

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
March 19, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 12: Delta National Heritage Area (NHA)

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Presented by: Blake Roberts and Erik Vink

Requested Action: (a) Consider Commission delegation of authority to Executive Director to accept additional National Heritage Area federal funding; (b) Consider Commission support of proposed National Heritage Area federal legislation (H.R. 1049 and S. 3217)

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 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. **Revise the Proposed 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. In January 2020, the Commission delegated authority to the Executive Director to sign a Cooperative Agreement for work in federal FY 2020 (beginning October 1, 2019) for an amount up to \$300,000. The amount of the agreement consisted of \$150,000 in federal FY 2020 funding matched by \$150,000 of Commission funding. Since the last Commission meeting, staff learned that the amount of federal funds allocated for the Commission in the federal 2020 fiscal year is \$154, 291 – \$4,291 more than initially anticipated. Staff is requesting that the Commission increase the amount of delegated authority from \$300,000 to \$308,582 to reflect this revised amount. Once the Commission revises the Cooperative Agreement, the National Park Service's Washington, DC headquarters will review and approve the Agreement prior to being executed by the Commission.
2. **Prepare a Letter of Support for National Heritage Area Program Legislation.** Although the National Heritage Area (NHA) program began in 1984 and now include 55 NHAs, Congress has never enacted comprehensive NHA legislation to date. Companion bills in the Senate (S. 3217) and House (H.R. 1049) would create an NHA system with uniform standards for

designation, funding, and management. The House bill has 36 co-sponsors from the California delegation and 221 co-sponsors overall, including Congressmen Bera, DeSaulnier, Garamendi, Harder, McNerney, and Thompson. On January 29, 2020, the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest, and Public Lands reported out H.R. 1049 to the full Natural Resources Committee.

Recommended Actions: 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 \$308,582. Staff recommends the Commission approve the proposed support letter for S. 3217 (National Heritage Area Act) and H.R. 1049 (National Heritage Area Act of 2019).

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.