



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

Friday, December 6, 2024, 10 a.m.  
Clarksburg Schoolhouse  
36397 North Center Street (parking on River Road side)  
Clarksburg, CA 95612

**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 October 31, 2024, Meeting Minutes ([Page 3](#))
5. Update on NHA Activities – Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission ([Page 6](#))
6. Establish 2025 Meeting Calendar – Bruce Blodgett, NHA Advisory Committee Chair ([Page 8](#))
7. NHA Passport Program – Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission ([Page 9](#))
8. Match Funding discussion – Blake Roberts, Delta Protection Commission ([Page 12](#))
9. Summary of Delta Heritage Forum – Blake Roberts and Holly Heyser, Delta Protection Commission ([Page 13](#))
10. Introduction to the Clarksburg Schoolhouse and Welcome to the Delta Video – Mike Campbell

## 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 December 5, 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 Elizabeth Patterson | Diane Burgis, Commission Chair | Michael Campbell | Colin Coffey | Lisa Craig | Dwayne Eubanks | Morris Lum | Carol Jensen | Don Nottoli | David Stuart | Oscar Villegas, Commissioner | Dan Whaley | Stuart Walthall | Katie Wiley**

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

#### **ALTERNATE MEMBERS:**

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

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)  
**National Heritage Area Advisory Committee**

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

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

Bruce Blodgett, NHAAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

A quorum was present with members Chair Bruce Blodgett, David Stuart, Elizabeth Patterson, Morris Lum, Don Nottoli, Diane Burgis, Oscar Villegas, Carol Jensen, Mike Campbell, Lisa Craig, and alternates Paulette Hennum and Douglas Hsia. Ex-officio members present were Chris Lim and Amanda Blosser.

Guests present were Mike Moran, Trevor Rice, Julie Lee, Peter Myers, Jack Johnson, and Todd Plain.

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

**3. Public Comment**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**4. Approval of June 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Member Patterson motioned to receive and file the June 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Member Villegas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Update on NHA Activities – Blake Roberts**

Roberts provided an introductory overview of the Management Plan's current status, noting he expects to hear back from National Park Service soon regarding the Plan's approval. He highlighted that federal funding should increase once the Plan is approved. Roberts then outlined a comprehensive list of items identified in the Management Plan requiring action within the first one or two years after the Plan is approved, including the Passport Program, the Junior Ranger Program, Operation Pollination, and the NHA's celebration of America 250. He also reported on the Branding and Tourism RFP, which received five proposals; this year's Delta Heritage Forum, featuring panels on youth engagement, public art, and partnerships, as well as a scavenger hunt; and the bimonthly *Delta Heritage Courier* newsletter, focused on heritage issues. Additionally, Roberts discussed the Alliance of National Heritage

Areas, an association of all the national heritage areas in the country that holds annual meetings in Washington, D.C., along with spring and fall meetings at different National Heritage Areas throughout the country. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of Committee members acting as ambassadors to promote the National Heritage Area and seeking out potential partnership opportunities.

## **6. Elect Vice Chair – The Committee**

Member Campbell moved to nominate Member Patterson for the position of Vice Chair, and Member Nottoli seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Establish 2024/2025 Meeting Calendar – Bruce Blodgett/Blake Roberts**

Chair Blodgett pointed out that the proposed calendar dates are conflicting with meeting dates for the Delta Stewardship Council so it was decided to bring this item back at the December 6 meeting.

## **8. Assignment of Terms for Seats – Bruce Blodgett/Blake Roberts**

Roberts had members “draw” terms for annual appointments set to expire in either 2025, 2026, or 2027. Members who were not present had terms drawn for them. The results were as follows:

2025: David Stuart, alternate Paulette Hennum, not present – Dan Whaley, Dwayne Eubanks, and Stuart Walthall.

2026: Elizabeth Patterson, Morris Lum, Lisa Craig, Carol Jensen, not present – Katie Wiley and alternate Janet Lake.

2027: Don Nottoli, Mike Campbell, alternate Douglas Hsia, not present – Colin Coffey and alternate Gia Moreno.

## **9. Formation of Task Groups – Blake Roberts**

Roberts asked each member to rank their preferences among the five advisory task groups: Communications and Marketing, which will focus on the marketing plan; Cultural and Historical Resources, centered on cultural preservation; Heritage Development and Tourism, focusing on tourism; Interpretive Planning, addressing the area’s stories and how they will be told; and Natural Resources, focusing on the region’s resources. He stated each member will serve on at least one task group, with no more than five committee members on each task group. Any remaining members of the task group will be comprised of subject matter experts and stakeholders.

As deemed necessary, special task groups may be convened to support temporary or occasional activities.

## **10. NHA Partnership Program – Blake Roberts**

Roberts spoke on the importance of developing a partnership program, noting all successful NHAs rely on a strong network of partners. He emphasized the need to foster collaborations that are mutually beneficial, noting that such efforts are also vital for enhancing the visibility and growth of the NHA. These partnerships can range from informal to formal agreements, and are open to various groups, including government agencies, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and businesses.

To formalize these relationships, Roberts proposed using a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish general guidelines and benefits. He described the MOU as a living document that will evolve as partnerships develop. Customizations for specific partnerships will be addressed through appendices, with examples including the Passport Program and volunteer time reporting, which tracks contributions to meet federal grant match requirements.

## **11. Member Announcements and Adjourn**

Trevor Rice announced staff changes within the National Park Service for sites in Contra Costa County. He also shared that he has been selected to go on a detail to the Midwest region, which may leave the parks short-handed for the next few months.

Chair Blodgett reported that the district office in Sacramento has decided to install two of the NHA signs as early as the first week of November. One sign will be placed near Twin Cities Road and Interstate 5, and the other near Rio Vista at the intersection of Highway 160 and Highway 12.

Chair Blodgett announced the next meeting will be December 6 at 10 a.m. and we are looking into the Clarksburg Schoolhouse as the location.

Chair Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

December 6, 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 officials had consultation meetings with two tribes in November and will provide their recommendation on Management Plan approval to the Secretary of the Interior.

### **Tribal Outreach**

Staff are conducting outreach to tribes regarding the Management Plan and implementation efforts.

### **Delta Heritage Forum**

The sixth annual Delta Heritage Forum was held on November 15 at the Antioch Historical Museum. The Forum will be discussed at the December 6 NHA Advisory Committee meeting.

### **Partnership Program**

Staff are communicating with potential partners about the template memorandum of understanding discussed at the October 31 NHA Advisory Committee meeting.

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

Staff are setting up advisory task groups based on preferences provided by NHA Advisory Committee members. Tribal outreach includes discussion about forming the Tribal Advisory Council identified in the Management Plan.

## **Branding and Tourism Marketing Plan**

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Branding and Tourism Marketing Plan, which focuses on the NHA, was recirculated starting November 8. The deadline for proposals was December 4.

## **Passport Program**

The Passport to Your National Parks program is a voluntary program in which most National Park Service units and NHAs participate. Staff are working with potential partners on securing passport cancellation locations. Staff are preparing a new webpage with an interactive map, a short training and training materials about the NHA, and a trifold NHA brochure. The Passport Program will be discussed at the NHA Advisory Committee meeting.

## **Delta Leadership Program**

Applications were due on November 22 for the 2025 Delta Leadership Program, a joint effort of the Commission and Delta Leadership Foundation.

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

Commission staff released the November/December Delta Heritage Courier on November 21 and have included heritage-related material for the biweekly Delta Happenings newsletter. The deadline for material for the January/February Courier is January 2, with a scheduled release date of January 9.

## **Staffing Augmentation**

The Commission is currently hiring a limited-term public information officer for the NHA and a senior environmental planner. Staff are taking steps to add two positions for the NHA, which would make the public information officer permanent.

# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

December 6, 2024

## AGENDA ITEM 6: Establish 2025 Meeting Calendar

**Prepared by:** Blake Roberts

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

**Recommended Action:** Approve 2025 meeting calendar

**Type of Action:** Vote

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### Background

The 2025 meeting schedule is proposed as follows. The 2025 meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of even-numbered months (alternate meetings in odd-numbered months) except for October since the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board meets that day and December since the fourth Wednesday in December would fall on Christmas Eve. Unless specified, meeting times will be 1-3 p.m.

- February 26, 2025
- April 23, 2025
- June 25, 2025
- August 27, 2025
- October 29, 2025
- December 17, 2025

Alternate NHA Advisory Committee meeting dates, listed below, would only be held if called by the Executive Director.

- January 22, 2025
- March 26, 2025
- May 28, 2025
- July 23, 2025
- September 24, 2025
- November 19, 2025

### Recommended Action

Commission staff recommends the NHA Advisory Committee approve the 2025 meeting calendar.



# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

December 6, 2024

## AGENDA ITEM 7: NHA Passport Program

**Prepared by:** Blake Roberts

**Presented by:** Blake Roberts

**Recommended Action:** Discuss NHA Passport Program

**Type of Action:** Discussion

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### Background

The Passport to Your National Parks program, which began in 1986, is a voluntary program in which most National Park Service units and 43 of the 62 National Heritage Areas (NHAs) participate. The primary goal of the program is to encourage visitation. Visitors get a cancellation ink stamp in a passport book that records the name of the site and date of the visit, similar to getting a US passport book stamped when traveling internationally.

Eastern National (aka America's National Parks), a nonprofit partner of National Park Service, owns and operates the Passport to Your National Parks program. They own the copyright and trademark for books, stamps, and other components of the program, serve as a retailer and wholesaler for program supplies, and provide information and customer service.

### Program Phasing

Commission staff are currently focusing on the establishment of the passport program and ensuring that visitors are able to access stamps throughout the NHA and throughout the course of the week and year. Commission staff are contacting potential program participants, focusing on sites run by public or nonprofit organizations, located in as many communities as possible, and open at least four days per week.

Once the passport program is up and running, staff will maintain existing sites and add new sites, either through direct contact or applications.

### Passport Site Criteria

- The program participant must be within the NHA boundaries – there are many partner institutions located outside of the NHA boundaries, some of them within a

quarter mile, but this criterion helps avoid confusion and ensures that visitors have visited the NHA.

- The program participant is connected to NHA themes as described in the NHA Management Plan or serves as visitor information center.
- Structure is open and accessible to the public.
- Visitors will not be charged for accessing the passport stamp.
- Program participants are confirmed partners of the Sacramento-San Joaquin National Heritage Area.

### **Commission Duties**

The Commission will provide training, passport stampers, ink bottles and pads, and NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials to the partner. The partner's logo will be featured in a passport program section on the Commission website. The passport sites will also be included on the [America's National Parks website](#), the official website of the Passport to Your National Parks program.

### **Partner Duties**

The partner and its sites will make the stamp display available during regular operating hours and in a prominent location for ease of access. Visitors will not be charged for accessing the passport stamper. Partners can purchase passport books for resale through Eastern National if they wish.

### **Current Status**

Staff have contacted potential partners, who have tentatively offered 22 locations (listed below) for passport cancellation stations:

1. Antioch – Antioch Library
2. Bay Point – Bay Point Library
3. Benicia – Benicia Capitol State Historic Park
4. Brentwood – Brentwood Library
5. Clarksburg – Clarksburg Library
6. Courtland – Courtland Library
7. Crockett – Crockett Library
8. Hercules – Hercules Library
9. Isleton – Isleton Library
10. Locke – Locke Boarding House State Park
11. Martinez – Contra Costa County Historical Society History Center

12. Martinez – John Muir National Historic Site (Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial stampers will be housed at John Muir National Historic Site)
13. Martinez – Martinez Library
14. Oakley – Big Break Regional Shoreline
15. Oakley – Oakley Library
16. Pittsburg – Pittsburg Library
17. Rio Vista – RioVision Gallery
18. Rio Vista – Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center
19. Rodeo – Rodeo Library
20. Walnut Grove – Walnut Grove Library
21. West Sacramento – Arthur F. Turner Community Library
22. West Sacramento – West Sacramento Community Center/Historical Gallery

Following the lead of other NHAs, staff are working with these organizations on an appendix to the partnership memorandum of understanding specific to the passport program. Anticipated program launch will be in 2025. Prior to launch, staff will prepare a new webpage with an interactive map, purchase required supplies, provide a short training and training materials about the NHA to the partners, and prepare and print a trifold NHA brochure for passport stations.

### **Recommended Action**

Commission staff recommend the NHA Advisory Committee discuss the NHA passport program.

# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

December 6, 2024

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: Match Funding Discussion**

**Prepared by:** Blake Roberts

**Presented by:** Blake Roberts

**Recommended Action: Receive Presentation and Discuss Match Funding**

**Type of Action:** Discussion

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The Commission, as local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA, received \$157,500 from National Park Service for Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. This funding is expected to increase when the Secretary of the Interior approves the Management Plan. The amount of the increase is dependent on the Congressional appropriation for the Heritage Partnership Program, the National Heritage Area Program budget line item, in Federal FY 2025. Congress has not yet passed the budget for FY 2025, which extends from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

For every dollar of federal funds the Commission spends each year, the Commission must match one dollar in cash and/or donations of goods and services from non-federal sources. At the October NHA Advisory Committee meeting, there was a brief discussion about how the Commission provides match for our federal funding and whether partners of the Commission could contribute to this match through cash and in-kind contributions. This presentation provides background on match funding for the NHA, including legislation and National Park Service requirements, and the potential role of NHA partners.

### **Recommended Action**

Receive the presentation and discuss match funding.

# National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

December 6, 2024

## AGENDA ITEM 9: Summary of 2024 Delta Heritage Forum

**Prepared by:** Holly Heyser and Blake Roberts

**Presented by:** Holly Heyser and Blake Roberts

**Recommended Action: Receive Presentation on Delta Heritage Forum**

**Type of Action:** Receive

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### Background

The Delta Heritage Forum is a free, full-day event that celebrates Delta stories, nurtures collaboration, and inspires new thinking and initiatives in the Delta heritage community. The Forum was first held in 2018 and has been held annually except for 2023 when staff were finalizing work on the Management Plan. Prior to this year, the Forum was held at Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove; the 2020 and 2021 Forums were held virtually.

The 2024 Delta Heritage Forum was held on Friday, November 15, at the Antioch Historical Museum with more than 80 participants. This year's theme was Creating Community through Heritage. The program consisted of three 45- to 60-minute panel discussions, four storytelling sessions, and three lightning talks (short presentations). Attendees could participate in a scavenger hunt throughout the museum or write or draw on a graffiti table. The day also included a light breakfast, lunch, and a happy hour. The schedule is attached.

### Participant Feedback

#### *Program*

A preliminary analysis of feedback from participants shows there was warm regard for the entire program, though some favorites emerged. When asked, "which sessions were most beneficial or interesting," the following were mentioned the most:

- Session 1: Leveraging Relationships with Partners to Get More Done
- Session 2: Getting Youth Involved In, and Excited About, Heritage
- Storyteller: Diana Almendariz, Cultural Practitioner
- Storyteller: Delta Mello: Charmian and Jack London's Travels Through the Delta
- Lightning Talk: Carol Jensen: Prohibition and Bootlegging in the Delta

### ***Takeaways***

Staff's goal with the Forum was for all participants to come away with inspiration or ideas that would be useful to them, and all who completed the evaluation as of Nov. 19 said they did. Those takeaways included the value of engaging with local elected officials, youth engagement strategies, the importance of storytelling, leveraging the expertise of board members, leveraging the tourism industry, using social media, and using scavenger hunts as an engagement tool.

### ***Open-Ended Comments***

Here is a selection of responses to open-ended questions on the evaluation:

“The scavenger hunt was challenging, but an awesome way to spend the breaks. I'm glad I had the opportunity to visit and learn about the Antioch Historical Museum. It is an impressive museum and was a great spot to have the meeting.”

“I love the diversity of topics among the speakers and how engaged the audience members were. You can tell a lot of thought and planning went into this event. Thank you for providing this opportunity!”

“I would have liked more information on partnerships with the Native American Community.”

“Passion about topic from each of the storytellers. Benefitted most from the partnerships panel. That could be a whole forum in itself.”

### **Next Steps**

Staff are conducting a full analysis of participants and feedback. Staff will begin planning the 2025 Delta Heritage Forum in early 2025 utilizing community feedback and lessons learned. Future NHA Advisory Committee meetings will include updates on the next Forum, including the proposed schedule and possible themes, venues, and session topics.

### **Recommended Action**

Receive the presentation.

**Posting on social media today?** Please tag @DeltaProtectionCommission (@CA\_DPC on X) and use #DeltaHeritageForum.

**Participating in the scavenger hunt?** Please note that Sports Legends (downstairs) will be open *only* during the lunch break.

**Graffiti table:** Leave a signature, a clever heritage pun, or a memorable quote from the day at the graffiti table, which will be available starting at lunch.

## Delta Heritage Forum Schedule

<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Doors open/Networking/Breakfast</b>	
<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diane Burgis, Chair, Delta Protection Commission</li> <li>• Blake Roberts, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area</li> </ul>
<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Excerpt from Beneath the Tangled Vines</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storyteller: Dan Hanel, Author</li> </ul>	
<b>9:25 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Leveraging Relationships with Partners to Get More Done:</b> Many Delta organizations struggle to fulfill their missions due to limited help and budget. Learn from different types of organizations about how partnerships can effectively pool resources and skills to achieve mutual goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leigh Ann Davis, Contra Costa County Historical Society (moderator)</li> <li>• Rina Dimare, Clarksburg Winery Collective</li> <li>• Sean McCauley, Harvest Time Brentwood</li> <li>• Terry Selk, Visit Yolo</li> </ul>	
<b>10:25 a.m.</b>	<b>Snack/museum browsing/bathroom break</b>	
<b>10:40 a.m.</b>	<b>Sandhill Cranes</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storyteller: Bruce Towne, Writer</li> </ul>	
<b>10:50 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Getting Youth Involved In, and Excited About, Heritage:</b> Youth who love heritage develop a strong sense of identity, engage their families and friends in their passion, and make it a career or lifelong hobby. Parks professionals will examine how heritage programs can connect with youth and motivate them to learn more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alice LLano, Delta Leadership Program Alumna (moderator)</li> <li>• Wyatt Moore, Big Break Regional Shoreline</li> <li>• Wendy Solis, John Muir National Historic Site</li> </ul>	

<b>11:35 a.m.</b>	<b>Lunch - food, free socializing, scavenger hunt, graffiti table – old-fashioned, local rootbeer courtesy of River City</b>
<b>12:35 p.m.</b>	<b>Storyteller Diana Almendariz</b> , Cultural Practitioner of Maidu/Wintun, Hupa/Yurok Traditions, Heritage and Experiences
<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Short bathroom break</b>
<b>1:05 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Using Public Art to Cultivate a Sense of Place:</b> Public art transforms places and people by promoting active spaces, stimulating our imaginations, and contributing to a shared cultural heritage. Artists and arts supporters will discuss the role of public art and what to consider when developing a program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neema Hekmat, Benicia Arts and Culture Commission (moderator)</li> <li>• Tom Surh, RioVision</li> <li>• Anna Szabados, City of Brentwood</li> <li>• Yoshio Taylor, Artist</li> </ul>
<b>2:05 p.m.</b>	<b>Snack/museum browsing/bathroom break</b>
<b>2:20 p.m.</b>	<b>Scavenger Hunt Answers Due!</b>
<b>2:20 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Charmian and Jack London’s Travels Through the Delta</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storyteller: Delta Mello, Sacramento History Museum</li> </ul>
<b>2:30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Lightning Talks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leigh Ann Davis: County Rancho Project</li> <li>• Bob Benedetti: Introducing Fine Arts of the Delta</li> <li>• Carol Jensen: Prohibition and Bootlegging in the Delta</li> </ul>
<b>3:15 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Scavenger Hunt Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holly Heyser, Delta Protection Commission</li> </ul>
<b>3:20 p.m.</b>	<b>Happy Hour – wine courtesy of the Clarksburg Winery Collective</b>
<b>4:20 p.m.</b>	<b>Delta Heritage Forum Concludes</b>