



PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA

Delta Protection Commission

Thursday, March 20, 2025, 5-7 p.m. (end time is approximate)
Stockton Hilton
2323 Grand Canal Blvd.
Stockton, CA 95207

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).
5. The Delta Protection Commission will meet in closed session to consider the appointment of a permanent Executive Director. This closed session is authorized by Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a)(1).

Consent Agenda

6. Approval of Draft January 16, 2025 ([p. 4](#)), and February 25, 2025 ([p. 9](#)), Meeting Minutes
7. Approval of salary and conditions of employment for the Interim Executive Director

Regular Agenda

8. Report on Delta Stewardship Council Activities – Chair Diane Burgis
9. Report on Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Activities – Anna Swenson (DPAC Chair)
10. Executive Director’s Report – Dan Ray, Interim Executive Director ([p. 11](#))

11. Consider Approval of the National Heritage Area Management Plan – Blake Roberts, Program Manager ([p. 25](#))
12. Consider Approval of the National Heritage Area Partnership Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and consider delegation of authority to approve future MOUs to the Executive Director – Blake Roberts, Program Manager ([p. 27](#))
13. Socioeconomic Indicators Report – Virginia Gardiner, Program Manager ([p. 57](#))
14. Delta as Place Presentation, the Delta's people and scenic landscapes – Rich Turner, founder and publisher of Soundings Magazine
15. Commissioner Comments/Announcements
16. 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 March 19, 2025, 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 | **Sonny Dhaliwal**, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors | **Anissa Williams**, Cities of Contra Costa and Solano counties | **David Kent**, 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 | **TBD**, CA State Lands Commission

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: **Rhodesia Ransom**, California State Assembly | **Jerry McNerney**, California State Senate

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Delta Protection Commission

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 5 p.m.
Sacramento Yacht Club
3365 Chicory Loop, West Sacramento, CA

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Flag Salute

Chair Diane Burgis called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

Commission Clerk Heather McClure called the roll. Present at roll call: Chair Burgis, Commissioners Oscar Villegas, Patrick Hume, Anissa Williams, David Kent, Christine Birdsong (for Karen Ross), Gloria Sandoval (for Wade Crowfoot), and Brian Bugsch (for State Lands Commission). Commissioners Alan Nakanishi, Tom Slater, Toks Omishakin, Steven Ding (for San Joaquin County), and Dean Ruiz (for South Delta Reclamation District) were absent from the meeting. At this time, a quorum was present.

Chair Burgis welcomed new Commissioner David Kent, Vice Mayor of Isleton, who represents Cities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

Commissioner Jim Paroli arrived at 5:12 p.m. and Vice Chair John Vasquez arrived at 5:14 p.m., both joining the closed session.

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:

Morris Lum, President of the California Striped Bass Association West-Delta Chapter, presented certificates of recognition to Diane Burgis and Commodore Bill Wells for their dedication to the California Delta. Burgis was honored for her leadership and advocacy in the San Francisco Bay-Delta and Contra Costa County, including her roles as Executive Director of the Friends of the Marsh Creek Watershed, Oakley City Council member, Contra Costa County Supervisor, Delta Protection Commission Chair, and Delta Stewardship Council member. Wells was recognized for his decades of advocacy through the *Bay Delta Yachtsman* and the California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau, promoting environmental and wildlife protection. Both were awarded honorary memberships in the West Delta Chapter of the California Striped Bass Association.

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).

The Commissioners moved to closed session at 5:12 p.m. Executive Director Blodgett and Deputy Attorney General Carlos Mejia joined the Commission members for the closed session.

Following the completion of the closed session, Chair Burgis reconvened in open session at 5:48 p.m. Mejia reported the Commission took no reportable action during the closed session.

It was noted that Commissioner Villegas left the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Consent Agenda

5. Approval of Draft December 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Hume and seconded by Commissioner Vasquez to approve the December 12, 2024, meeting minutes; in a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0-0, all Commissioners present voting aye.

Regular Agenda

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

Chair Burgis gave a report on the January 23 meeting, which included a hearing on the Delta Conveyance Project Proposed Geotechnical Activities, on which the Delta Protection Commission had commented. The hearing addressed two main points: whether it qualified as a covered action and whether it was consistent with the Delta Plan. Another meeting will be held in two weeks. She stated the staff report is expected to be released tomorrow.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

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

DPAC Chair Anna Swenson was not present, thus unable to deliver a report. Executive Director Blodgett stated that the next DPAC meeting will be February 11 at the Clarksburg Schoolhouse.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

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

Executive Director Blodgett presented a letter received earlier that day by Program Manager Blake Roberts, announcing the final approval of the NHA Management Plan, signed by the director of the National Park Service. He applauded the team effort behind this achievement and emphasized the significant work involved. He also announced that Senior Environmental Planner Mike Aviña and Staff Services Manager Debra Waltman were leaving the DPC, with the process of filling their positions already underway. Additionally, plans were in place to hire a new part-time public information officer, and interviews had been completed for a firm to update the National Heritage Area's marketing plan. Lastly, he discussed a collaboration with the Division of Boating and Waterways, which is seeking a NOAA grant of over \$9 million for large debris removal in the Delta. The DPC will participate in the process by handling aspects of public outreach.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

9. Consider Approval of the 2024 Annual Report – Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director

Executive Director Blodgett referenced the background information on the legislative requirements included in the Annual Report as well as the Letter from the Chair. He then highlighted work accomplished throughout the year, including numerous land use comment letters, such as those on the Contra Costa County and the Rio Vista general plans. He also discussed engagement on the Delta Conveyance Project, which involved participation in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process regarding a draft Programmatic Agreement, as well as providing comment on the consistency certification for geotechnical activities at the DSC hearing.

Additionally, he outlined efforts to assist Delta communities, such as working with Isleton to obtain a grant for broadband expansion and participating in a workshop on post-disaster housing planning in legacy communities. He also touched on progress of ongoing projects, including the Socioeconomic Indicators Report, the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail extension, and the Welcome to the Delta National Heritage Area signs.

Blodgett concluded by noting that a common theme in habitat projects is the loss of agricultural land and resources. He proposed a Delta Agriculture report for each county, led by an expert in the field.

Commissioner Birdsong commended the staff for their work and requested future presentations on agriculture in the Delta, particularly in relation to land use.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Hume and seconded by Commissioner Birdsong to approve the 2024 Annual Report; in a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0-0, all Commissioners present voting aye.

10. Presentation on Striped Bass Slot Limit Proposal – Dr. David Ostrach

Dr. David Ostrach gave a presentation covering the history of striped bass in California, the reasoning behind the proposed slot limits, and the challenges contributing to the species' decline. He stated that to address these challenges, a proposed slot limit of 20 to 30 inches aims to assist population sustainability. Allowing fish to reach at least 20 inches before harvest would give females an extra year to spawn, while capping harvest at 30 inches would protect the most fertile breeders. While the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) supports the upper limit, it has yet to endorse the lower limit. Ostrach stated this is a first step toward restoring a robust recreational fishery, and continued future scientific research and fishery management planning will be essential for refining regulations and ensuring the long-term health of the striped bass population.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was one:

Jim Cox, a California Striped Bass Association board member and DPAC member, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to urge the Delta Protection Commission to send a letter endorsing this proposal to the California Fish and Game Commission.

Chair Burgis responded that since this action was not properly agendaized, it would need to be brought back to the Commission for a vote at the next meeting.

11. Delta as Place Presentation, Invasive Species update – Martha Volkoff, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Martha Volkoff reported on golden mussels, as the latest invasive species of immediate concern. Golden Mussels, native to China and Southeast Asia, have now established non-native populations in freshwater ports across Asia and South America. Their recent detection in the Port of Stockton on October 17 suggests they were introduced through ballast water discharge from a cargo ship. These mussels share many biological traits with quagga and zebra mussels, including rapid reproduction, filter-feeding behavior, and the ability to form dense colonies that clog infrastructure such as boat motors,

pipes, and water intakes. However, golden mussels differ in their broader tolerance for calcium, temperature, salinity, and substrate conditions, allowing them to thrive in waters previously unsuitable for quagga and zebra mussels. Given their expanding presence in the Delta, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) assumes the species is or will soon be widespread throughout the Delta and the interconnected state and federal water projects. This puts California's extensive water conveyance system at significant risk, along with the millions of people and acres of farmland that rely on it. Additionally, the movement of infested boats between California and other states heightens the threat of further spread.

In response, a multi-agency Task Force has been established to coordinate efforts, including monitoring, containment, and regulatory actions. Agencies are leveraging existing quagga/zebra mussel protocols but must expand their scope to new waters due to the golden mussel's wider tolerances. Efforts include developing a new web-based reporting tool, increasing genetic lab capacity to include golden mussels, scent-training K9 units, and exploring eDNA technology for early detection. Regulatory changes are also underway: CDFW has added golden mussels to the restricted species list, banning their possession and transport, while the State Lands Commission is considering emergency ballast water regulations to prevent further spread. Other agencies, including the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), are evaluating additional containment measures. Given the mussel's potential to impact not only California but water systems nationwide, policy discussions are shifting from exclusion strategies to large-scale containment efforts requiring significant resources and coordination across federal, state, and local agencies.

It was noted that Commissioner Williams left the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Chair Burgis asked for public comment and there was none.

12. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Chair Burgis announced the next meeting is scheduled for March 20 with the location to be determined.

13. Adjourn

Chair Burgis adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Delta Protection Commission

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 5 p.m.
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Conference Room
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Flag Salute

Chair Diane Burgis called the meeting to order at 5:02 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, Patrick Hume, Anissa Williams, David Kent, Jim Paroli, and Brian Bugsch (for State Lands Commission). Commissioners Sonny Dhaliwal, Alan Nakanishi, Tom Slater, Toks Omishakin, and ex officio members Senator Jerry McNerny and Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom were absent with no alternate present. At this time, a quorum was present.

Commissioners Christine Birdsong (for Karen Ross), Gloria Sandoval (for Wade Crowfoot), and Dean Ruiz (for South Delta Reclamation District) joined remotely during the closed session.

It was noted that Commissioner Bugsch left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

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 none.

Closed Session Agenda

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

5. If necessary, the Delta Protection Commission may meet in closed session to consider the appointment of an Interim Executive Director. This closed session is authorized by Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a)(1).

Chair Burgis asked for public comment on Items 4 and 5, and there was none.

The Commission moved to closed session at 5:08 PM to consider the items on its meeting agenda noticed for consideration in closed session. The Commission's closed session concluded at 6:53 PM. Pursuant to Government Code, section 11123.2, subdivision (m), the Commission reported that it took the following actions in closed session:

1. The Commission dismissed Bruce Blodgett as Executive Director effective at 5:00 p.m. PST on February 28, 2025, and immediately placed him on administrative leave until that time. Chair Burgis, Vice Chair Vasquez, and Commissioners Birdsong, Bugsch, Hume, Kent, Paroli, Villegas, and Williams voted in favor of doing so; Commissioners Ruiz and Sandoval abstained and no other Commissioners were present to vote.
2. The Commission appointed Daniel Ray as Interim Executive Director effective immediately. Chair Burgis, Vice Chair Vasquez, and Commissioners Birdsong, Hume, Paroli, Ruiz, Sandoval, and Villegas voted in favor of doing so and no other Commissioners were present to vote.

6. Adjourn

Chair Burgis adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

March 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 10: Executive Director’s Report

Prepared by: Dan Ray, Interim Executive Director

Presented by: Dan Ray, Interim 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 24/25 Categories	Budget Amount	Total Expenses and Projections	Difference
Salaries and Wages	\$1,515,000	\$1,389,307	\$125,693
Operating Expenses	\$821,000	\$765,621	\$55,379
Total	\$2,336,000	\$2,154,928	\$181,072

National Heritage Area Management Plan

National Park Service Director Charles F. Sams III approved the Management Plan on January 16. As a result of the approval, funding for the NHA is hoped to increase pending Congressional appropriation for the Heritage Partnership Program, the funding source for National Heritage Areas. The Commission will consider approval of the final plan at the March 20 meeting.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee

The National Heritage Area (NHA) Advisory Committee met on Thursday, February 26, 2025, at Peter’s Steakhouse in Isleton. The agenda included a preview of the Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan process, discussion of the National Park Service Annual Program Report, analysis of the 2024 Delta Heritage Forum, and a presentation by former Commission Executive Director Margit Aramburu on the Discover the Delta Foundation.

The next NHA Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at a location to be determined.

Delta Conveyance

The Delta Conveyance (Tunnel) Project continues with the permitting phase. A California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit (ITP) was issued on February 14, 2025 for the project by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Associated environmental documents required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) include Notices of Determination (NODs) for an Addendum to Final EIR (2/13/2025 and 2/18/2025) for refinements related to operations that include modified bypass flow criteria compared to the criteria provided in the Final EIR project description required by the ITP. The NODs state that a subsequent EIR or supplement to the certified Final EIR is not required pursuant to CEQA, because these operational refinements and other project refinements do not have the potential to create new significant adverse environmental effects or substantially increase effects considered in the previously certified Final EIR.

On February 18, 2025, the State Water Resources Control Board Administrative Hearings Office (AHO) convened hearings on the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Petitions for Change of Water Rights (Change in Point of Diversion or CPOD). This first hearing consisted of policy statements by all parties, and procedural discussions relating to the AHO's request for supplemental information from DWR quantifying the maximum historic volumes and rates of diversion under the State Water Project existing permit, which has not been submitted by DWR. The AHO hearings are scheduled to continue into the second quarter of 2025.

Additional permits and regulatory procedures anticipated in 2025 include Biological Opinions prepared under the federal Endangered Species Act.

DWR published a Draft Community Benefits Program Implementation Plan and Guidelines for public review and comment. The Program is funded at \$200 million for all programs. The programs consist of a Delta Community Fund, Economic Development Program, Integrated Benefits (infrastructure "leave-behinds") and Community Benefits Agreements. The comment period was open October 12, 2024 - March 3, 2025.

The Delta Stewardship Council adopted a decision dismissing the appeals of DWR's Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan for the 2024-2026 Proposed Geotechnical Investigations on January 23, 2025. A Certification of Consistency with the Delta Plan for the Delta Conveyance Project itself is anticipated to be filed by DWR in the second half of 2025.

Great California Delta Trail – Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Extension

Project outreach has kicked off for the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail extension, a proposed 6.4-mile, Class I paved multi-use (bicycling, walking, and horseback-riding)

trail within a rail corridor purchased by the City of West Sacramento in 2005. As envisioned it would extend into unincorporated Yolo County and the Clarksburg community and would include buried fiber optic conduit. Two public open houses were held in January; the first in Clarksburg on January 21, 2025, and a second in West Sacramento on January 23, 2025. Representatives of the City of West Sacramento, Yolo County Transportation District, Mark Thomas consultants and Commission staff were available for discussion, questions and to encourage suggested prioritization of specific issues areas and design elements. Participants were introduced to the general alignment and concept presented on a series of posters showing different elements or potential elements of the proposed trail and invited to provide input.

Comments and feedback from the open houses relating to desired features included rest areas, strong safety design measures, and providing for adequate consideration of equestrian needs. Concerns expressed related to management issues such as avoiding interference with agricultural operations, the potential for homeless population encroachment, and litter.

Commission and City of West Sacramento staff provided an update to the Delta Protection Advisory Committee at its February 11, 2025 meeting. Additional opportunities for public input and comment will continue during 2025, engaging agricultural and adjacent property owners, tribal representatives, local businesses, community organizations, and residents through one-on-one interviews and workshops as well as the environmental review process.

Commission Land Use Comments

In 2016, the Delta Protection Commission delegated to the Executive Director its authority to comment and provide recommendations concerning land use projects and other activities as specified in Public Resources Code sections 29770(d), 29773(a) and 29703.5(a) (Resolution 16-01). Commission staff conduct weekly reviews of land use decisions by reviewing agendas for local governments and other public entities across the Delta as further described below. This review process includes:

- Local governments and agencies that make land use decisions in the Delta Primary and Secondary zones.
- Public notices for permits for selected regulatory agencies such as the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Documents and notices posted as required under the California Environmental Quality Act on the Office of Planning and Research website.

The total weekly review of agendas and updates includes approximately 65 different agencies or local government departments. When appropriate, staff prepare comment letters on projects for the Executive Director's signature. Additionally, staff prepare letters in support of core issues and projects of local or regional importance. Correspondence sent since the previous meeting is presented in each Commission packet.

Other Planning Activities Delta Leadership Program

The Delta Leadership Program kicked off January 10 and participants met (or were scheduled to meet) on February 7 and 28 as well. The next seminars are planned for March 28 and April 25, with participant presentations scheduled for the May 15 Commission meeting.

Commission Communications

This section covers newsletters, social media and website articles published December 17-February 21.

Content

We published six [e-newsletters](#), one [press release](#), an announcement of routine [DPAC openings](#), website articles (more [NHA signs](#) going up, Delta Leadership Program (DLP) [kickoff](#), DLP [seminar at Port of Stockton](#)), 16 Facebook posts, and 11 Instagram posts.

Engagement (What's Popular)

The most popular content was the approval of the NHA Management Plan, installation of new Welcome to the NHA signs, and the Delta Leadership Program kickoff.

Among **news email sends**, the highest open rates were:

- Press release: NHA Management Plan Approved
- *Delta Happenings*: NHA Signs Go Up, Sherman Island Levee Erosion, Antioch Bridge Toll Increase
- *Delta Heritage Courier*: Yolo Bypass History, Port Costa, NHA Committee
- *Delta Happenings*: Tunnel Appeal, Angler Survey, Bridge Work, Big Break All Abilities Day
- *Delta Happenings*: Delta Leaders, Clarksburg Trail, Ferryboat Master, Boater ID Card

On **social media**, the following content had the most reach:

- NHA signs going up: #3 on Facebook and #2 on Instagram
- Delta Leadership Program kickoff: #1 on Facebook and #4 Instagram
- Isleton getting broadband internet: #2 on Facebook
- Approval of NHA Management Plan: #3 on Instagram
- State Parks Delta Meadows visioning workshop: #1 on Instagram

On the **website**, the following articles had the most pageviews:

- 2025 Delta Leadership Program Kicks Off
- A Giant Leap for Internet Speeds in Isleton
- Five New ‘Welcome to the Delta NHA’ Signs Go Up
- NHA Management Plan Approved by Department of Interior
- Festa: A Medieval Portuguese Tradition Thrives (and Evolves) in the California Delta (*published June 2024*)

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.

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

Diane Burgis, Chair (Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors)
2101 Stone Blvd., Suite 200, West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 375-4800 | delta.ca.gov



January 7, 2025

Eva Bush, Environmental Program Manager
Delta Stewardship Council
715 P Street, 15-300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Transmitted electronically via email to: ecosystemrulemaking@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Bush,

I am providing comments on the proposed rulemaking the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) is conducting to amend their regulations that govern certifications of consistency with the Delta Plan. The following comments represent my views and the views of my staff and have not been formally endorsed by the Delta Protection Commission itself.

The Delta Protection Commission (Commission) is a California state agency created by the Delta Protection Act of 1992, which declared “the Delta is a natural resource of statewide, national, and international significance, containing irreplaceable resources, and it is the policy of the state to recognize, preserve and protect those resources of the Delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations” (California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 29701). My comments reflect the role of our agency in pursuing that policy directive.

Concerns Regarding Setback Levees

The existing regulations prioritize the consideration of setback levees to increase floodplains and riparian habitat (Cal. Code Regs., Title 23, Section 5008). The proposed change in the rulemaking goes further than the existing regulatory text. The amended regulation for the same section reads as follows: “A certification of consistency for a project subject to this section that is located in the setback levee evaluation areas depicted in Appendix 8A shall evaluate, and the levee project **where feasible shall incorporate**, alternatives that would increase floodplains and riparian habitats” (emphasis added).

We are concerned with this regulation for a variety of reasons. First, considered in the context of the goal of increasing floodplain and riparian habitat, this requirement will diminish

landside agriculture, where it is implemented. Preservation of agriculture is a co-equal goal of the Delta Reform Act (Water Code Section 85020(b)). Preservation of agriculture is also a priority under the Delta Protection Act (PRC Section 28702(b)). To the extent that setback levees will encroach on agricultural land uses and diminish that acreage, this policy will result in the reduction of agricultural land use. We believe this is inconsistent with the policy goal of protection of agriculture while also restoring habitat adopted by the State of California. Agriculture is an important driver of the Delta economy, and the Delta Protection Act also directs the Delta Protection Commission to work to enhance the sustainability of that economy (PRC Section 29759). In addition, the reduction of agricultural land use will diminish the revenues generated from agriculture. This has several associated consequences. First, it reduces the revenues available to local landowners that are subject to special benefit assessments required by reclamation districts and also reduces the tax base of the region. This means the reduction in acreage by necessity diminishes funds available for levee maintenance and other public services that depend on taxes. Second, the reduction in agricultural land use has an adverse impact on the sustainability of the Delta economy. A dollar of agricultural crop revenue generates three to five times greater regional income than other leading revenue sources such as recreation or tourism (Delta Protection Commission 2012:274). Thus, the proposed regulation would contribute to the incremental loss of agricultural land and the reduction of economic sustainability in the Delta.

In stating that the project “*where feasible shall incorporate*” alternatives using setback levees, the Council may be imposing a substantive duty on covered actions subject to this section to either use setback levees or demonstrate infeasibility. Levee maintenance and upgrade work is already a highly regulated activity that requires a significant level of expenditure for permitting and environmental review above and beyond capital costs that go directly to physical improvements. A typical levee project in the Delta may be subject to other alternatives analysis requirements such as the duty to consider alternatives under the California Environmental Quality Act (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, Section 15126.6). In addition, where an individual permit is needed for fill of Waters of the United States, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also conducts a rigorous screening of alternatives (40 C.F.R. Section 230.10). These processes are, in turn, only a small fraction of the total regulatory burden required for levee maintenance or upgrade projects. The levee maintaining agency thus faces a formidable burden of compliance with a range of laws that may require different and conflicting substantive decisions. Because levee work is typically funded in large part via special benefit assessments imposed by reclamation districts, the cost of the additional regulatory burden of compliance will primarily be borne by local landowners subject to those assessments. Finally, this policy may require reclamation districts or other levee maintaining agencies to acquire relatively expensive landside real estate to accommodate a shift in the levee footprint to the landside to comply with your regulations.

Concerns Regarding Urban Levee Projects

The proposed rulemaking also amends the requirements for certain urban levees (Cal. Code Regs., Title 23, Section 5008). The amended text reads *“a certification of consistency for a project subject to this section that is an urban levee improvement project in the cities of Sacramento or West Sacramento shall evaluate alternatives that would modify all or a portion of the original levee prism to physically expand the width of the channel.”* For similar reasons, we are concerned with the imposition of additional layers of regulation upon levee maintenance. The regulatory burden faced by levee maintaining agencies is already complex and formidable. In addition, levee projects that increase channel width may require acquisition of relatively expensive landside real estate that imposes additional costs beyond capital expenditures that go directly to the primary goal of providing flood protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to providing future input.

Sincerely,



Bruce Blodgett,
Executive Director

CC: Diane Burgis, Chair
Commissioners

References Cited

Delta Protection Commission. *Economic Sustainability Plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta*. 2012. West Sacramento, California.

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

Diane Burgis, Chair (Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors)

2101 Stone Blvd., Suite 200, West Sacramento, CA 95691

(916) 375-4800 | delta.ca.gov



January 16, 2025

Robert Sarmiento, Planner
Department of Conservation and Development
Transportation Planning Section
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Contra Costa County Application, Bay Point Enhanced Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements Study, Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant

Dear Mr. Sarmiento:

I am writing to express the Delta Protection Commission's support of Contra Costa County's ("County") application for grant funding from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant to conduct a study for the Bay Point Enhanced Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements. The Commission's Resolution No. 17-01, adopted May 18, 2017, supports collaboration between the East Bay Regional Park District, Contra Costa County, the cities of Martinez, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood and Oakley, in working with the public to determine a feasible trail alignment for the Great California Delta Trail. The resolution designated the Martinez Shoreline to Point Edith Trail alignment as part of the Great California Delta Trail.

The County's application would help them work with stakeholders (community, local agencies, and private stakeholders), to develop efficient and safe bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the Port Chicago Highway and Willow Pass Road corridors. The study would develop a project to create a safe local access route linking the Great California Delta Trail at the Bay Point Regional Shoreline to important neighborhood destinations such as schools, a library and parks, and the Bay Point BART Station.

The concept would include Class IV separated bike lanes and green pedestrian infrastructure, from McAvoy Harbor/Bay Point Regional Shoreline, along Port Chicago Highway to Willow Pass Road, and along Willow Pass Road from the westbound State Route 4 ramps/Evora Road intersection to the border with the City of Pittsburg. The project would offer

multiple benefits, including increased road safety for all users along the two corridors, encouragement of alternatives to car travel, a closure of major gaps in the County's low-stress bicycle network, an increase in overall circulation for active transportation, enhancement of Bay Point's "livability," and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Overall, the project improvements could help alleviate the conditions that contribute to Bay Point's designation as a "Disadvantaged Community."

We strongly encourage Caltrans to support the County's project.

Sincerely,



Bruce Blodgett,
Executive Director

cc: Diane Burgis, Supervisor and Chair of the Delta Protection Commission

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

Diane Burgis, Chair (Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors)

2101 Stone Blvd., Suite 200, West Sacramento, CA 95691

(916) 375-4800 | delta.ca.gov



January 16, 2025

Andrew Mason, Acting Director

NOAA Marine Debris Program

1305 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: FY2025 NOAA Marine Debris Removal Funding Opportunity NOAA-NOS-ORR-2025-25974

Dear Andrew Mason:

The Delta Protection Commission staff fully supports the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Clean-up project proposal being submitted in response to this funding opportunity. The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is a unique place of economic, environmental, historic, and cultural significance. The land and water resources of the Delta support significant agricultural and recreation economies, and the Delta plays a critical role as an infrastructure hub for water, energy, and transportation. A major freshwater tidal estuary on the west coast of the Americas, the Delta also is a place of striking natural beauty and ecological significance. An estimated 80 percent of the state's commercial fishery species live in or migrate through the Delta, and at least half of its Pacific Flyway migratory waterfowl rely on this region's wetlands. In recognition of its importance, in 2019 Congress designated the Delta as a National Heritage Area.

The Commission is a state agency committed to the protection and health of the Delta and is charged with ensuring orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land and water resources. We protect, maintain, enhance and enrich the overall quality of the Delta environment and economy, focusing on agriculture, heritage, recreation, and natural resources while remaining mindful of the importance of the Delta to all Californians. Navigable waterways in the Delta are publicly accessible and constitute most of the recreational opportunities within the Delta, with over 1000 miles of waterways, as well as a resource for subsistence fishing and an important cultural resource and landscape for tribal groups.

The Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan includes policies to support and enhance marine resources in coordination with local, state and federal authorities. Specifically, policies on Recreation & Access including Marine Patrol, Boater Education, and Safety Programs 9, 10 and 12 direct the Commission to:

P-9: Encourage the development of funding and implementation strategies by appropriate governing bodies for the surrender and/or removal of water-borne debris and dilapidated, unseaworthy and abandoned vessels from waterways, to minimize navigational and environmental hazards.

P-10: Promote and encourage Delta-wide communication, coordination, and collaboration on boating and waterway-related programs including but not limited to marine patrols, removal of debris and abandoned vessels, invasive species control and containment, clean and safe boating education and enforcement, maintenance of existing anchorage, mooring and berthing areas, and emergency response in the Delta.

P-12: Support and encourage programs for waterways that provide opportunities for safe boating and recreation, including removal of floating and sunken debris and abandoned vessels from Delta waterways in collaboration with appropriate agencies.

Delta waterways and fisheries are important to many low-income groups as a resource for subsistence fishing and are also an important resource and landscape for tribal groups with ancestral ties to the Delta. Outreach to these populations to identify and prioritize large marine debris they are aware of will facilitate remediation of existing pollution sources that are both harmful to health via fish consumption and damage the integrity of the cultural landscape. Abandoned vessels and automobiles are sources of pollutants that affect fisheries and are also hazards to navigation.

The CDPR Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) plays a central role in facilitating marine debris clean-up policy goals for the Delta. The Commission strongly supports and promotes DBW's existing Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) program to prevent, reduce, and remove abandoned recreational vessels from California's navigable waterways. Through the SAVE program, DBW annually grants \$2.75 million in state funding which has, on average, destroyed over 500 vessels per year that have been or are in danger of becoming abandoned derelict vessels.

This grant, if approved, would enable the Commission to take a more active role in raising awareness, promoting the SAVE program with outreach and community engagement with other project partners. The Commission has a well-established outreach program throughout the Delta that we propose to leverage and expand in collaboration with those of project partners. Efforts would focus both on participating in existing popular festivals and events around the Delta as well as program-specific events organized by partners to engage

disadvantaged communities in identifying priority problem areas. The Commission will also provide support to expand an existing successful elementary education program by community partners. Outreach will include information about debris such as pathways into the Delta, different types of debris, how debris can adversely affect the environment and people, and how large marine debris removal and abandoned derelict vessel (ADV) prevention activities would be conducted.

We believe approval of this grant will initiate a major collaborative effort between state agencies, local community-based organizations and local law enforcement and marine patrol to make significant progress on a long-standing problem for the Delta. Large marine debris removal from Delta waterways will improve water quality, reduce pollution impacts on subsistence and recreational fisheries, and remove navigation hazards to improve boating safety. We look forward to your positive consideration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Clean-up project proposal.

Sincerely,



Bruce Blodgett
Executive Director

Cc: Diane Burgis, Supervisor and Chair of the Delta Protection Commission
Commissioners

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

March 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 11: Approve Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Management Plan and Filing of Notice of Exemption

Prepared by: Blake Roberts

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Recommended Action: Approve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Management Plan and Filing of Notice of Exemption

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. The Management Plan outlines the significance and purpose of the NHA, as well as the activities that the Commission and a regional network of partners will undertake over the next ten to fifteen years. After the Commission approved the Draft Management Plan on March 7, 2024, staff submitted the plan to National Park Service (NPS) for Secretary of the Interior review on March 12, 2024.

On January 16, 2025, NPS Director Charles F. Sams III approved the Management Plan. NPS consulted with local tribes during its review, which supplemented the Commission's tribal consultation during the Management Plan process. After approval, Commission staff made non-substantive revisions to the Management Plan with NPS permission, including placing plan goals in the executive summary; updating the description of the planning process; inserting Strategy 2.4.6, which addresses protection of tribal historic properties, in the implementation plan; and revisions that address grammar, consistency, clarity, and new information.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The California State Legislature provides an exemption from Environmental Impact Reports or Negative Declarations for planning studies for possible future actions that have not been approved, adopted, or funded (CEQA Guidelines Section 15262). As the CEQA lead agency, Commission staff have prepared a Notice of Exemption for this management plan. If, or when, future NHA projects have a direct effect on cultural or natural resources, the Commission or other responsible entity will review the project for compliance with CEQA.

Recommended Action

Approve the Final National Heritage Area Management Plan and Commission staff filing of a CEQA Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

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.

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

March 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 12: Approve National Heritage Area Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Delegate Authority for Future MOUs to Executive Director

Prepared by: Blake Roberts

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Recommended Action: Approve National Heritage Area Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Delegate Authority for Future MOUs to the Executive Director

Type of Action: Vote

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) Management Plan, which was approved on January 16, 2025, by the National Park Service Director, emphasized the importance of a partnership network for NHAs in implementing plan strategies:

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.

Partnership Program

A formal NHA partnership program provides 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 clarifies responsibilities and expectations for the Commission and partners and provides 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. A template MOU is attached. This document defines guidelines and benefits that generally apply to partnerships and can be customized to the specific circumstances of each partnership through appendices and addenda. 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 initial focus of the partnership program is launching our involvement in the Passport to Your National Parks program, a voluntary program in which most National Park Service (NPS) units and NHAs participate. Staff are working through MOUs with potential partners to secure passport cancellation locations where visitors can obtain stamps on their NPS passports. An appendix to the MOU specifically addresses the passport program.

To date, Commission staff have prepared draft MOUs in consultation with the Contra Costa County Library, Locke Foundation, RioVision, and Yolo County Library. These agreements enable the Commission to have passport cancellation stations in Antioch, Bay Point, Brentwood, Clarksburg, Crockett, Hercules, Locke, Martinez, Oakley, Pittsburg, Rio Vista, Rodeo, and West Sacramento.

Staff anticipate finalizing MOUs with additional partners, including Benicia Historical Society, California State Parks' Diablo Range District, City of West Sacramento, Contra Costa County Historical Society, East Bay Regional Park District, Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse, and Sacramento Public Library, over the next few months. Other partners, such as John Muir National Historic Site and Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, may utilize their own template for agreements.

Recommended Action

Approve National Heritage Area Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Contra Costa County Library, Locke Foundation, RioVision, and Yolo County Library and delegate authority for future MOUs to the Executive Director.

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.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Partnership Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and _____ (Partner). This MOU, which defines guidelines that generally apply to partnerships, is a living document that evolves as partnerships change and can be customized to the specific circumstances of each partnership through addenda.

Commission Duties

Management Plan Chapter 4 identified strategies to establish and support a network of partners to further the goals of the NHA. These strategies will be carried out according to the Management Plan's implementation plan. As part of implementing these strategies, the Commission shall:

1. Display the Partner's name and logo on the NHA website.
2. Allow the Partner to use the NHA logo, template, content, and branded items. "Content" means text, photographs, drawings, illustrations, and any other media used to convey information related to the NHA for use in interpretation and communication.
3. Conduct partner gatherings.
4. Establish an NHA-related email listserv and/or communication platform for partners.
5. Provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to partners.
6. Promote training opportunities in interpretation, grants, resource stewardship, heritage tourism, promotion, community development, and organizational development.
7. Host an annual Delta Leadership Program class for partners.
8. Establish a grant program for partners that supports projects and programs that align with the NHA's goals.
9. Provide staff time and direct funding to carry out projects and programs that align with the NHA's goals.

10. Support educational programs.
11. Continue to hold the annual Delta Heritage Forum and provide reserved spaces for partners.
12. Act as a clearinghouse of information, such as a resource inventory, grant and funding opportunities, partner database, interpretive provider database, regional planning efforts, and online calendar of events and activities.
13. Conduct in-person and virtual visits and meetings with state agencies that service the NHA and local governments, community groups, and organizations in the NHA.
14. Provide partner seats on advisory task groups.
15. Distribute Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier e-newsletters.
16. Manage and expand the NHA's web presence.
17. Prepare and implement the marketing plan to inform and engage partners.

Partner Duties

The Partner shall:

1. Commit to assist with Management Plan strategies identified in Attachment XX.
2. Provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
3. Only use Commission-approved logos, templates, content, and branded items in formal communications and interpretation performed to further the implementation of the NHA (e-mails, memoranda, and interagency communications are excluded from this requirement).
4. Participate in Commission and NHA meetings and events.
5. Complete a brief annual partner survey.
6. Comply with federal requirements regarding the NHA, including that activities performed by the partners in support of the NHA shall not directly or indirectly create any negative effect on the operations of the Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, or any water supply facilities within the Bay-Delta watershed (Public Law 116-9, Section 6001(a)(4)(C)).

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a disagreement between specific parties to this MOU, the first step to resolution shall be discussion between the Commission Executive Director and the signatory to the MOU on behalf of the partnership or their designee. If the dispute cannot be resolved via discussion, the second step may be referral to the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee as an agenda item at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee.

As necessary, the issue may be further elevated for discussion at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. If the issue remains unresolved, the partnership relationship may be dissolved by the unilateral decision of either the Commission or the Partner.

Term of the MOU, Attachments, and Addenda

This MOU is in force until it is rescinded or amended. Addenda may be added on a rolling basis as needed. The MOU, attachments, and addenda may each be amended separately.

Primary Contacts

Partner	Delta Protection Commission
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Organization:	Street Address:
Street Address:	City:
City:	State:
State:	Zip Code:
Zip Code:	Email:
Email:	Main Phone:
Main Phone:	Alternate Phone:
Alternate Phone:	

Partner	Commission Representative
Location Address(es)	Commission Representative Name (please print)
Representative Signature	Commission Representative Title
Representative Name (please print)	Date
Representative Title (please print)	
Date	

Appendix XX, Management Plan Strategies

_____ (Partner) commits to assist with the following Management Plan strategies:

...

DRAFT

Appendix XX, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area National Park Service Passport Program

Additional Terms, Conditions, and Content Applicable to This Partnership:

The national Passport to Your National Parks program is designed to serve as a log of the unique experiences that a visitor encounters as they visit national parks, landmarks, and heritage areas across the country. The cancellations record the National Park Service unit or National Heritage Area name, the community, and the date visited. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area passport program allows visitors to collect cancellation stamps at participating sites while learning more about Delta culture and history.

This appendix to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and _____ (Partner) outlines the guidelines and responsibilities of each entity. These duties are in addition to the general duties and standards of the MOU. By signing this agreement, the parties agree to the terms of this appendix.

Commission Duties

1. The Commission shall provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to the Partner.
2. The Commission shall purchase and provide passport stampers, ink bottles, ink pads, and NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials to the Partner.
3. The Commission shall feature the Partner, including a logo or photo, 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.
4. The Commission shall check with the Partner a minimum of twice a year to see if operating hours have changed.

Selected sites for visits and passport stamping must be within the NHA boundaries, open and accessible to the public, and either connected to interpretive themes as described in the NHA Management Plan or serving as a visitor information center.

Partner Duties

1. The Partner and its sites will make the stamp display, including stamper, ink pad, NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials, and an optional

supply of passport books, available during regular operating hours and in a prominent location for ease of access. Visitors will not be charged for accessing the passport stamper. Program participants can purchase passport books for resale through Eastern National, National Park Service's nonprofit partner if they wish.

2. The Partner shall provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
3. The Partners shall update the Commission if operating hours or any other pertinent facts about the partner need to be changed on the Commission website.
4. The Partner shall maintain the passport stamper (date updated, ink pad refilled, etc.) and notify the Commission as soon as possible when any Commission-provided supplies (stampers, ink pads, and collateral materials) are running low. A list of supplies provided to the partner is attached (to be attached).
5. The Partner shall ensure staff and volunteers are trained about the NHA and can share basic information about the NHA with passport program visitors.

Site Location(s)

...

Administrative Standards

Misuse of program supplies may be grounds for rescinding this appendix. See Dispute Resolution section in the MOU for guidance on this and other disputes.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Partnership Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and Contra Costa County Library (Partner). This MOU, which defines guidelines that generally apply to partnerships, is a living document that evolves as partnerships change and can be customized to the specific circumstances of each partnership through addenda.

Commission Duties

Management Plan Chapter 4 identified strategies to establish and support a network of partners to further the goals of the NHA. These strategies will be carried out according to the Management Plan's implementation plan. As part of implementing these strategies, the Commission shall:

1. Display the Partner's name and logo on the NHA website.
2. Allow the Partner to use the NHA logo, template, content, and branded items. "Content" means text, photographs, drawings, illustrations, and any other media used to convey information related to the NHA for use in interpretation and communication.
3. Conduct partner gatherings.
4. Establish an NHA-related email listserv and/or communication platform for partners.
5. Provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to partners.
6. Promote training opportunities in interpretation, grants, resource stewardship, heritage tourism, promotion, community development, and organizational development.
7. Host an annual Delta Leadership Program class for partners.
8. Establish a grant program for partners that supports projects and programs that align with the NHA's goals.
9. Provide staff time and direct funding to carry out projects and programs that align with the NHA's goals.

10. Support educational programs.
11. Continue to hold the annual Delta Heritage Forum and provide reserved spaces for partners.
12. Act as a clearinghouse of information, such as a resource inventory, grant and funding opportunities, partner database, interpretive provider database, regional planning efforts, and online calendar of events and activities.
13. Conduct in-person and virtual visits and meetings with state agencies that service the NHA and local governments, community groups, and organizations in the NHA.
14. Provide partner seats on advisory task groups.
15. Distribute Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier e-newsletters.
16. Manage and expand the NHA's web presence.
17. Prepare and implement the marketing plan to inform and engage partners.

Partner Duties

The Partner shall:

1. Provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
2. Only use Commission-approved logos, templates, content, and branded items in formal communications and interpretation performed to further the implementation of the NHA (e-mails, memoranda, and interagency communications are excluded from this requirement).
3. Participate in Commission and NHA meetings and events.
4. Complete a brief annual partner survey.
5. Comply with federal requirements regarding the NHA, including that activities performed by the partners in support of the NHA shall not directly or indirectly create any negative effect on the operations of the Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, or any water supply facilities within the Bay-Delta watershed (Public Law 116-9, Section 6001(a)(4)(C)).

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a disagreement between specific parties to this MOU, the first step to resolution shall be discussion between the Commission Executive Director and the signatory to the MOU on behalf of the partnership or their designee. If the dispute cannot be resolved via discussion, the second step may be referral to the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee as an agenda item at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee. As necessary, the issue may be further elevated for discussion at the next regularly

scheduled Commission meeting. If the issue remains unresolved, the partnership relationship may be dissolved by the unilateral decision of either the Commission or the partner.

Term of the MOU, Attachments, and Addenda

This MOU is in force until it is rescinded or amended. Addenda may be added on a rolling basis as needed. The MOU, attachments, and addenda may each be amended separately.

Primary Contacts

Partner	Delta Protection Commission
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Organization:	Street Address:
Street Address:	City:
City:	State:
State:	Zip Code:
Zip Code:	Email:
Email:	Main Phone:
Main Phone:	Alternate Phone:
Alternate Phone:	

Partner	Commission Representative
Representative Signature	Commission Representative Name
Representative Name (please print)	(please print)
Representative Title (please print)	Commission Representative Title
Date	Date

Appendix A, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area National Park Service Passport Program

Additional Terms, Conditions, and Content Applicable to This Partnership:

The national Passport to Your National Parks program is designed to serve as a log of the unique experiences that a visitor encounters as they visit national parks, landmarks, and heritage areas across the country. The cancellations record the National Park Service unit or National Heritage Area name, the community, and the date visited. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area passport program allows visitors to collect cancellation stamps at participating sites while learning more about Delta culture and history.

This appendix to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and Contra Costa County Library (Partner) outlines the guidelines and responsibilities of each entity. These duties are in addition to the general duties and standards of the MOU. By signing this agreement, the parties agree to the terms of this appendix.

Commission Duties

1. The Commission shall provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to the Partner.
2. The Commission shall purchase and provide passport stampers, ink bottles, ink pads, and NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials to the Partner.
3. The Commission shall feature the Partner, including a logo or photo, 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.
4. The Commission shall check with the Partner a minimum of twice a year to see if operating hours have changed.

Selected sites for visits and passport stamping must be within the NHA boundaries, open and accessible to the public, and either connected to interpretive themes as described in the NHA Management Plan or serving as a visitor information center.

Partner Duties

1. The Partner and its sites will make the stamp display, including stamper, ink pad, NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials, and an optional

supply of passport books, available during regular operating hours and in a prominent location for ease of access. Visitors will not be charged for accessing the passport stamper. Program participants can purchase passport books for resale through Eastern National, National Park Service's nonprofit partner if they wish.

2. The Partner shall provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
3. The Partner shall update the Commission if operating hours or any other pertinent facts about the partner need to be changed on the Commission website.
4. The Partner shall maintain the passport stamper (date updated, ink pad refilled, etc.) and notify the Commission as soon as possible when any Commission-provided supplies (stampers, ink pads, and collateral materials) are running low. A list of supplies provided to the partner is attached (to be attached).
5. The Partner shall ensure staff and volunteers are trained about the NHA and can share basic information about the NHA with passport program visitors.

Site Locations

- Antioch Branch, 501 W 18th Street, Antioch, CA
- Bay Point Branch, 205 Pacifica Avenue, Bay Point, CA
- Brentwood Branch, 104 Oak Street, Brentwood, CA
- Crockett Branch, 991 Loring Avenue, Crockett, CA
- Hercules Branch, 109 Civic Drive, Hercules, CA
- Martinez Branch, 740 Court Street, Martinez, CA
- Oakley Branch, 1050 Neroly Road, Oakley, CA
- Pittsburg Branch, 80 Power Avenue, Pittsburg, CA
- Rodeo Branch, 220 Pacific Avenue, Rodeo, CA

Administrative Standards

Misuse of program supplies may be grounds for rescinding this appendix. See Dispute Resolution section in the MOU for guidance on this and other disputes.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Partnership Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and Locke Foundation (Partner). This MOU, which defines guidelines that generally apply to partnerships, is a living document that evolves as partnerships change and can be customized to the specific circumstances of each partnership through addenda.

Commission Duties

Management Plan Chapter 4 identified strategies to establish and support a network of partners to further the goals of the NHA. These strategies will be carried out according to the Management Plan's implementation plan. As part of implementing these strategies, the Commission shall:

1. Display the Partner's name and logo on the NHA website.
2. Allow the Partner to use the NHA logo, template, content, and branded items. "Content" means text, photographs, drawings, illustrations, and any other media used to convey information related to the NHA for use in interpretation and communication.
3. Conduct partner gatherings.
4. Establish an NHA-related email listserv and/or communication platform for partners.
5. Provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to partners.
6. Promote training opportunities in interpretation, grants, resource stewardship, heritage tourism, promotion, community development, and organizational development.
7. Host an annual Delta Leadership Program class for partners.
8. Establish a grant program for partners that supports projects and programs that align with the NHA's goals.
9. Provide staff time and direct funding to carry out projects and programs that align with the NHA's goals.

10. Support educational programs.
11. Continue to hold the annual Delta Heritage Forum and provide reserved spaces for partners.
12. Act as a clearinghouse of information, such as a resource inventory, grant and funding opportunities, partner database, interpretive provider database, regional planning efforts, and online calendar of events and activities.
13. Conduct in-person and virtual visits and meetings with state agencies that service the NHA and local governments, community groups, and organizations in the NHA.
14. Provide partner seats on advisory task groups.
15. Distribute Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier e-newsletters.
16. Manage and expand the NHA's web presence.
17. Prepare and implement the marketing plan to inform and engage partners.

Partner Duties

The Partner shall:

1. Commit to assist with Management Plan strategies identified in Attachment A.
2. Provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
3. Only use Commission-approved logos, templates, content, and branded items in formal communications and interpretation performed to further the implementation of the NHA (e-mails, memoranda, and interagency communications are excluded from this requirement).
4. Participate in Commission and NHA meetings and events.
5. Complete a brief annual partner survey.
6. Comply with federal requirements regarding the NHA, including that activities performed by the partners in support of the NHA shall not directly or indirectly create any negative effect on the operations of the Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, or any water supply facilities within the Bay-Delta watershed (Public Law 116-9, Section 6001(a)(4)(C)).

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a disagreement between specific parties to this MOU, the first step to resolution shall be discussion between the Commission Executive Director and the signatory to the MOU on behalf of the partnership or their designee. If the dispute cannot be resolved via discussion, the second step may be referral to the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee as an agenda item at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee.

As necessary, the issue may be further elevated for discussion at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. If the issue remains unresolved, the partnership relationship may be dissolved by the unilateral decision of either the Commission or the partner.

Term of the MOU, Attachments, and Addenda

This MOU is in force until it is rescinded or amended. Addenda may be added on a rolling basis as needed. The MOU, attachments, and addenda may each be amended separately.

Primary Contacts

Partner	Delta Protection Commission
Name: Stuart Walthall Title: Chairman Organization: The Locke Foundation Street Address: 13916 Main Street City: Walnut Grove State: CA Zip Code: 95690 Email: New email pending Main Phone: 916-776-1828 Alternate Phone: 915-893-3727	Name: Title: Street Address: City: State: Zip Code: Email: Main Phone: Alternate Phone:

Partner	Commission Representative
Representative Signature	Commission Representative Name
Representative Name (please print)	(please print)
Representative Title (please print)	Commission Representative Title
Date	Date

Appendix A, Management Plan Strategies

Locke Foundation (Partner) commits to assist with the following Management Plan strategies:

- Strategy 1.1.5 Provide Virtual and in-Person Interpretive Training to NHA Partners to Enhance Interpretation Skills, Interpretive Site Management, Exhibit Development, and Related Skills.
- Strategy 1.2.1 Promote Delta-Wide Themed Special Events, Such As "Delta Days" or "Delta250" at NHA Sites.
- Strategy 1.3.1 Develop Interpretive Content, Programs, and Materials That Place the NHA in the Context of State and National History and Economy.
- Strategy 1.3.3 Highlight the Work of Past, Present, and Upcoming Artists and Writers Whose Work Includes the NHA Through Exhibits, Presentations, and Artist-in-Residency Programs.
- Strategy 1.4.5 Promote NHA-Themed Interpretive Materials and Programs Through Cultural Organizations.
- Strategy 2.3.2 Support Initiatives to Do Ethnography and Spoken History, and to Document Culture and Living Traditions.
- Strategy 3.1.5 Use Media and Social Media to Generate Awareness and Visitation.
- Strategy 3.1.7 Consider Developing Receptive Tour Services for Groups.
- Strategy 3.2.4 Work with Historic and Cultural Sites to Increase Access.
- Strategy 3.2.5 Create Orientation Exhibits for Welcome Centers and Other Locations.

Appendix B, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area National Park Service Passport Program

Additional Terms, Conditions, and Content Applicable to This Partnership:

The national Passport to Your National Parks program is designed to serve as a log of the unique experiences that a visitor encounters as they visit national parks, landmarks, and heritage areas across the country. The cancellations record the National Park Service unit or National Heritage Area name, the community, and the date visited. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area passport program allows visitors to collect cancellation stamps at participating sites while learning more about Delta culture and history.

This appendix to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and Locke Foundation (Partner) outlines the guidelines and responsibilities of each entity. These duties are in addition to the general duties and standards of the MOU. By signing this agreement, the parties agree to the terms of this appendix.

Commission Duties

1. The Commission shall provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to the Partner.
2. The Commission shall purchase and provide passport stampers, ink bottles, ink pads, and NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials to the Partner.
3. The Commission shall feature the Partner, including a logo or photo, 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.
4. The Commission shall check with the Partner a minimum of twice a year to see if operating hours have changed.

Selected sites for visits and passport stamping must be within the NHA boundaries, open and accessible to the public, and either connected to interpretive themes as described in the NHA Management Plan or serving as a visitor information center.

Partner Duties

1. The Partner and its sites will make the stamp display, including stamper, ink pad, NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials, and an optional

supply of passport books, available during regular operating hours and in a prominent location for ease of access. Visitors will not be charged for accessing the passport stamper. Program participants can purchase passport books for resale through Eastern National, National Park Service's nonprofit partner if they wish.

2. The Partner shall provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
3. The Partner shall update the Commission if operating hours or any other pertinent facts about the Partner need to be changed on the Commission website.
4. The Partner shall maintain the passport stamper (date updated, ink pad refilled, etc.) and notify the Commission as soon as possible when any Commission-provided supplies (stampers, ink pads, and collateral materials) are running low. A list of supplies provided to the Partner is attached (to be attached).
5. The Partner shall ensure staff and volunteers are trained about the NHA and can share basic information about the NHA with passport program visitors.

Administrative Standards

Locke Boarding House Museum, 13916 Main Street, Locke, CA

Administrative Standards

Misuse of program supplies may be grounds for rescinding this appendix. See Dispute Resolution section in the MOU for guidance on this and other disputes.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Partnership Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and RioVision (Partner). This MOU, which defines guidelines that generally apply to partnerships, is a living document that evolves as partnerships change and can be customized to the specific circumstances of each partnership through addenda.

Commission Duties

Management Plan Chapter 4 identified strategies to establish and support a network of partners to further the goals of the NHA. These strategies will be carried out according to the Management Plan's implementation plan. As part of implementing these strategies, the Commission shall:

1. Display the Partner's name and logo on the NHA website.
2. Allow the Partner to use the NHA logo, template, content, and branded items. "Content" means text, photographs, drawings, illustrations, and any other media used to convey information related to the NHA for use in interpretation and communication.
3. Conduct partner gatherings.
4. Establish an NHA-related email listserv and/or communication platform for partners.
5. Provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to partners.
6. Promote training opportunities in interpretation, grants, resource stewardship, heritage tourism, promotion, community development, and organizational development.
7. Host an annual Delta Leadership Program class for partners.
8. Establish a grant program for partners that supports projects and programs that align with the NHA's goals.
9. Provide staff time and direct funding to carry out projects and programs that align with the NHA's goals.

10. Support educational programs.
11. Continue to hold the annual Delta Heritage Forum and provide reserved spaces for partners.
12. Act as a clearinghouse of information, such as a resource inventory, grant and funding opportunities, partner database, interpretive provider database, regional planning efforts, and online calendar of events and activities.
13. Conduct in-person and virtual visits and meetings with state agencies that service the NHA and local governments, community groups, and organizations in the NHA.
14. Provide partner seats on advisory task groups.
15. Distribute Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier e-newsletters.
16. Manage and expand the NHA's web presence.
17. Prepare and implement the marketing plan to inform and engage partners.

Partner Duties

The Partner shall:

1. Commit to assist with Management Plan strategies identified in Attachment A.
2. Provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
3. Only use Commission-approved logos, templates, content, and branded items in formal communications and interpretation performed to further the implementation of the NHA (e-mails, memoranda, and interagency communications are excluded from this requirement).
4. Participate in Commission and NHA meetings and events.
5. Complete a brief annual partner survey.
6. Comply with federal requirements regarding the NHA, including that activities performed by the partners in support of the NHA shall not directly or indirectly create any negative effect on the operations of the Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, or any water supply facilities within the Bay-Delta watershed (Public Law 116-9, Section 6001(a)(4)(C)).

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a disagreement between specific parties to this MOU, the first step to resolution shall be discussion between the Commission Executive Director and the signatory to the MOU on behalf of the partnership or their designee. If the dispute cannot be resolved via discussion, the second step may be referral to the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee as an agenda item at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee.

As necessary, the issue may be further elevated for discussion at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. If the issue remains unresolved, the partnership relationship may be dissolved by the unilateral decision of either the Commission or the Partner.

Term of the MOU, Attachments, and Addenda

This MOU is in force until it is rescinded or amended. Addenda may be added on a rolling basis as needed. The MOU, attachments, and addenda may each be amended separately.

Primary Contacts

Partner	Delta Protection Commission
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Organization:	Street Address:
Street Address:	City:
City:	State:
State:	Zip Code:
Zip Code:	Email:
Email:	Main Phone:
Main Phone:	Alternate Phone:
Alternate Phone:	

Partner	Commission Representative
Representative Signature	Commission Representative Name
Representative Name (please print)	(please print)
Representative Title (please print)	Commission Representative Title
Date	Date

Appendix A, Management Plan Strategies

RioVision (Partner) commits to assist with the following Management Plan strategies:

- Strategy 1.1.1 Continue the Interpretive Planning Task Group to Support NHA Interpretive Planning and Projects.
- Strategy 1.3.3 Highlight the Work of Past, Present, and Upcoming Artists and Writers Whose Work Includes the NHA Through Exhibits, Presentations, and Artist-in-Residency Programs.
- Strategy 2.3.1 Develop a Committee to Advise on Cultural Projects.
- Strategy 2.3.2 Support Initiatives to Do Ethnography and Spoken History, and to Document Culture and Living Traditions.
- Strategy 3.1.1 Convene Tourism Partners to Create a Regional Network to Develop a Sustainable Tourism Program.

DRAFT

Appendix B, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area National Park Service Passport Program

Additional Terms, Conditions, and Content Applicable to This Partnership:

The national Passport to Your National Parks program is designed to serve as a log of the unique experiences that a visitor encounters as they visit national parks, landmarks, and heritage areas across the country. The cancellations record the National Park Service unit or National Heritage Area name, the community, and the date visited. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area passport program allows visitors to collect cancellation stamps at participating sites while learning more about Delta culture and history.

This appendix to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and RioVision (Partner) outlines the guidelines and responsibilities of each entity. These duties are in addition to the general duties and standards of the MOU. By signing this agreement, the parties agree to the terms of this appendix.

Commission Duties

1. The Commission shall provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to the Partner.
2. The Commission shall purchase and provide passport stampers, ink bottles, ink pads, and NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials to the Partner.
3. The Commission shall feature the Partner, including a logo or photo, 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.
4. The Commission shall check with the Partner a minimum of twice a year to see if operating hours have changed.

Selected sites for visits and passport stamping must be within the NHA boundaries, open and accessible to the public, and either connected to interpretive themes as described in the NHA Management Plan or serving as a visitor information center.

Partner Duties

1. The Partner and its sites will make the stamp display, including stamper, ink pad, NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials, and an optional

supply of passport books, available during regular operating hours and in a prominent location for ease of access. Visitors will not be charged for accessing the passport stamper. Program participants can purchase passport books for resale through Eastern National, National Park Service's nonprofit partner if they wish.

2. The Partner shall provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
3. The Partner shall update the Commission if operating hours or any other pertinent facts about the Partner need to be changed on the Commission website.
4. The Partner shall maintain the passport stamper (date updated, ink pad refilled, etc.) and notify the Commission as soon as possible when any Commission-provided supplies (stampers, ink pads, and collateral materials) are running low. A list of supplies provided to the Partner is attached (to be attached).
5. The Partner shall ensure staff and volunteers are trained about the NHA and can share basic information about the NHA with passport program visitors.

Site Location

RioVision Gallery, 116 Main Street, Rio Vista, CA

Administrative Standards

Misuse of program supplies may be grounds for rescinding this appendix. See Dispute Resolution section in the MOU for guidance on this and other disputes.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area National Park Service Passport Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The national Passport to Your National Parks program (Program) is designed to serve as a log of the unique experiences that a visitor encounters as they visit national parks, landmarks, and heritage areas across the country. The cancellations record the National Park Service unit or National Heritage Area name, the community, and the date visited. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area passport program allows visitors to collect cancellation stamps at participating sites while learning more about Delta culture and history.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), the local coordinating entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA), and the County of Yolo, a political subdivision of the State of California, on behalf of the Yolo County Library (Library) and outlines the guidelines and responsibilities of each entity regarding the Program.

A. Commission Duties

1. The Commission shall provide training and collateral materials regarding the NHA to the Library.
2. The Commission shall purchase and provide passport stampers, ink bottles, ink pads, and NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials to the Library.
3. The Commission shall feature the Library, including a logo or photo, 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.
4. The Commission shall check with the Library a minimum of twice a year to see if operating hours have changed.

Selected sites for visits and passport stamping must be within the NHA boundaries, open and accessible to the public, and either connected to interpretive themes as described in the NHA Management Plan or serving as a visitor information center.

B. Library Duties

1. The Library will make the stamp display, including stamper, ink pad, NHA and National Park Service collateral marketing materials, and an optional supply of passport books, available during regular operating hours and in a prominent location. Visitors will not be charged for accessing the passport stamper. Program participants can purchase passport books for resale through Eastern National, National Park Service's nonprofit partner if they wish.
2. The Library shall provide a logo or photo and brief description of the organization to be used on the Commission website (optional). Images between 600 and 1200 pixels wide (PNG or JPG) may be emailed to submit@delta.ca.gov.
3. The Library shall update the Commission if operating hours or any other pertinent facts about the Library need to be changed on the Commission website.
4. The Library shall maintain the passport stamper (date updated, ink pad refilled, etc.) and notify the Commission as soon as possible when any Commission-provided supplies (stampers, ink pads, and collateral materials) are running low. A list of supplies provided to the Library is attached (to be attached).
5. The Library shall ensure staff and volunteers are trained about the NHA and can share basic information about the NHA with passport program visitors.

C. Site Locations

- Arthur F. Turner Community Library, 1212 Merkley Avenue, West Sacramento, CA
- Clarksburg Branch Library, 52915 Netherlands Avenue, Clarksburg, CA

Administrative Standards; Term/Termination; Amendments

1. Misuse of program supplies may be grounds for terminating this MOU. See Dispute Resolution section in the MOU on this and other disputes.
2. This MOU is effective from the date it is fully executed by both parties and shall remain in effect until it is terminated by either party. Either party may terminate this MOU for their convenience and without cause by giving thirty (30) days' advance written notice to the other party hereto.
3. Any amendments or modifications to this MOU must be mutually agreed upon by the parties in writing.

D. Dispute Resolution

In the event of a disagreement between specific parties to this MOU, the first step to resolution shall be discussion between the Commission Executive Director and the signatory to the MOU on behalf of the Library or their respective designees. If the dispute

cannot be resolved via discussion, the second step may be referral to the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee as an agenda item at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee. As necessary, the issue may be further elevated for discussion at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. If the issue remains unresolved, the MOU may be terminated by the unilateral decision of either the Commission or the Library as provided in the MOU.

E. General Terms and Conditions

1. Third Party Beneficiaries. There are no intended third-party beneficiaries of any right or obligation of either party to this MOU.
2. Severability. If any provision of this MOU is deemed invalid or unenforceable, the balance of this MOU shall remain in full force and effect.
3. Compliance with Applicable Laws. This MOU is governed by the laws of the State of California. In performing their respective duties pursuant to this MOU, both parties shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
4. Relationship of the Parties. It is expressly understood that this is MOU is an agreement between two independent entities and that no individual agency, employee, partnership, joint venture, or other relationship is established by this MOU. The intent by both the Commission and the Library is simply to facilitate a collaborative relationship regarding the Commission's Program.
5. Integration. This MOU constitutes the entire understanding among the Parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior understandings and representations of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. Any representation, promise, or condition not incorporated into this MOU shall not be binding on any party to this MOU.
6. Authorized Representatives. The persons executing this MOU on behalf of each party affirmatively represent that s/he has the requisite legal authority to enter this MOU on behalf of the party and to bind the party to the terms and conditions of this MOU.
7. Counterparts; Electronic Signatures. This MOU may be executed electronically and in two (2) or more counterparts, each of which together shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
8. Notices. Notices and communications between the parties regarding this MOU shall be sent to the respective Primary Contacts by mail or email to the addresses identified on the following page. The parties may update the Primary Contacts without need for a formal amendment to this MOU. Either party may change or update its address or primary contact at any time by providing written notification to the other party.

F. Primary Contacts

Library	Delta Protection Commission
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Organization:	Street Address:
Street Address:	City:
City:	State:
State:	Zip Code:
Zip Code:	Email:
Email:	Main Phone:
Main Phone:	Alternate Phone:
Alternate Phone:	

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this MOU and agreed to its terms on the date when this MOU is fully executed by the parties.

Library
 Representative Signature
 Representative Name (please print)
 Representative Title (please print)
 Date

Commission Representative
 Commission Representative Name
 (please print)
 Commission Representative Title
 Date

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

March 20, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 13: Delta Socioeconomic Indicators Update

Prepared by: Virginia Gardiner

Presented by: Virginia Gardiner

Recommended Action: Receive Presentation and Accept Report

Type of Action: Receive

Background

Public Resources Code Section 29759 requires the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) to prepare an Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) regarding socioeconomic sustainability of the Delta region. The ESP, adopted in 2012, recommended an Economic Sustainability Scorecard, a recommendation later included in the 2013 Delta Plan. The Commission subsequently oversaw preparation of the 2015 Delta Regional Opportunity Analysis¹, which together with the ESP guided development of performance measures developed for Delta Plan Chapter 5 (Protect and Enhance the Unique Cultural, Recreational, Natural Resource, and Agricultural Values of the California Delta as an Evolving Place). Delta Plan Performance Measure 5.9 addresses the Delta Economy based on this Regional Opportunity Index (ROI).

The Commission initiated the Delta Socioeconomic Indicators Project in June 2016, with the goal of providing Delta leaders and communities with a tool to periodically take stock of resources and improve quality of life. The indicators are a regional dataset similar to the ROI, providing a repeatable snapshot of the overall economic and social well-being of the Delta region. They were developed through an iterative process with policymakers and community stakeholders of the Delta region. The first report covered the period 2011-2016 and was published as *Socioeconomic Indicators Report: The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta*.²

¹ Benner, C.; Hartzog, C.; Watterson, S. (2015)

² Visser, M.A.; Brinkley, C; Zlotnicki, J. (2018)

Current Update

The data for this update covers the period 2017-2022. The analysis replicates the methodology of the previous report with some technical improvements to facilitate future updates. The indicators are presented in both narrative and graphic forms to highlight trends across the Delta region. Data are separated, when possible, for the Primary and Secondary zones and compared with both statewide data and data for the San Joaquin Valley. Data sources include the Decennial Census, the American Communities Survey and other national, statewide, and regional statistics that are updated regularly and publicly available. The indicators include the following categories: Jobs and the Economy, Working Lands, Housing and Roads, Education, and Demographics. While not comprehensive, these indicators combine measures of physical and human capital, within the context of the Delta's unique characteristics. With this update the categories of Community Anchor Institutions and Broadband have been introduced.

Key Findings

During the study period many of the indicators remained stable or improved, despite factors such as the pandemic and inflation. An important improvement was the unemployment rate, which in the Secondary Zone dropped by 5 points from 12.4% to 7%. For the whole Delta the 7% unemployment rate remained comparable with the rest of the state (6.5%) and lower than the San Joaquin Valley (9.3%). Both median household and median individual income for the Delta increased over the previous period and were higher than the state as a whole, although the Primary Zone did not increase at as high a rate as the Secondary Zone.

Land in agricultural production from 2017 to 2022 increased by over 10% over the 2011-2016 study period. Continuing trends from the previous period, higher value crops were being planted, with corn coverage dropping and almonds increasing. In 2022, 350,000 acres of land in the Primary Zone were in active agriculture: Top crops by total land cover were alfalfa, corn, grapes, clover/wildflowers, and winter wheat.

The recreation indicators currently used (fishing and hunting licenses and park use data) may not provide a sufficiently comprehensive gauge, so in future updates we may investigate a different indicator. Housing reflected statewide trends in terms of reduced affordability and availability. However, home ownership rates were higher in both the Primary and Secondary zones than in California as a whole. Renter-occupied rates were lower.

Road pavement conditions, a measure of quality of infrastructure and public safety, have worsened since the previous period by over 20 percent.

Next Steps

Upon Commission acceptance of the final report, next steps fall into two categories – outreach, and follow-up tracking. In the first half of 2025 staff will develop outreach materials for presentation and distribution. Outreach will include promoting the public availability of the data for other researchers. Staff plans to coordinate this outreach with outreach by the Delta Stewardship Council on the Delta Resident Survey.

Follow-up tracking of Delta-specific agricultural productivity was suggested by Commissioner Eddy. Given the pressure for increased housing, the relationship between urban development, agricultural production and conversion of fallowed or idled lands should continue to be monitored. Staff will investigate developing a Delta-region agricultural productivity report in coordination with Delta counties and others. In addition, follow-up with Caltrans regarding the deterioration of state highway road conditions in the Delta should be a priority.

Delta Plan policies that could have effects on the Delta economy have been adopted in the past several years including the Ecosystem and Delta Levee Investment Strategy amendments. These changes and related regulations are recent enough that effects, if any, would not be reflected in the current (2017-2022) study period. Finally, the Delta Conveyance Project, if constructed, could also have significant effects that could be captured in future updates to the Socioeconomic Indicators.

Recommended Action

Receive the presentation and accept the report.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

Regional Economy (Strategic Theme)

Objective E.3 Facilitate regional economic development projects using the Delta Investment Fund and other funding sources.

3.1 Pursue the development of Delta regional economy studies and trend reports to assist with decision-making and funding opportunities.