



**PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA**  
**National Heritage Area Advisory Committee**

Thursday, October 31, 2024, 2 p.m.  
Oakley Recreation Center, 1250 O'Hara Ave, Oakley, CA 94561

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order – Bruce Blodgett, NHA Advisory Committee Chair
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment – An opportunity for members of the public to address the NHA Advisory Committee regarding items not on the agenda
4. Approval of June 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes
5. Update on NHA Activities – Blake Roberts
6. Elect Vice Chair – The Committee
7. Establish 2024/2025 Meeting Calendar – Bruce Blodgett/Blake Roberts
8. Assignment of Terms for Seats – Bruce Blodgett/Blake Roberts
9. Formation of Task Groups – Blake Roberts
10. NHA Partnership Program – Blake Roberts
11. Member Announcements and Adjourn

The agenda items listed above may be considered in a different order at the Committee meeting, subject to the discretion of the Chair. At the discretion of the Committee, all items

appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated upon and may be subject to action. The Committee welcomes and encourages participation in its meetings. The Committee 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](mailto:dpc@delta.ca.gov) or (916) 375-4800.

Comments submitted to [submit@delta.ca.gov](mailto:submit@delta.ca.gov) by noon on October 30, 2024, will be shared with Committee members 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.

## **National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Members**

**Chair Bruce Blodgett | Vice Chair TBD | Diane Burgis, Commission Chair | Michael Campbell | Colin Coffey | Lisa Craig | Dwayne Eubanks | Morris Lum | Carol Jensen | Don Nottoli | Elizabeth Patterson | David Stuart | Oscar Villegas, Commissioner | Katie Wiley | Dan Whaley | Stuart Walthall**

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Amanda Blosser** California State Parks | **Chris Lim** Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

### **ALTERNATE MEMBERS:**

**Paulette Hennum | Douglas Hsia | Janet Lake | Gia Moreno**

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)  
**National Heritage Area Management Plan Advisory Committee  
(NHA Advisory Committee)**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 1:30 – 3:30pm  
Rio Vista Senior Center, 25 Main Street, Rio Vista, CA 94571

**1. Call to Order - Bruce Blodgett, NHA Advisory Committee Chair**

Bruce Blodgett, NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

A quorum was present with voting members Blodgett, Vice Chair Elizabeth Patterson, Jan Vick, Lenora Clark, Dave Stuart, Janet Lake, Matt Holmes, Paulette Hennem, and Jean Yokotobi. Ex-officio members present were Maya Garrett, Trevor Rice, and Mike Moran.

DPC staff present were Blake Roberts, Holly Heyser, and Debra Waltman.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**3. Approval of January 11, 2024, meeting minutes**

DPC staff member Blake Roberts made one correction to the January 11, 2024, minutes: The Clarksburg Schoolhouse held an Open House on July 4, 2024, not a grand opening.

Committee member Vick motioned to approve the meeting minutes with the stated correction. Committee member Hennem seconded. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

**4. NHA Advisory Committee Updates**

There were no NHA Advisory Committee updates.

**5. Status of Management Plan - Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission**

Roberts reported that the Management Plan is with the National Park Service (NPS) and is working its way through the approval process, and he anticipates hearing from NPS by the September deadline. DPC staff are anticipating that NPS will request changes to

the Management Plan. DPC staff already know there is one potential issue with tribal engagement that will need to be addressed.

## **7. Restructuring of NHA Advisory Committee and Advisory Task Groups – Bruce Blodgett and Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission**

Roberts reported on changes to the charter that will be brought before the Delta Protection Commission for approval at the July Commission meeting. The current charter is set to sunset upon NPS approval of the Management Plan. Now that we are shifting from developing the plan to implementing the plan, DPC staff want to make sure the new Committee has set term limits for continuity of work.

Other proposed revisions to the charter are to the scope of work, setting member terms, adding alternate seats, and new advisory task groups as well as small housekeeping changes and removing the sunset provision.

The new NHA Committee scope reflects what the Committee is responsible for in the Management Plan. The new Committee will provide recommendations and feedback to the Commission. The advisory task groups and committee members will serve as a bridge between the community and the Commission. The Management Plan included reviewing and evaluating grant applications as a new responsibility for the Committee.

Roberts also briefly discussed the potential new advisory task groups that are outlined in the Management Plan and term limits for the Committee seats, which will be determined at a later meeting.

## **8. Delta Heritage Forum – Holly Heyser and Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission**

Heyser reported that the date for the Delta Heritage Forum is November 15. The theme is Creating Community through Heritage. It will be held at the Antioch Historical Museum. It is an all-day event and will consist of four 1-hour sessions with storytellers throughout the day. The day will end with lightning talks and a potential happy hour. Food and drink will be provided throughout the day.

## **9. Passport Program – Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission**

Roberts reported that many National Heritage Areas have passport programs, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA will follow the same programming. Roberts presented examples of other NHA passport programs and described the general process for all passport programs.

## **10. Member Announcements and Adjourn**

Pear Fair is the last weekend in July.

Vice Chair Patterson gave an update that the trial of the 1000 Friends Protecting Historic Benicia will have its court hearing soon.

Chair Blodgett updated the Committee on the Aurora cruise ship that is leaking oil into the Delta.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38pm.

# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

October 31, 2024

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: Update on NHA Activities**

**Prepared by:** Blake Roberts, Program Manager

**Presented by:** Blake Roberts

**Recommended Action: Receive Update on NHA Activities**

**Type of Action:** Receive

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### **NHA Management Plan**

National Park Service and Department of Interior staff are reviewing the Management Plan submitted on March 12. The plan requires Secretary of the Interior approval. National Park Service has set up consultation meetings with two tribes in early to mid-November regarding the management plan and is confirming with a third tribe whether they wish to meet.

### **Tribal Outreach**

The Commission shared a booth with the Delta Stewardship Council and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy at the California Native American Day event at the Capitol steps on September 27. Staff are conducting outreach to tribes regarding the Management Plan and implementation efforts.

### **Partnership Program**

Staff are exploring potential features of an NHA partnership program, including a memorandum of understanding. The program will be discussed at the NHA Advisory Committee meeting.

### **Reorganization and Set Up of Advisory Bodies**

The Commission approved the charter for the NHA Advisory Committee on July 18 and appointed members on September 19. At this meeting, the NHA Advisory Committee will discuss assignments to the advisory task groups.

### **Branding and Tourism Marketing Plan**

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Branding and Tourism Marketing Plan, which focuses on the NHA, was released on September 24. The deadline for proposals is October 24.

NHA Advisory Committee October 31, 2024, meeting – Agenda Item 5 (NHA Activities Update)

## **Passport Program**

The Passport to Your National Parks program is a voluntary program in which most National Park Service units and NHAs participate. Staff have contacted potential partners, who have tentatively offered 22 locations for passport cancellation stations. Following the lead of other NHAs, staff are working on an agreement with participating organizations regarding the Passport Program. This will be folded into a larger partnership memorandum of understanding. Staff are preparing a new webpage with an interactive map, a short training and training materials about the NHA, and a trifold NHA brochure.

## **Delta Heritage Forum**

The sixth annual Delta Heritage Forum is scheduled for November 15 at the Antioch Historical Museum. The Forum is a free, annual, full-day event focused on preserving and telling Delta stories, and providing opportunities for partnerships, collaboration, and networking. Registration opened on September 3.

## **Delta Leadership Program**

The Delta Leadership Program, a joint effort of the Commission and Delta Leadership Foundation, opened its application process on September 13, with applications due on November 22.

## **Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier Newsletters**

Commission staff have released five issues of the bimonthly Delta Heritage Courier in 2024 and have included heritage-related material for the biweekly Delta Happenings.

## **Staffing Augmentation**

The Commission opened an application period for a limited-term public information officer position for the NHA, which closed on October 15. Staff are taking steps to add two positions for the NHA, which would make the public information officer permanent.

## **Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA)**

Blake Roberts attended the Fall 2024 ANHA meeting at Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area in northeastern Iowa the week of October 14.

## **America 250 Activities**

America250 is a national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of the Independence in 2026. CA175 is a similar effort marking the 175th anniversary of the state's admission to the union in 2025. California is currently one of 10 states without an America250 commission. Staff will work with the NHA Advisory Committee to prepare a plan for America250 and CA175 commemorations, including a Delta-specific logo, partnerships, potential activities, and outreach.

## **Junior Ranger Program**

Commission staff have conducted initial research on comparable Junior Ranger programs and developed draft Junior Ranger activities based on NHA interpretive themes. The program will be developed to complement the Passport Program.

## **Operation Pollination**

Operation Pollination, an initiative initially developed by National Park Service and National Heritage Areas, supports pollinators through partnerships to promote education, pollinator-friendly gardening, habitat restoration, and other projects. A draft resolution supporting Operation Pollination will be brought to the NHA Advisory Committee and Commission for recommendation and approval at future meetings.



# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

October 31, 2024

## AGENDA ITEM 7: Establish 2024/2025 Meeting Calendar

**Prepared by:** Blake Roberts

**Presented by:** Bruce Blodgett/Blake Roberts

**Recommended Action:** Approve 2024/2025 meeting calendar

**Type of Action:** Vote

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### Background

The 2024 and 2025 meeting schedule is proposed as follows. The 2025 meetings are on the fourth Thursday of even-numbered months except for December since the fourth Thursday in December would fall on Christmas Day. Unless specified, meeting times to be determined (TBD).

- December 6, 2024, 10 a.m.-noon
- February 27, 2025
- April 24, 2025
- June 26, 2025
- August 28, 2025
- October 23, 2025
- December 2025 (TBD)

In addition, the alternate NHA Advisory Committee meeting dates would be scheduled as noted below. These meetings would only be held if called by the Executive Director.

- January 23, 2025
- March 27, 2025
- May 22, 2025
- July 24, 2025
- September 25, 2025
- November 2025 (TBD)

**Recommended Action:** Commission staff recommends the NHA Advisory Committee approve the 2024/2025 meeting calendar.

# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

October 31, 2024

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: Assignment of Terms for Seats**

**Prepared by:** Blake Roberts

**Presented by:** Bruce Blodgett/Blake Roberts

**Recommended Action:** Assign terms for seats

**Type of Action:** Discussion

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### **Background**

The Commission approved a draft charter for the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee (NHA Advisory Committee) on July 18, 2024. The charter specifies that the NHA Advisory Committee will be composed of the Chair, two members of the Commission and their alternates, 12 members and their alternates, and non-voting ex officio members representing the Legislature and public agencies.

The Commission will make four (4) three-year appointments annually. For the first appointments, four (4) seats will expire in September 2025, four (4) seats in September 2026, and four (4) seats in September 2027. The charter notes that the expiration date for seats will be chosen randomly at the first NHA Advisory Committee meeting. The limitation on the number of terms a committee member can serve will not count those terms that expire in 2025 and 2026.

Commission staff recommends that appointed committee members and alternate members randomly pick term expiration dates from a container. The appointed NHA Advisory Committee members consist of six residents of Sacramento County, three residents of Contra Costa County, and one resident each of San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo counties. To maintain geographic representation from across the Delta consistent with the charter, staff recommends that there be at least one representative from every county with a 2026 or 2027 term expiration. Lone county representatives who pick a 2025 term expiration should pick again until they are assigned a 2026 or 2027 term expiration.

To have a range of term expirations for the four alternate members, staff recommends that alternate members select among three options: one (1) seat that expires in September 2025, one (1) seat that expires in September 2026, and two (2) seats that expire in September 2027.

**Recommended Action:** Commission staff recommends the NHA Advisory Committee randomly choose term expiration dates.

# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

October 31, 2024

## AGENDA ITEM 9: Formation of Advisory Task Groups

**Prepared by:** Blake Roberts

**Presented by:** Bruce Blodgett

**Recommended Action:** Discuss assignments to Advisory Task Groups

**Type of Action:** Discussion

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### Background

The Commission approved a draft charter for the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee (NHA Advisory Committee) on July 18, 2024. The charter created five NHA advisory task groups on communications and marketing, cultural and historical resources, heritage development and tourism, interpretive planning, and natural resources. As deemed necessary, the Executive Director or his designee may convene special task groups to support temporary or occasional activities. The advisory task groups, which will be chaired by NHA Advisory Committee members, will report directly to the NHA Advisory Committee.

Each NHA Advisory Committee member, excluding ex-officio members, will be selected for at least one advisory task group, with no more than five committee members on a single advisory task group. Any remaining members of the task group will be comprised of subject matter experts and stakeholders.

Staff recommends that NHA Advisory Committee members rank the five advisory task groups in order of preference. The Commission Executive Director or his designee will assign members to each task group in consultation with the two members of the Commission on the NHA Advisory Committee. Once the task groups are formed, staff will schedule the first meeting of each task group.

**Recommended Action:** Commission staff recommends the NHA Advisory Committee members rank the five advisory task groups in order of preference.

# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

October 31, 2024

## AGENDA ITEM 10: NHA Partnership Program

**Prepared by:** Blake Roberts

**Presented by:** Blake Roberts

**Recommended Action:** Discuss NHA Partnership Program

**Type of Action:** Discussion

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### Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) Management Plan, which was submitted on March 12, 2024, for Secretary of the Interior approval, emphasized the importance of a partnership network for NHAs in general and implementing plan strategies in particular:

All successful NHAs demonstrate a strong network of partners. Generally, the NHA local coordinating entity is positioned at the hub of this network, facilitating collaboration among organizations under a wide umbrella that encompasses various interests and missions. A healthy partnership network comprised of public and private entities enables a region to carry out the vision established through the management planning process, including the NHA's legislated mandates (p. 216).

Collaboration is mandated by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, the NHA's designating legislation. Public Law 116-9, Section 6001(b)(2) directs the Commission to partner with federal and state agencies, Indian tribes, non-profit organizations, and other interested parties to implement the management plan by:

- Carrying out programs that protect and enhance the resource values of the NHA.
- Establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits and programs.
- Developing recreational and educational opportunities,
- Increasing public awareness of natural, historical, scenic, and cultural resources.
- Protecting and restoring historic sites and buildings.
- Ensuring clear, consistent, and appropriate signs are posted.

NHAs approach partnerships differently, ranging from formal partnerships with written agreements to informal working relationships.

## **NHA Partnership Program Components**

Commission staff recommend the creation of a formal NHA partnership program to help develop a strong partnership network. The partnership program will provide a general framework for the Commission to work with governments, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties on mutually beneficial projects, including those identified in the letters of commitments provided for the management plan. The program would clarify responsibilities and expectations for the Commission and partners and provide incentives for new partners to join through specific and exclusive benefits.

Staff propose the use of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to implement partnership agreements. This document will define guidelines and benefits that generally apply to partnerships and can be customized to the specific circumstances of each partnership through appendices. The list of partner benefits will draw from management plan strategies in Chapter 4, which concerns partnerships. The MOU will be a living document that evolves as partnerships change.

The Commission intends to first use the NHA partnership program for setting up Passport to Your National Park cancellation stations, which involves multiple partners at multiple sites across the NHA. There will be an appendix to the MOU that will specifically address the Passport Program.

**Recommended Action:** Commission staff recommends the NHA Advisory Committee discuss components of the NHA partnership program.