



PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA

Delta Protection Commission

Thursday, September 19, 2024, 5-7 p.m. (end time is approximate)
West Sacramento Community Center
1075 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691

Agenda

1. Call to order and Flag Salute
2. Welcome & Roll Call
3. Public Comment – an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission regarding items not on the agenda

Closed Session Agenda

4. The Delta Protection Commission will meet in closed session to consider the evaluation of performance of one or more of its employees. This closed session is authorized by Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a)(1).

Consent Agenda

5. Approval of Draft July 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes (p. 3)

Regular Agenda

6. Report on Delta Stewardship Council Activities – Chair Diane Burgis
7. Report on Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Activities – Anna Swenson (DPAC Chair)
8. Delta Protection Advisory Committee Delta Waterways Cleanup project – Anna Swenson (DPAC Chair) (p. 9)
9. Delta Protection Advisory Committee Gerry Goodie Memorial Seat – Anna Swenson (DPAC Chair) (p. 11)
10. Executive Director’s Report – Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director (p. 12)

11. NHA Advisory Committee Appointments – Blake Roberts (p. 18)
12. Delta as Place Presentation: Delta Agriculture – Tom Slater, Board of Directors, North Delta Water Agency
13. Commissioner Comments/Announcements
14. Adjourn

The agenda items listed above may be considered in a different order at the Commission meeting, subject to the discretion of the Chair. At the discretion of the Commission, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action. The Commission welcomes and encourages participation in its meetings. The Commission limits testimony to not more than three minutes per person, or more time at the discretion of the Chair.

Questions, Comments, and Requests

If you have any questions or have a request for reasonable modification or accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Delta Protection Commission at dpc@delta.ca.gov or (916) 375-4800. Attachments and additional information can be found on the Delta Protection Commission website: delta.ca.gov.

Comments submitted to submit@delta.ca.gov by noon on September 18, 2024, will be shared with Commissioners prior to the meeting to the extent possible. Public comments on each agenda item will follow the order of: 1) emailed comments, 2) those verbally requesting to make comments after notice offered by Chair during meeting.

Delta Protection Commission Members

Diane Burgis, Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors | **John Vasquez, Vice Chair**, Solano County Board of Supervisors | **Oscar Villegas**, Yolo County Board of Supervisors | **Patrick Hume**, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors | **Tom Patti**, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors | **Anissa Williams**, Cities of Contra Costa and Solano counties | **Paul Steele**, Cities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties | **Alan Nakanishi**, Cities of San Joaquin County | **Jim Paroli**, Central Delta Reclamation Districts | **Tom Slater**, North Delta Reclamation Districts | **TBD**, South Delta Reclamation Districts | **Toks Omishakin**, CA State Transportation Agency | **Karen Ross**, CA Department of Food and Agriculture | **Wade Crowfoot**, CA Natural Resources Agency | **Jennifer Lucchesi**, CA State Lands Commission

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Carlos Villapudua, California State Assembly | **Susan Talamantes Eggman**, California State Senate

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Delta Protection Commission

Thursday, July 18, 2024, 5 p.m.
Big Break Visitor Center
69 Big Break Road, Oakley, CA 94561

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Flag Salute

Chair Diane Burgis called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

Commission Clerk Heather McClure called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Burgis, Vice Chair John Vasquez, Commissioners Oscar Villegas, Pat Hume, Anissa Williams, Jim Paroli, Tom Slater, and Amanda Martin (for Wade Crowfoot). Commissioners Tom Patti, Paul Steele, Alan Nakanishi, Toks Omishakin, Jennifer Lucchesi, and Karen Ross; and ex-officio members Senator Talamantes Eggman, and Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua; were absent with no alternate present. At this time, a quorum was present.

Commissioner Alexandra Borack (for Jennifer Lucchesi) arrived at 5:12 p.m. and was sworn in by Counsel Carlos Mejia. She was not present for the vote on Item 4.

3. Public Comment – an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission regarding items not on the agenda.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was one:

Colin Coffey, from the East Bay Regional Parks District, welcomed everyone to Big Break on behalf of the Board of Directors of East Bay Parks.

Consent Agenda

4. Approval of May 16, 2024, meeting minutes

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chair Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Villegas to approve the May 16, 2024, meeting minutes; in a voice vote, the motion passed 8-0-0, all Commissioners present voting aye.

Regular Agenda

5. Report on Delta Stewardship Council Activities – Chair Diane Burgis

Chair Burgis gave a report on the Delta Stewardship Council's meetings, a key highlight was a cost analysis presentation on the Conveyance project which leads to speculation on how it will be funded. The Council will be exploring different scientific approaches to this issue as well as consideration of environmental justice, which is anticipated for the October meeting. She also noted a meeting with the Metropolitan Water District and the Delta Conservancy last week where they discussed the Webb Tract project.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

6. Report on Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Activities – Anna Swenson (DPAC Chair)

DPAC Vice Chair Russ Ryan spoke on two notable presentations from June's meeting. The first was on the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension Project, proposed as a segment of the Great California Delta Trail, and its successful grant application for \$1.9 million. The second presentation was on activities surrounding the National Heritage Area including the America 250 event, and the many opportunities for engagement in the various stages of planning and promotion.

DPAC Chair Swensen then announced the next DPAC meeting to be held August 6 at Tony's Place in Walnut Grove and invited everyone to the 50th Pear Fair the last weekend of July in Courtland.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

7. Delta as Place Presentation, Status of Recreation in the Delta – Chris Lauritzen, lifelong marina operator of Lauritzen Yacht Harbor in Oakley

This presentation was moved to follow Item 9 to accommodate the arrival of Mr. Lauritzen.

Chris Lauritzen gave an extensive presentation on his family's beginnings on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta waterways, highlighting the Delta's unique lifestyle, the decline and challenges of modern boating, and the importance of preserving this vital part of California's history. As a third-generation Delta resident, he shared an in-depth history of the Delta, focusing on the evolution of transportation and boating. He shared historical knowledge of Wood Island in 1870, bridges in the Delta, and the role of various boats and marinas in local commerce. Key points included the transformation

from ferry services to bridges, the development of marinas like Discovery Bay and Oxbow Marina, and the impact of recreational boating on the Delta's economy. The presentation also touched on challenges such as abandoned vessels and the importance of maintaining the Delta's rich history. The speaker emphasized that being a marina operator is more than a job—it's a lifestyle deeply connected to the Delta's heritage.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was one:

Russ Ryan asked if his grandfather built the Victory 2 ferry. Lauritzen answered that his grandfather did not build it but owned it and in 1959 it was given to a man named Ralph Lermer, who said it was part of maritime history. The engine from that boat was an Atlas diesel engine that is now on display in the Smithsonian Museum.

8. Executive Director's Report – Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director

Assistant Executive Director Debra Waltman, filling in for Executive Director Blodgett, went over the report starting with the Commission Budget Update. She announced a projected \$600,000 surplus for the 2023-24 fiscal year; for 2024-25, she reported plans to reclassify the vacant Program Manager II position to a Senior Environmental Planner position and recruit applicants as well as prepare for the Governor's 8% budget reduction.

Waltman then highlighted several items including the Delta Heritage Forum event on November 15 at the Antioch Historical Museum, the approved SACOG grant for the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail extension, and the ongoing effort to secure a grant to expand digital equity in the City of Isleton. Assistant Director Waltman then touched on current Land Use team activities including the Contra Costa County General Plan and a possible future item on McDonald Island regarding the Feasibility of Underground Hydrogen Storage study.

Lastly, she pointed out DPC's social media and newsletters, such as *Delta Happenings* and the *Delta Courier*, which received positive feedback and praise on its many original articles and Delta stories.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

9. Approval of National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Charter (proposed changes) – Blake Roberts

Program Manager Blake Roberts presented the need for National Heritage Area (NHA) Advisory Committee Charter changes as the committee for the management plan not only sunsets upon the Secretary of the Interior's approval of the plan, but also as the

focus shifts from plan creation to plan implementation. The revisions include a new scope to support ongoing plan implementation, such as overseeing NHA grants and conducting evaluations to improve program effectiveness. They also introduce a new description of member terms, the addition of alternates, new advisory task groups, sections on the Bagley-Keene Act and ethical responsibilities, and a provision stating that the charter does not have a sunset clause.

Roberts discussed the anticipated increase in funding that is expected to occur once the management plan is approved and the necessity of establishing a grant program. The committee will review grant applications and provide guidance, while the Commission will handle formal approvals. He also updated the advisory committee task groups, mentioning the creation of three new groups—communications and marketing, cultural and historical resources, and natural resources—alongside two existing ones: heritage development and tourism, and interpretive planning. Additionally, a special task group will be formed as needed.

Roberts recommended the Commission approve the charter with a strike to terms from the Membership Selection section. The charter states members be selected to ensure geographic, cultural, and multigenerational representation. Roberts said due to potential discriminatory aspects of the terms cultural and multigenerational, they would be removed to leave the focus on geographic factors.

Commissioner Borack asked if there was an established criteria for the grant application process. Roberts replied that there was none at this point.

Chair Burgis requested that two members of the Delta Protection Commission sit on the NHA subcommittee. She also wanted to confirm that anyone serving on the Advisory Committee could not represent any entity asking for grant money. Roberts responded that she was correct, and that staff is working on conflict-of-interest requirements.

A dialog followed between several commissioners and the counsel, regarding the addition of Commission members to the Advisory Committee as well as how they will be selected. During this time, Executive Director Bruce Blodgett was able to join the meeting remotely via phone to provide comments. He clarified that it would be commission members plus their alternates for these seats, and to incorporate them into the fourteen committee seats rather than add more seats.

Counsel Mejia then proposed a charter amendment to address the request. Under Membership Selection in the second paragraph, he suggested placing a semi-colon at the end of the first sentence and then add the language: two members of the Delta

Protection Commission shall serve as voting members of the NHA advisory committee as designated by the chair of the Delta Protection Commission.

Roberts brought up the need for the Commission to appoint a subcommittee to review the applications for the Committee.

Chair Burgis volunteered herself and Commissioner Villegas to be the subcommittee members since they were both on the prior NHA subcommittee.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chair Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Charter changes; in a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0-0, all Commissioners present voting aye.

Motion: It was moved by Vice Chair Vasquez and seconded by Commissioner Borack to approve the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee subcommittee; in a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0-0, all Commissioners present voting aye.

Chair Burgis had a comment related to the NHA. She announced that it was the start of the Port Chicago commemoration, and Wednesday had marked the 80th anniversary of the tragic explosion of Port Chicago, the deadliest World War II home front disaster, which killed 320 people. This tragedy led to the desegregation of the Navy under President Truman.

Roberts also had a follow up comment regarding the America 250 celebration coming up in 2026, which is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. He is looking for ways to celebrate this event locally to incorporate the Delta. He also mentioned the NHA Passport Program which will be unveiled soon. And, lastly, he promoted the Delta Heritage Forum, our sixth forum coming November 15, at the Antioch Historical Museum—registration will begin September 3.

10. Organizational Assessment Report – Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director

Assistant Executive Director Debra Waltman provided an overview of the Organizational Assessment, a six-month process initiated after a leadership change in 2022. The assessment involved staff and Commissioner interviews and concluded with a 30-page report. It focused on five key areas: leadership, organizational management and agency culture, structure and decision-making, work processes and systems, and human resources. While the report highlighted multiple areas needing change, some issues have already been addressed and are nearing completion, with the remaining items under review for solution development.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

11. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Villegas requested a possible future agenda item to have the State Lands Commission give a presentation on its role with Abandoned and Derelict Vessels. Then he commented that DPC waterways cleanup efforts have been less active in recent years due to resource constraints but there is still opportunity to collaborate with social service clubs and nonprofits to focus on cleanup within the Delta.

12. Adjourn

Chair Burgis adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

September 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 8: Delta Waterways Cleanup

Prepared by: Virginia Gardiner, Program Manager

Presented by: Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director, Anna Swenson, Co-Chair, DPAC

Recommended Action: Authorize Delta Protection Advisory Committee to Organize a Cleanup in 2025

Type of Action: Vote

Background

The annual Coastal Cleanup is a volunteer event that takes place on the third Saturday in September. It fosters public awareness and stewardship by removing trash from the State's shorelines and coast, highlighting the importance to water quality and recreation of keeping our waters free of pollution. Its counterpart, the Delta Waterways Cleanup, was sponsored by the Delta Protection Commission for 15 years at locations in each of the Delta counties. Typically, sponsorship involved working with county coordinators to publicize pre-designated cleanup sites and identify site captains, as well as assisting with minor logistics such as distributing liability waivers, trash bags and t-shirts provided by the Coastal Commission. Staff and Commissioners often enjoyed volunteering at sites near their neighborhoods and around the Delta. Past co-sponsors have included the Delta Regional Foundation (now Delta Leadership Foundation) and Sacramento Regional Sanitation District.

Due to staffing shortage, the Commission was unable to continue sponsorship activities. In 2022, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy assumed coordination. This year's Delta Waterways Cleanup is Saturday, September 21, 2024. Some of the coordination infrastructure within the counties has suffered from pandemic-related effects, and Delta Conservancy staff is still collecting cleanup location information, which tentatively includes Sherman Island, to post on their website. Commission staff will promote the event as more information becomes available, and all are encouraged to participate. The Conservancy's webpage for the event can be accessed at <https://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/waterway-cleanups-0/>

Current Status

A presentation on the event and the Commission's history of participation was made to the Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) at its meeting on August 6, 2024. Although there was not enough lead time for a significant organized participation this year, the DPAC is very interested in moving forward with an effort to plan a cleanup activity for 2025. The committee voted unanimously in support of a request for the Commission's approval to take on this effort.

Recommended Action

Authorize Delta Protection Advisory Committee to organize a Delta Waterways Cleanup in 2025.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (Strategic Theme)

Objective 1 Ensure consistent, proactive communication between and among Delta interests and decision-makers.

1.4 Support an active and engaged Delta Protection Advisory Committee structure, including utilizing expert work groups, to provide recommendations to the Commission.

1.5 Collaborate with partners on communicating about shared projects (e.g. Delta Awareness Campaign, flood awareness and preparedness, abandoned vessel abatement, and invasive species).

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

September 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 9: DPAC

Prepared by: Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director

Presented by: Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director, Anna Swenson, Co-Chair, DPAC

Recommended Action: Authorize Delta Protection Advisory Committee to rename Public Position (Gerry Goodie memorial position)

Type of Action: Vote

Background

Earlier this year, the DPC named 2 new members to the Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC). One of those new members, Gerry Goodie passed away suddenly. More recently, the DPC named Katie Wiley, a friend of Gerry's, to replace him. At the most recent meeting, DPAC discussed naming the public seat in memory of Mr. Goodie. DPAC forwarded a motion to the DPC to name the public seat currently occupied by Katie Wiley the Gerry Goodie Memorial position.

The committee voted unanimously in support of a request for the Commission's approval of this effort.

Recommended Action

Authorize Delta Protection Advisory Committee to rename the new public position, the Gerry Goodie Memorial position.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (Strategic Theme)

Objective 1 Ensure consistent, proactive communication between and among Delta interests and decision-makers.

1.4 Support an active and engaged Delta Protection Advisory Committee structure, including utilizing expert work groups, to provide recommendations to the Commission.

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

September 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 10: Executive Director’s Report

Prepared by: Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director

Presented by: Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director

Recommended Action: Receive the Executive Director’s Report

Type of Action: Receive

Commission Budget Update

Budget and Spending for Delta Protection Commission - FY 24/25
Projected Budget

FY 23-24 Categories	Budget Amount	Total Expenses and Projections	Difference
Salaries and Wages	\$1,515,000	\$1,499,468	\$15,532
Operating Expenses	\$821,000	\$605,000	\$216,000
8% Reduction Estimate (State funds only)	(172,240)	0	(172,240)
Total	\$2,163,760	\$2,104,468	\$59,292

National Heritage Area Management Plan

National Park Service and Department of the Interior staff are reviewing the management plan submitted March 12. The plan requires Secretary of the Interior approval. Commission staff are continuing to conduct outreach to Tribes as part of our tribal consultation process for the management plan.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee

The National Heritage Area Advisory Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday, October 31, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Oakley Recreation Center. The tentative agenda includes approval of a meeting calendar, establishing term duration for specific public seats, formation of task groups, and the National Heritage Area partnership program.

Delta Heritage Forum

The sixth annual Delta Heritage Forum is scheduled for Friday, November 15, 2024, at the Antioch Historical Museum. The Forum is a free, full-day event each year focused on

preserving and telling Delta stories, and providing opportunities for partnerships, collaboration, and networking. Registration opened on September 3.

Great California Delta Trail Master Plan – Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension

The Clarksburg Branch Line Trail extension, part of a trail corridor identified in the Commission’s Great California Delta Trail Master Plan (GDTMP), is planned as a 6.4 mile, Class I multi-use trail with buried fiber optic conduit along the former Short Line Rail alignment. The project is intended to reduce transportation-related carbon emissions and connect residents of the Clarksburg community to West Sacramento and beyond.

The City of West Sacramento, on behalf of the Yolo-Delta Trail Coalition (comprised of the City, Yolo County, Yolo Transportation District and Commission), circulated a Request for Proposals to secure a consultant for this project in July and August. Consultant interviews by the Coalition were completed in August, and the City of West Sacramento Council will consider approval of a contract on September 18, 2024.

A preliminary presentation was made to the Clarksburg General Plan Citizens Advisory Committee in February 2024, and another presentation to the committee was planned for September 5, 2024. The project will officially kick off soon after contract approval with outreach to engage key project partners, including agricultural and adjacent property owners, tribal representatives, local businesses, community organizations, and residents through one-on-one interviews, workshops and other outreach.

The GDTMP was approved by the Commission in 2022. The Great California Delta Trail is envisioned to connect the Delta region with the San Francisco Bay Trail System and planned Sacramento River Trails, including but not limited to the Delta’s shoreline. It is anticipated to enhance the National Heritage Area in Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Solano, Sacramento and Yolo counties.

Broadband

Commission staff, working with Valley Vision as the Connected Capitol Area Broadband Consortium, continues with efforts to improve and expand broadband deployment and connectivity in the Delta. These include assisting the City of Isleton to gain a California Emerging Technology Fund Local Government Best Practices grant for \$20,000 to expand digital equity in the community, investigating new technologies that may improve line-of-sight infrastructure that may be necessary in the Delta, and promoting co-located infrastructure projects such as the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail extension.

Commission Science Support

Commission staff continue to support Delta science efforts that actively advance our mission. Recent efforts include:

- Participating on a panel and helping to develop a [story map](#) on “Planning for Post-Disaster Housing in Legacy Communities” at the Science for Communities workshop in Stockton on July 12, 2024;
- Providing letters of support for grant funding on two important research projects –
 - “Evaluating Multi-Benefits in Delta Rice Grown Using Alternate Wetting and Drying and Conventional Methods,” led by Dr. Michelle Leinfelder-Miles of the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR). If awarded, this project will investigate Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) rice cultivation for its potential to reduce consumptive water use and methane emissions, thereby further improving the environmental benefits of rice cultivation in the Delta.
 - "Identifying Links Between Harmful Algal Blooms and Human Health in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta," a proposal to investigate the potential connections between Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and human health outcomes in Discovery Bay, a community which faces recurring HABs, and improve understanding of a pressing issue facing the residents and communities that depend on Delta waterways.

Staff will report back to the Commission periodically on these and other investigations.

Commission Land Use Comments

Commission staff engaged in both routine review of local government land use decisions and worked on specific land use applications and processes, such as review of proposed mitigation banks and other large projects in the Delta Primary Zone. Large projects include the Cache Slough Mitigation Bank Project, the Zacharias Ranch Mitigation Bank, and the Tide’s End Multi-Benefit Project. Comments were submitted on the Tide’s End Project, Cache Slough Project, and Zacharias Ranch Project.

Routine Land Use Reviews

- Staff continue to review local agency agendas and the Office of Planning and Resource postings for CEQA actions for all local agencies that make land use decisions in the Delta Primary and Secondary zones. This weekly review process also includes public notices for permits for selected regulatory agencies such as the US Army Corps of Engineers. The total weekly review of agendas and updates includes approximately 65 different agencies or local government departments.

- Staff provided comments by e-mail on minor land use processes, such as a proposed wireless communications tower. Major land use processes are discussed below.

Tide's End Multi-Benefit Restoration Project

- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) circulated a notice of preparation for an environmental impact report for the Tide's End Multi-Benefit Restoration Project, which consists of approximately 2,000 acres of restoration proposed in the Delta Primary Zone adjacent to the Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough Complex. The proposed Project would restore tidal connectivity to the Toe Drain for low-lying areas where the ground elevation is suitable to support tidal marsh habitat by opening an existing berm adjacent to the Toe Drain and excavating tidal channels. Staff prepared a draft comment letter on the project for consideration by the Executive Director. After revision, staff submitted the letter on August 13, 2024. The comment letter noted concern regarding the conversion of a large acreage of agricultural land in the Primary Zone and urged the project proponent to mitigate for loss of agricultural land at a suitably high ratio.

Zacharias Ranch Mitigation Bank

- Staff prepared and the Executive Director approved comments provided to California Department of Fish & Wildlife stating that the project might not be appropriate for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption because it would convert agricultural lands in the Delta Primary Zone contrary to the policy goals of the Delta Protection Act.

Cache Slough Mitigation Bank

- Staff provided preliminary pre-application stage comments on the use permit application by Westervelt Ecological Services to Solano County for the Cache Slough Mitigation Bank in the Delta Primary Zone. The comments expressed the need for appropriate mitigation for loss of agricultural lands.

Delta Leadership Program

The DLP will open its application process later this month, with applications due back to the Commission by November 22.

Commission Communications

Website

Staff revamped the DPC homepage (delta.ca.gov) to achieve a number of goals:

- Highlight the work the DPC does.
- Describe the Delta and its importance.
- Help people connect with the DPC.
- Put all 2024 public meeting information in one place.

Communications

News has dominated DPC communications for the past two months. These are the items that led in audience engagement:

- [Clarksburg Grant Line Extension](#): A \$1.9M grant from SACOG for work on the trail extension from West Sacramento to Clarksburg was the most clicked-on item in *Delta Happenings* and got the most likes on Instagram. (The DPC is a partner on the project, working on outreach and guidance for Great California Delta Trail designation.)
- [Asian American Heritage Park](#): A website where people can view progress on Isleton's Asian American Heritage Park was the second most clicked-on item in *Delta Happenings*.
- [Delta Drought Response Pilot Program](#): The release of this Delta Conservancy Report was the third most clicked-on item in *Delta Happenings*.
- [Port Chicago Exoneration](#): This news item was the fourth most clicked-on item in *Delta Happenings* and had the third most reach on Facebook.
- [Water Access/Disability Pride Month](#): A DPC feature about accessing water recreation had the most reach and reactions on Facebook and the most reach (and third most likes) on Instagram. It highlighted the work of a 2024 alum of the Delta Leadership Program.
- [Juneteenth in Brentwood](#): A DPC photo gallery of Brentwood's Juneteenth celebration garnered the most reactions on Facebook.

Upcoming Delta Events

For the most current event listings, subscribe to *Delta Happenings* at delta.ca.gov/get-connected. For access to recent newsletters, go to delta.ca.gov/newsletters.

- Sept. 21: [Delta Waterways Cleanup](#)
- Sept. 22-28: Delta Week
- Sept. 23: Anniversary of the Delta Protection Act (signed by Gov. Pete Wilson in 1992)
- Oct. 1: [DPAC meets](#)
- Oct. 19-26: Flood Preparedness Week
- Oct. 31: [NHA Advisory Committee meets](#)
- Nov. 15: DPC's [Delta Heritage Forum](#)

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

Sept. 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 11: Approval of National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Appointments

Prepared by: Blake Roberts

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Recommended Action: Appointment of National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Members

Type of Action: Vote

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 was to prepare and receive approval from the Secretary of Interior for a management plan to guide the NHA's activities for the next ten years. After the Commission approved the management plan on March 7, 2024, Commission staff formally submitted the plan to the Secretary of Interior on March 12.

The Commission approved a draft charter for the new National Heritage Area Advisory Committee (NHA Advisory Committee) on July 18, 2024. The NHA Advisory Committee succeeds the NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee, whose work is complete now that the Management Plan has been submitted to Secretary of the Interior. The 15-member NHA Advisory Committee will ensure partner and public engagement in achieving the goals set out in the management plan. The 12 public members will serve three-year terms and may be reappointed.

Commission staff solicited applications for the NHA Advisory Committee from interested members of the public beginning on July 19 and closing August 16. Eighteen people applied for twelve open public seats. A Commission subcommittee will review applications after the writing of this staff report and will recommend appointments at the meeting. The first NHA Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 31 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Oakley.

All applications are attached to this staff report.

Recommended Action

Appoint members and alternates for the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee.

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.

Applications

The following pages contain all applications received, in alphabetical order by applicant last name, with personal addresses and contact information redacted.

Amanda Blosser

Submission Date: Aug 12, 2024 2:14 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

I work as a Cultural Resource specialist at the Diablo Range District of California State Parks which has several state park units located in the Delta. Serving as a member of the NHA Advisory Committee I could help the coordination between the Diablo Range District and the activities of the NHA.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

I have 24 years of experience working in the historic preservation field, in both private and public sector. This experience includes familiarity with historic preservation regulations, working with heritage tourism, and am familiar with California State government. I also enjoy the Delta and learning about it's unique history.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

When I working the Strategic Planning Division of California State Parks, I worked on the NHA Interpretative Master Plan supporting the two staff project leads. When I worked in the private sector for JRP Historical Consulting, many of projects related to water history and the importance of reclamation to California's history.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Colin Coffey

Submission Date: Aug 16, 2024 3:28 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

I am an elected member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District. I represent Ward 7, and the boundaries of my Ward closely correspond with the boundaries of the NHA in northern Contra Costa, extending across the northern shoreline communities between Hercules and Brentwood, including Bethel Island and adjacent islands. See:

<https://www.ebparcs.org/sites/default/files/EBRPD-2023-Ward-Map.pdf> Having observed Mike Moran's engagement in the NHA Management Plan the last couple of years, and having read the Plan, I am acutely aware of the huge participatory and geographic role of EBRPD, with the commensurate partner commitments to implementation of the Plan by the Park District. The role of my Ward 7 geographically in the plan, the parks, trails, historic sites, and Big Break Visitor Center as the largest interpretive center in the NHA, all jumped out as something I should be involved in. I have also observed Mike's and Brian Holt's participation in the Heritage Forum in recent years.

Participating in the NHA Advisory Committee would also complement my EBRPD role as Chair of our Natural & Cultural Resources Committee of the Board, a committee I have served on for most of my 8 years on the Board. I have had a leadership role in greatly expanding over the last 7 years our parklands history and cultural staffing and budget, including expanded historical oral history programs, archive space and resources, and establishment of a cultural resources planning and development department under our Assistant General Manager for Acquisitions, Stewardship, and Development.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

1. Partnership skills. I know how to forge partnerships among organizations with aligned missions and goals, which is a key element of the NHA Management Plan. Park District Board members are out in front of our funding and operational partnerships with 33 cities and 2 counties within our jurisdiction of close to 3 million people. We have partnerships with the federal and state governments at all levels, including NPS, State Parks, DWR, Army Corp of Engineers, BLM, several water agencies, several land trusts and a habitat conservancy (all in Ward 7), a panoply of environmental NGOs ranging from the Sierra Club to bicycle councils, and on and on. We have extensive connections with Native American tribes of the East Bay, as we build parkland and interpretive partnerships with the tribes. Of

note, I have been working for the last few years on the organization of a new Contra Costa Marsh Creek Watershed Council, encompassing landowners, cities, county, NGOs, native tribes, and state and federal wildlife agencies.

2. Tourism vision. The NHA Management Plan has tourism concepts that parallel one I've been advancing for the Park District. A historic California Delta Region bus tour out of San Francisco could encompass the John Muir Historic home and grave site, the Port Chicago Memorial, the California Coal Fields site at Black Diamond Mines, including the deep in mountain mine tour and "Coal Mine Experience" tour. And such a day trip could conclude with a visit to the San Joaquin River, along with interpretation programming at Big Break Visitor Center. This tourism programming could be pursued as a partnership among NPS, EBRPD, and DPC.

3. Knowledge and Relationships. Deep knowledge of, and experience with, the numerous shoreline parks, trails, sites, facilities, and educational and interpretive programs, identified in the Management Plan for NHA implementation within the Contra Costa boundaries of the NHA. As an EBRPD board member representing northern and eastern Contra Costa, I have come to know and work with the city council members and staffs of the 10 cities and towns within my Park Board jurisdiction and the NHA. I believe these relationships could help me serve as an ambassador in the implementation of the NHA Management Plan.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

I'm a retired public health lawyer and partner with the firm of Best, Best & Krieger, and now a full-time park director representing the NHA region of northern Contra Costa County.

I am a third generation Contra Costan and a Hercules resident for the past 30 years. My family enjoyed a River Queen Houseboat at Bethel Harbor, Bethel Island, for 15 years, and we were house boating the Delta before we owned our own. So, I was living and boating in the Delta for a large part of my youth. I'm familiar with the rivers and sloughs around the confluence of the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers, and the north and south fork of the Mokelumne. I've experienced many of the historic sites while boating the Delta, including Isleton, Locke, Rio Vista, Walnut Grove (Giusti's !), Ryde, and the Meadows.

UC Berkeley BA in American History.

Marsh Creek Watershed Council, organizing committee.

Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club.

EBRPD elected Board of Directors 8 years, prior service on the EBRPD Park Advisory Committee for 13 years, which is similar to a municipal planning commission.

Twenty years as a EBRPD “Park Ambassador,” which is a docent-at-large program by which I have been chiefly engaged in assisting in events and interpretive programs at Big Break Visitor Center and Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Ms. Lisa Craig

Submission Date: Aug 14, 2024 2:38 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

My professional training is in historic preservation and I'm very familiar with National Heritage Areas, cultural resource protection, heritage tourism and Main Street redevelopment. I currently serve as President of The Craig Group Partners, a Lodi-based preservation and planning consulting firm. I also sit on the Lodi City Council and next year will rotate off as Mayor, so I'd love to put my professional expertise to good service on behalf of San Joaquin County and the NHA.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

My 30+ year career in historic preservation has involved historic property redevelopment, heritage corridor planning, historic resource survey and inventory, National Register nomination drafting, community engagement, preservation planning, climate resilience planning, and nonprofit management. I also serve as a trainer for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. I've served on various non-profit and government boards and commissions. I hope to benefit the NHA Advisory Committee with the skills I've learned throughout my career and volunteer service.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

My prior answers reflect my years of professional work in the cultural heritage field, but more specifically I've served as a State Historic Preservation Officer, Chief of Historic Preservation in Annapolis, MD, Development Manager for historic military housing at US Air Force Academy and other historic military sites, Executive Director for a statewide preservation nonprofit, and more recently as a preservation and resilience planning consultant specializing in disaster preparedness and recovery in historic flood prone areas. I currently serve on the Lodi City Council, the SJ County Regional Rail Commission, and the SJ Council of Governments. I'm past president and treasurer for my Lodi Tokay Rotary.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Dwayne Eubanks

Submission Date: Jul 30, 2024 10:09 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

I wish to continue my work with historical and cultural organization supporting the citizens of the delta community.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

President Antioch Historical Society 2019 2023. Education Committee Chair Antioch Chinese History Planning Project. Grant writing, fund raising. Facility management. Video producer for historical projects partnership with Antioch Unified School District.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

Created Asian Pacific Islander heritage symposium 2022 with Richard Tenaza, Prof Jean Pfaelzer, Bruce Quan Jr. Regarding the treatment of Chinese and Phillipino immigrants.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Roni Gehlke

Submission Date: Aug 15, 2024 12:27 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, with its rich history, is vital to California's development and success. My position on the committee allows me to continue advocating for what is truly our State's most treasured resource.

Throughout my life, I've researched, lived in, recreated, and advocated for the California Delta. As a teenager, I spent weekends boating, fishing, and exploring the Delta with family and friends. After college, my husband and I settled in the Delta, first living in Manteca and later in Contra Costa County, where I deepened my knowledge of the region and explored the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers.

In 1996, I was asked to meet with then-California State Assemblyman Tom Torlakson about a property located just down the street from my home in Oakley where he hoped to build a Delta science education center. His dream, which soon became mine as well, was to provide a place where people could come and learn about the ecology of the Delta region. For years, the project was just a dream that would take a lot of money and commitment to come true. A group of East Contra Costa County citizens banded together to start an education program that would be the precursor to the Big Break Visitor Center (located on the same property). I worked as the director of that program for seven years, beginning in 2010, until just after the Big Break Visitor Center was up and running, taking over and continuing the committee's goals for the program.

In 2016, I was honored to participate in the inaugural class of the Delta Leadership Program presented by the Delta Protection Commission. Attending this program helped me to continue my education relating to the Delta, make new contacts, and continue to feed my goal of helping others understand the importance of this important natural resource.

Over the years, I have continued to do my part in helping to educate the community on issues of concern about the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through a dedicated Facebook page (facebook.com/SSJUpdates).

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

After earning my Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Public Relations with a minor in Business Administration from California State University, East Bay (formerly Hayward), I established

R&G Promotions and Environmental Outreach. My company collaborates with environmental organizations within the water and wastewater sector.

I served as the Executive Director of the Delta Science Center in Oakley for several years, a precursor to the East Bay Regional Park District's Big Break Visitor Center. The organization aimed to educate the East Bay community about the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's ecology.

I am currently a member of the California Water Environment Association, where I hold a paid contractor position as the editor and writer for Clean Water Magazine. The magazine reaches over 12,000 readers in print and covers water and wastewater facilities, policies, and procedures across California, often including articles about the Clean Water Act and other state water policies.

For nearly 30 years, I served as a correspondent for the East Bay Times, where I covered a wide range of issues related to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region, environmental concerns, and local waterways and tributaries. This experience has honed my skills in environmental journalism and deepened my understanding of the region's unique challenges.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

For nearly 35 years, my company, R&G Promotions and Environmental Outreach has provided consultancy services on public environmental education. I've collaborated with several water and wastewater agencies over the years. In 2001, I began consulting for Ironhouse Sanitary District, located along the San Joaquin River, serving the City of Oakley and Bethel Island. The District owns Jersey Island on the San Joaquin River, which, until recently, has been using recycled water for land distribution for over two decades. During this time, I have developed education programs, including award-winning clean water outreach programs for the San Joaquin River, worked on press releases and newsletters, and developed a website for the District.

I am a member of the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee, serving the County Supervisors for 10 years to evaluate and grant funds to local environmental groups. These funds, raised through fines collected by Fish and Wildlife Agents in Contra Costa County, support research, creek restoration, and environmental education programs.

Additionally, I volunteer with the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). CWEA provides certification education. Members of the state's water and wastewater industry

receive certification from the California State Water Resources Control Board. CWEA, a non-profit, offers educational resources, career information, and networking opportunities. I serve on the Community Engagement and Outreach Committee. I have held the position as vice-chair and as chair of the committee for three years. I'm also a member of the Education Committee and the Clean Water Magazine's Editorial Advisory Group.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

No

Paulette Hennum

Submission Date: Jul 30, 2024 5:21 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

I have always sought out ways to become actively involved with my community. I consider this to be both an honor and a responsibility. I have served on the NHA Advisory Committee since its inception, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished yet recognize there is much more to do. I retired from California State Parks as the Tribal Affairs Program Manager in 2017, and I hope that my experience in consulting with and working with tribes on repatriation and gathering issues would continue to be useful as the NHA continues to grow and take root.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

I have over 30 years' experience in numerous areas of museum work which could benefit the NHA in a variety of ways. I have served as an officer, board member, program advisor, peer reviewer, collections care assessor and a grant reviewer. In addition, I enjoy finding unexpected connections between people and projects and identifying as many stakeholders as possible. I worked within the State bureaucracy for 18 years and have developed an appreciation for (or at least somewhat of an understanding of) state regulations. I enjoy working with people from a variety of backgrounds and ages and I always seek to be respectful and diplomatic.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

I am a proud Delta resident, homeowner and community volunteer. My daughter has owned two businesses here - The Bartlett Inn in Walnut Grove and currently Let's Face It Beauty in Courtland. In 2012, my husband and I moved to the Delta when we purchased the Westerberg house in Courtland. We are invested in the Delta and look, with great hope and enthusiasm, to the successes of the NHA for opportunities for the Delta to grow and flourish without compromising the special qualities of this place. I serve on the Board of the Nonie Wetzel Community Library and hope we can tap into our Delta libraries which hold great potential for collaboration.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Douglas Hsia

Submission Date: Aug 5, 2024 2:40 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

I became passionate about the Delta's rich history and cultural heritage and I decided to live in the Delta. For the past 10 years, I enjoy the lifestyle and friendship I have built here. I find my involvement in the Delta through my numerous community service positions is making my life complete and I am ready to continue my efforts.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

My business career was brokering of materials for shoes and leather goods production between the world and the Asian production base. The key was to find good products from all over the world and prep them in a way so that the manufacturers in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan and Vietnam could use them effectively to make their finished products. Drawing a parallel to NHA Management Plan, I will understand the existing resources of the Delta, and manifest them in a way that the public can appreciate.

My previous dealings with vendors of different parts of the world also helped me develop sensitivity to all cultures.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

Locke Foundation: Board Secretary

Locke being recognized as the most significant landmark of the Delta by the Environmental Justice Survey 2019. Being on the LF board poses significant relevance.

Delta Protection Advisory Committee Committee Member

DPAC meetings keep the committee members in touch with major issues in the Delta.

Rotary Club of Walnut Grove Board Member

The Rotary club's membership enjoys participation of many community leaders. In the absence of chamber of commerce in Walnut Grove, the Rotary club becomes an even more significant organization.

Chinese Benevolent Association of Stockton Board Member

Although CBA Stockton is not part of the statutory NHA, there are plenty of historical ties to the Delta.

Delta NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee

I have been an active member since the inception

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Carol Jensen

Submission Date: Jul 20, 2024 10:27 AM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

My Interest is in retaining the cultural, historical, and agricultural value of the California Delta. All of these values revolve around water use and land rights. I can serve the Delta constituency well as a native of the area, business person, and academic.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

Business person: finance, accounting & information systems consulting

Lifelong resident of the San Joaquin Delta (Brentwood)

BA in History, University of California, Santa Barbara

MBA, University of California, Los Angeles

Knowledgeable academic in cultural, anthropological, and business economic history of the California Delta.

Consulting contributor to "Saving the Bay" film (2009)

Author of several books pertaining to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta including: The California Delta (2007), Contra Costa County Maritime History (2014),

Brentwood (2008), Byron Hot Springs (2006), Oakley through Time (2019) and soon to be published The Far East (Islands of Contra Costa County)

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

Member of numerous state and local historical societies including:

California Historical Society

East Contra Costa County Historical Society

John Marsh Historic Trust, past board member and treasurer

Sacramento River Delta Historical Society

The Isleton-Brannan-Andrus Historical Society

Regular contributor and participant in Sacramento State University "Renaissance"
Educational Programs pertaining to the California Delta

Regular contributor and participant in the annual Delta Heritage Forum, Walnut Grove

Contributor to "Soundings Mag: Delta & Bay Art Culture and Environment"

Chairperson, Contra Costa County Historical Landmarks Committee t the Board of
Supervisors

Member of the Delta Heritage Area Management Subcommittee

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Janet Lake

Submission Date: Jul 20, 2024 5:59 AM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

1. I have served on the NHA Management Advisory Board for the past 3 years.
2. I live in the Delta and have a deep understanding of the importance of the Delta and its issues and care deeply about it.
3. I also serve on the executive board of Freeport Citizens Community Council and have helped with projects in Freeport and neighboring communities and the goals are the same.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

1. Understanding of the Marketing needs of the Delta.
2. I've owned businesses and have an understanding of objectives, visions and needs for business partnerships to flourish and thrive in the economy.
3. Knowledge of the Delta's ecosystem and issues.
4. Developed a working understanding of Government agencies and how to partner with them on projects.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

1. Business Owner- Beverage Distribution
2. Successfully developed the River City Soda Line.
3. Executive Board for Freeport Citizens Community Council
4. La Perrita Garden Club
5. NHA Management Advisory Task Force
6. Freeport Water Access Park

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

No

Chris Lim

Submission Date: Aug 16, 2024 1:22 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

I believe the Delta will soon be the “hotspot” in California for environmental work. The Delta is unique in that it is situated within a significant nexus of politics, economics, culture, and conservation. No other location in California affects as many people throughout the state as the Delta. Trying to find the balance between these many interdependent forces will become even more critical considering climate change.

Yet, these issues are not entirely at the forefront of the general public’s minds. I would want to engage more of the public through storytelling on why the health of the Delta is so critical to the health of our watersheds, its people, and the multitude of species we share our landscapes. Part of my current role at my job is to build awareness for environmental issues to then be able to educate community members and students on how we can work together to adapt and mitigate the anticipated threats to our current way of life, especially knowing the increasing effects of climate change.

I would like to provide a Contra Costa County voice and perspective on the Committee, through the lens of my own lived experience as a person of color. Many of the Contra Costa areas within the NHA are some of our most underresourced communities and its important that these historically underrepresented communities are included in any planning process and implementation.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

With my career spanning nearly 25 years in the restoration economy, 10 of those as an Executive Director, and experience within all three sectors, private, public, and nonprofit, I have gained a deep understanding and expertise in conserving our natural world in ways that benefit our local communities. I have held all the positions in these organizations, from intern to Executive Director, and have restored habitats throughout the watershed, from terrestrial to aquatic species, from freshwater to saltwater.

I am experienced in fundraising to then execute a planning process, implementation, and managing of restoration projects. Also, as an Executive Director, I have experience in developing and implementing organizational processes and systems to increase efficiencies and enhance staff productivity. I’m highly skilled in writing and managing budgets. I also have extensive experience in outreach and publicity to build and expand

programs. In several ways, my career began with my experience as an environmental educator, and I will always seek ways to continue in that work of educating students to achieve an environmentally literate public and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

I have an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley in Integrative Biology with an emphasis in Marine Biology and Oceanography, and a minor in Geography. I also have a Masters of Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

As Executive Director of the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD), I am responsible for the overseeing the day-to-day operations of staff to manifest the vision of the CCRCD Board of Directors. I am the organization's primary fundraiser and responsible for financial and strategic oversight.

One of the CCRCD's value propositions is in the ways we work, with a primary focus on relationship building. Resource Conservation Districts were established to work on the ground, within communities, and developing projects and programs that benefit the wider community. We "meet folks where they are," listen to their resource concerns, and develop a shared vision that includes the cultivation and stewardship of the partnerships needed to develop win-win-win projects and programs.

Currently, the CCRCD has projects in the following communities within the NHA: Pinole, Crockett, Rodeo, Martinez, Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood, and Delta islands and levees. These projects range from community organizing, developing watershed councils, environmental education for students, community creek cleanups combined with interviewing unhoused populations in riparian habitats through a climate change lens, invasive weed management, irrigation water audits to help conserve water, planting pollinator gardens, and green infrastructure construction.

In 2022, I completed the Delta Protection Commission's Delta Leadership Program. I am currently on the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy advisory committee and support stewardship of the Marsh Creek Watershed Council, Alhambra Watershed Council, and Carquinez Watershed Council.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

No

Morris Lum

Submission Date: Aug 7, 2024 2:06 AM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

It will be exciting to tell the stories of how the Delta came about to its current status. Educating the visiting public about the many aspects of the Delta will be an ongoing operation of Speakers, character reenactments and youth educational opportunities. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to begin operations of this National Heritage Area in our own backyard.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

This areas history is a diversified and ever changing uncompleted story. It needs to be told to our new residents and our long time residents. Having been President of the Sacramento Historical Society and serving as board member on Sacramento River Delta Historical Society and Sacramento History Alliance that oversees Sacramento History Museum, will help me to understand the possibilities for the future of NHA.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

I am one of the 18 elected directors of Recreational Boaters of California representing the Delta. I was on of the 4 officers of 1992 that ran the operations of the Sacramento Scottish Rite Masonic Center, that covers all its members of Northern CA from Sacramento to the Oregon border and west to almost Santa Rosa. I am currently on the Finance Invest Committee since 1994. My other memberships include: Sacramento Yacht Club as their Judge Advocate, Commodore of Ben Ali Shriners Yacht Club, Sportsmen Yacht Club in Antioch as their Delegate to the 110 Yacht Clubs of Northern CA (aka PICYA), Advisory Committee to the Clean Transportation Program of CA Energy Commission representing boating, Delta Chamber of Commerce, Photographer and writer for the Bay and Delta Yachtsman Magazine, Treasure Island Yacht Club as their Photographer for Sailing regattas, President of the West Delta Chapter of Striped Bass Association of Contra Costa County.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Gia Moreno

Submission Date: Jul 19, 2024 6:07 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

I have been involved in the NHA planning committee since the beginning. I have a deep connection to the Delta, and I am committed to doing what's best for the Delta herself and all of her stakeholders.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

I have extensive knowledge of the Delta and the NHA Plan.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

I have been a NHA planning committee member for the last 3 years. I am the secretary for the Hood Community Council, and on the Courtland Pear Fair Planning Committee.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Mr. Don Nottoli

Submission Date: Aug 16, 2024 9:16 AM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

As a county Supervisor representing the Sacramento County portion of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for 28 years I also had the privilege of serving as a member of the Delta Protection Commission during that period of time. The Delta is a very special and treasured place and deserving of the recognition as a National Heritage Area (NHA) for a multitude of reasons. The people and communities of the Delta, it's rich history and culture, it's environmental and agricultural landscapes and unique recreational opportunities are all important considerations in the development and implementation of the NHA. In my view, the NHA Advisory Committee will bring a valued and important perspective to this ongoing effort. I am familiar with the origins of the Delta NHA and confident I could contribute to the Advisory Committee's future work.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

As mentioned previously, I served for many years in a variety of roles, elected and appointed, which related to the Delta. These included serving as a member of Delta Protection Commission, the Delta Conservancy, the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Counties Coalition. I have a great appreciation and respect for the Delta and it's people and would enjoy the opportunity to serve with others with similar interests in advancing the NHA. My experience and knowledge of Delta communities could be helpful in the Committee's efforts to promote and protect the Delta.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

I retired from elected office in January 2023 and currently serve as an appointed alternate for Sacramento County Supervisor Hume to the Delta Conservancy.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Ms. Elizabeth Patterson

Submission Date: Jul 24, 2024 5:42 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

I want the opportunity to implement the Delta Heritage Management Plan that we on the Advisory Committee worked on. I believe now that we have a Plan, and federal and other resources, we will focus on the Plan's strategic implementation.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

I am an urban and regional planner by education and practice using my skills of public engagement, knowledge of planning procedures and resource management practices. I have extensive experience in conducting public meetings. I have done major technical reports for regional planning of the Delta, the Carquinez Strait and both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

I have the experience of being the Vice-chair of the NHA Advisory Committee in addition to serving as Mayor of Benicia (2007-2020), and the lead project manager for State Lands Commission's initiative leading to the adoption of the Delta Protection Act of 1992. I also am a former Planning Director for Bay Area communities and Chair of the 1000 Friends Protecting Historic Benicia - focused on the Historic Arsenal on the National Register of Historic Places.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

David Stuart

Submission Date: Jul 22, 2024 1:20 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

Family history (Grand Island 1860). Love of Delta habitat, cultures, and history. Apply knowledge, experience, and skills (see below). Support Indigenous nations' involvement and goals. My brother was a longtime fishing guide in the Delta and region.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

Anthropology/biology degree (MJC, Fresno State, U Colorado). Began career at Caswell State Park near Ripon/Manteca. Colorado Assistant State Archaeologist. National Park cultural resources spec/park planner. Director of museums City of Ventura, Sacramento Science Center (now MoSAC), Sacramento History Museum, San Joaquin County Historical Museum. Research/writing re Bay-Delta-Valley Indigenous History.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

Served on Delta NHA planning advisory committee. Consultant to the Clarksburg historic schoolhouse project. Longtime board member of the California nonprofit Exhibit Envoy, which develops and provides exhibitions to small museums and libraries. Board member of Sacramento River Delta Historical Society.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Stuart Walthall

Submission Date: Aug 1, 2024 5:46 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

It is my desire to help protect the Sacramento- San Joaquin River Delta. In addition, I would like to offer my experience and skills toward the preservation of the Delta environment and raise awareness of the historic, cultural, and legacy of the Delta. I would like to be a conduit to the two Delta organizations which I serve: The Locke Foundation and The Locke Management Corp.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

I have lived in the Sacramento Delta for over 50 year. I am currently Chairman of three California Non-Profits. I have been Chairman of the 501c(3) California Non-Profit Locke Foundation for 8 years. I am Chairman of the Locke Management Corporation, a 501c(4) Non-Profit charged with maintaining and governing the town of Locke. I am Chairman of East Sac Baby Boomers, a California Non Profit whose mission is to bring benefit to elderly residents of Sacramento and surrounding area. ESBB has raise over \$100K for Society For The Blind Senior Impact Program and American Cancer Society Road To Recovery Program.

The Locke Foundation operates the Locke Boarding House Museum, voted BEST IN THE DELTA for 5 years. I oversee the Locke Artifact Program and am Co-Editor of the Locke Foundation News. I have a strong interest in the history and culture of the Delta.

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

I am a professional musician having taught, performed, recorded and produced for 50 years. I have also lectured and written on such topics and The Immigrant Experience In The Sacramento Delta, Building of The Walnut Grove Branch Line Railroad, and the Culture of Chinese and Japanese Americans in the Delta. I am active in Angels of the Fields, an organization which brings Christmas to the children and families of Delta farm workers. I have been Chairman of Locke's signature events: The Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival and the Locke Chinese New Year Celebration. I oversee all Locke Foundation activities. I oversee all Locke Management duties and responsibilities.

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

dan whaley

Submission Date: Jul 25, 2024 9:19 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

As Chairman of Delta Legacy Communities I can relate information to the 11 Delta Legacy towns and seek input to improve implementation of the NHA management plan.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

Operating the Willow Ballroom and Event Center since 2016

Vineyard on Sutter Island since 2010

Resident of Sutter Island since 1985

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

See above

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes

Katie Wiley

Submission Date: Jul 30, 2024 8:53 PM

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the NHA Advisory Committee.

Serving on the NHA Advisory Committee is important to me because our Delta is a very special place-- and representing it in a way that is inclusive and accessible to everyone is paramount to its longevity. As a budding leader in the Delta community, my goal is to leverage my skills in order to preserve our unique area for many generations to come.

2. Describe your qualifications and skills that would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee.

As an ambassador liaison between various Delta Businesses and Communities for over a dozen years now, I believe my skills in Marketing, Event Planning, Resource Allocation, Volunteer Procurement, and actual human participation would benefit the NHA Advisory Committee. My unique experience in social media marketing in the Delta could be invaluable. Plus, the events I have helped organize serve hundreds of people across multiple demographics-- and they always get great feedback!

3. Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts (including any committees, commissions, councils, etc., to which you currently belong), and/or work you do in Delta communities or institutions, as they relate to the NHA.

I own and operate K. Wiley Marketing Design, a boutique Digital Strategy firm that does full service Marketing & Online Reputation Management. I build websites, create and devise full social media, print and traditional marketing plans, specialize in email marketing, analytics studies, and organic/low-investment marketing. I am a current member of the Delta Protection Advisory Committee, in General Public Seat 2. Plus, I'm an active member in the community-- with an array of connections to special people in our community that are from 9 to 90 years old!

Are you willing to serve as an alternate member?

Yes