

DPC September 17, 2020 meeting – Agenda Item 12 (Delta National Heritage Area management plan and consider Committee charter)

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
September 17, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 12: Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) Management Plan

Prepared by: Blake Roberts

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Requested Action: (a) Receive report on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Management Plan Development; (b) Consider Approval of National Heritage Area Management Plan Advisory Committee Charter

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 first primary task is to prepare and receive approval from the Secretary of Interior for a management plan to guide the NHA’s activities for the next ten to fifteen years.

The state FY 19-20 budget included a one-time budget augmentation of \$200,000 for the Commission to begin preparing the NHA Management Plan. In February 2020, the Commission entered into a contract with Point Heritage Development Consulting (Point HDC) for \$149,400 to prepare a workload analysis, project charters, vision statement, and project plans for each component of the NHA Management Plan. Point HDC held a kickoff meeting and toured the NHA in early March 2020, researched best practices and governance for NHA programs and management plans, prepared a project charter for the resource inventory, and has been working with Commission staff on the public engagement process.

Based on Point HDC guidance, Commission staff prepared a draft charter for the National Heritage Area Management Plan Advisory Committee (NHA Advisory Committee). The NHA Advisory Committee will provide the Commission and Commission NHA subcommittee (created at the January 16, 2020 Commission meeting) with recommendations on the development of the Management Plan and input from diverse stakeholders. The Delta Protection Advisory Committee reviewed the charter at their September 2, 2020 meeting and did not recommend any revisions.

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Following Commission review of the charter, Commission staff will solicit applications for the NHA Advisory Committee from interested members of the public, and work with members of the Commission’s NHA subcommittee to suggest appointments at the November 19, 2020 Commission meeting. Point HDC will subsequently assist Commission staff with management of the NHA Advisory Committee and associated NHA Advisory Task Group meetings.

In June 2020, Commission staff used the remaining funds in the State FY 19-20 budget augmentation and a \$10,000 grant from the State Office of Historic Preservation to enter into a contract with California State Parks for interpretive planning services, which will include development of interpretive themes, suggested text for the Management Plan, and interpretive planning training. The schedule for State Parks’ scope of work is expected to run from December 2020 to December 2021.

Requested Action: Staff recommends the Commission (a) receive a report on NHA Management Plan development; and (b) consider approval of NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee Charter.

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.