or Martha Raymond, National Coordinator for Heritage Areas in Washington D.C., at 202-354-2222.

Sincerely,



Martha Raymond
National Coordinator for Heritage Areas
National Park Service

Cc:

Stephanie Toothman, Associate Director for Cultural Resources
Christine Lehnertz, Regional Director, Pacific West Region
Linda Stonier, Heritage Area Program Coordinator, Pacific West Region