

**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
September 15, 2022**

AGENDA ITEM 11: Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) Report and Delegation of Authority

Prepared by: Blake Roberts

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Requested Action: (a) Receive report on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA Management Plan development (b) Consider Commission delegation of authority to Executive Director to accept additional NHA federal funding for Federal FY 2022

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 first primary task is to prepare and receive approval from the Secretary of Interior for a Management Plan. The Management Plan will outline the significance and purpose of the NHA, as well as the activities that the Commission and a regional network of partners will undertake through the end of the authorization period in 2034.

Commission staff kicked off public outreach for the NHA Management Plan in January 2021 with the first NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee meeting. The committee has met ten times to date. Four advisory task groups – Heritage Development and Tourism, Interpretive Planning, Organization, and Resource Stewardship – have also met to discuss specific topics. During the most recent NHA Advisory Committee on September 1, committee members discussed the draft Management Plan resource inventory and interpretive goals and objectives.

Next steps for the NHA Advisory Committee and task groups will be to:

1. Review the revised resource inventory.
2. Refine the objectives/actions identified by the task groups.
3. Work with the NHA Advisory Committee to articulate 3 to 5 primary goals for the NHA.
4. Collaborate with partners to determine roles and contributions in undertaking actions in the management plan, and secure commitments from partners.
5. Work with the Management Task Group to develop the business plan.
6. Develop an implementation plan with goals, objectives, actions, budget, and timeline.

7. Identify the ways in which the goals, objectives, and actions will meet legislative requirements, and create a plan outline that shows where legislative requirements will be addressed.
8. Prepare the draft management plan document for Commission and National Park Service review prior to public review.

Commission staff anticipate presenting a draft plan to the Commissioners for potential public release in early 2023.

Following the passage of the federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget, which began October 1, 2021, the National Park Service (NPS) advised Commission staff that grant funding for the Delta NHA would be \$157,500. Staff is requesting that the Commission delegate authority to the Executive Director to amend the existing Cooperative Agreement with NPS to accept an additional \$157,500 in federal FY 2022 funding. Under the Cooperative Agreement, the Commission is obligated to match the federal funding with Commission funding or other forms of non-federal match. Commission staff intend to satisfy this match largely through Commission staffing and consulting services.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Commission delegate authority to the Executive Director to amend the existing Cooperative Agreement to accept an additional \$157,500 for NHA work in federal FY 2022.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan):

Delta Heritage (Strategic Theme)

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

2.1 Implement the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area.