

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
January 16, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 9: Delta National Heritage Area (NHA)

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Presented by: Blake Roberts and Erik Vink

Requested Action: (a) Receive report; (b) Delegate authority to Executive Director to execute Cooperative Agreement with National Park Service regarding finances and administration; (c) Consider appointment of Commission subcommittee

Type of Action: Action Item

Background: The Delta Reform Act of 2009 and Delta Plan Recommendation DP R1 called on the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) to pursue federal designation of the Delta as a National Heritage Area (Water Code Section 85301(b)(1)). Legislation establishing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) and designating the Commission as the local coordinating entity was signed into law on March 12, 2019.

The Commission's next steps are to:

1. **Enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service**, which establishes how the Commission (as the "Local Coordinating Entity" for the new Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area) performs its fiscal responsibility for any federal funds received. Federal funds of \$150,000 are anticipated to be available in the federal 2020 fiscal year that began October 1, 2019; this annual amount is expected to increase to approximately \$250,000-300,000 once the management plan is completed. The Cooperative Agreement outlines the method of payment, allowable eligible costs, insurance needs, audit requirements, procedures for maintenance of records, and methods for reporting on subawards and any payments made for travel, equipment, and staff time. The Agreement is under review and will receive final approval at the National Park Service's Washington, DC headquarters prior to being executed by the Commission. The amount on the agreement (\$300,000 will be the initial year-long commitment, with \$150,000 in federal FY 2020 funding matched by \$150,000 of Commission funding) will exceed the Executive Director's signature delegation authority.

2. **Prepare a Management Plan for the Delta NHA.** By law, the Secretary of Interior must approve the NHA management plan within three years of designation or the Commission will be ineligible for continued funding until approval. The State FY 19-20 budget included a one-time budget augmentation of \$200,000 for the Commission to begin preparing the Management Plan.

At its November 21, 2019 meeting, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to offer, negotiate, and execute a consultant contract with Point Heritage Development Consulting not to exceed \$149,400 for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA Program and Management Plan scope of work. The scope includes preparation of a workload analysis, project charters, vision statement, and project plans for each component of the NHA Management Plan. The proposed contract is currently under review by the State Department of General Services. The project duration is approximately twelve months, with presentation of the final product to the Commission anticipated in winter 2021.

Commission staff are currently preparing a scope of work focused on Management Plan components for the remaining funds available in the State FY 19-20 budget augmentation.

Point Heritage Development Consulting has prepared a preliminary schedule for the Management Plan once the contract is executed. Point Heritage will hold a kickoff meeting and tour the area (Month 2), research best practices and governance for NHA programs and Management Plans (Months 3 to 5), prepare project charters (Months 3 through 8), prepare a vision statement, including a session with the Commission (Months 9 and 10), and prepare project plans, communications plan, and the final report (Months 11 and 12).

Recommended Actions: Staff recommends the Commission appoint a Commission subcommittee to work with Commission staff on activities related to the NHA Program and Management Plan. Staff recommends the Commission delegate authority to the Executive Director to sign a Cooperative Agreement for work in federal FY 2020 for an amount up to \$300,000.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Delta Heritage (Strategic Theme)

H.2 Protect and promote the cultural and historical resources of the Delta.

H.2.2 Work with Congress and the National Park Service to establish a National Heritage Area in the Delta.