



PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA
National Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 1 p.m.
Rio Vista Community Center
45 Main Street, Rio Vista, CA 94571

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Amanda Bohl, NHA Advisory Committee Chair
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment – an opportunity for members of the public to address the NHA Advisory Committee regarding items not on the agenda
4. Approval of August 20, 2025 ([p. 3](#)), and October 29, 2025 ([p. 10](#)), Meeting Minutes
5. Rio Vista Heritage Presentation – Tom Surh, RioVision
6. 2026 Meeting Schedule – Amanda Bohl ([p. 16](#))
7. Update on NHA Activities – Blake Roberts ([p. 18](#))
8. Report on Delta 250 Ad Hoc Task Group – Task Group
9. Report on Water Tour Ad Hoc Task Group – Task Group
10. VisitCADelta.com Events Calendar – Holly Heyser
11. Member Announcements and Adjourn

The agenda items listed above may be considered in a different order at the Committee meeting, subject to the discretion of the Chair. At the discretion of the Committee, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated

upon and may be subject to action. The Committee welcomes and encourages participation in its meetings. The Committee limits testimony to not more than three minutes per person, or more time at the discretion of the Chair.

Questions, Comments, and Requests

If you have any questions or have a request for reasonable modification or accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Delta Protection Commission at dpc@delta.ca.gov or (916) 375-4800.

Comments submitted to submit@delta.ca.gov by noon on December 16, 2025, will be shared with Committee members prior to the meeting to the extent possible. Public comments on each agenda item will follow the order of: 1) emailed comments, 2) those verbally requesting to make comments after notice offered by Chair during meeting.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Members

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

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: **Amanda Blosser** California State Parks | **Chris Lim** Contra Costa Resource Conservation District | **Karen Buhr**, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy | **Jeff Henderson**, Delta Stewardship Council | **Mike Moran**, East Bay Regional Park District | **Trevor Rice**, National Park Service | **Desmond Mackell**, Suisun Resource Conservation District. Other public agency representatives may also participate as ex-officio members.

ALTERNATE MEMBERS:

Douglas Hsia | Janet Lake | Gia Moreno | Jennifer Chapman | LeighAnn Davis

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
National Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 10 a.m. (Tour) and 1 p.m. (Meeting)
Benicia Capitol State Historic Park
114 West G Street, Benicia, CA 94510

Tour of Benicia Arsenal departing from Benicia Capitol State Historic Park – 10 a.m.

- Benicia Clock Tower, 189 Washington Street, Benicia, CA
- Commanding Officer's Quarters, 1 Washington Street, Benicia, CA
- Museum of History Benicia, Arsenal Galleries, 2600 Camel Road, Benicia, CA

Agenda – 1 p.m.

1. Call to Order – Elizabeth Patterson, NHA Advisory Committee Vice Chair

Vice Chair Elizabeth Patterson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commission Clerk Heather McClure called the roll. Present were Vice Chair Elizabeth Patterson; members Mike Campbell, Colin Coffey, Dwayne Eubanks, Carol Jensen, Don Nottoli, Jack Johnson (for Oscar Villegas), and David Stuart; alternate Douglas Hsia; and ex officio members Amanda Blosser, Chris Lim, Julie Lee (for Jeff Henderson), and Trevor Rice.

It was noted that Morris Lum arrived at 1:07 p.m. and Dan Whaley arrived at 1:10 p.m.

3. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public, but Vice Chair Patterson thanked everyone for coming to the Benicia State Capitol and noted the excellent job done by the tour guide, Don Dean.

4. Approval of June 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Nottoli motioned to approve the June 25, 2025, meeting minutes. Stuart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on NHA Activities – Blake Roberts

Roberts started with NHA outreach and noted that Chris Lim and Trevor Rice were able to speak to the Contra Costa County Watershed Forum. He also mentioned his own outreach opportunities including speaking to the Rotary Club of Oakley the following

morning, a presentation for the Sacramento Historical Society on September 23 at the Columbus Hall in Sacramento, a booth at the California Native American Day along with the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Conservancy, and his part of a four-person panel at the American Planning Association conference.

He spoke on the Delta Leadership Program window for nominations which runs from September through October, possibly extending into November. He then drew attention to the newsletter submission deadlines for *Delta Happenings*, and in particular the *Delta Heritage Courier* which comes out bimonthly. He stated calendar reminders will be sent out for those deadlines.

6. Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan – Kira O'Donnell and Blake Roberts Content here.

Roberts reported that Honey, the consultant that will be working on the tourism branding and marketing plan, will be attending the next meeting and possibly the December meeting as well, but unfortunately could not make it today. So far, staff has had two meetings with them. The first, a pre-kickoff to figure out logistics. Then the kickoff, which was a tour of the Delta to visit several sites within the National Heritage Area. Honey has requested a second tour as there were too many sites to cover in one day. He then mentioned they are currently working on a survey that will be going out possibly the end of October. Member Campbell requested to see the survey before it gets sent out.

7. Benicia History Discussion

Vice Chair Patterson introduced Allan Gandy, a writer and a resident of Benicia for 48 years. Gandy presented a detailed history of Matthew Turner, who was born in 1825 in Geneva, Ohio, and built 265 vessels in his career, with 184 constructed at the Benicia shipyard. Turner arrived in San Francisco on May 2, 1850, and stayed overnight in Benicia on May 9, 1850. Turner challenged conventional ship design and developed his own ship. His first ship was built in Eureka, the Brigantine Nautilus, which was designed to navigate the Pacific Ocean. Then he later moved his shipyard to Benicia in 1883. Notable ships include the Amaranth, Galilee (which sailed 63,834 nautical miles from 1905 to 1907), and others. The Galilee was converted into a magnetic observatory for the Carnegie Institute in 1905. Turner suffered a stroke in 1903, and his last ship was built in October 1904. The Call of the Sea foundation built a replica of the Galilee named Matthew Turner, launched in 2017 and now offers tours and youth programs.

8. Report on Delta 250 Ad Hoc Task Group – Task Group

Roberts noted the promotion of Delta-wide themed special events such as America 250, California 175, and Anza 250 provide opportunities to talk to partners about

potential projects. Roberts stated the task group met on Friday where they talked about a possible symposium on Anza with the Antioch Historical Society, and an America 250 commemoration with the Contra Costa County Historical Society. Member Hsia brought up providing information on America 250 at the various fairs in the Delta.

Ex officio Trevor Rice asked about the timeline for Honey's branding report and whether it could incorporate Delta 250-specific branding. Roberts responded that the branding work would likely not be finished until June, making it too late to incorporate Delta 250 branding.

9. Report on and Extend Term of Water Tour Ad Hoc Task Group – Task Group

Vice Chair Patterson said the group met recently, and at their next meeting plan to have members from a kayaking association to give information on kayaking potential in Suisun as well as the strait. She noted Carol Jensen has been putting together contacts with commercial operators to make arrangement for possible tours. She reiterated that “we don’t want to overload our roads, so water is our soft path to visiting the Delta.”

Ex officio Amanda Blosser brought up a canoe trip on Brannan Island and will forward that information to staff. Ex officio Trevor Rice mentioned San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park has previously run ships into the Delta, although they are currently having issues finding licensed captains to do it. Also out of the Maritime are the Sea Scouts, who run an annual trip with youth up into the Delta and it is a good opportunity for education on the Delta. He said he would forward both contacts to Roberts. Vice Chair Patterson suggested the Maritime might have a list of graduates and retired captains that would be helpful. Ex officio Julie Lee recalled a Captain Emil that does Sacramento River wine cruises out of Clarksburg that would be worth looking into. Jensen noted that Bill Wells is putting together a list of licensed captains.

Roberts stated that the Water Tour task group needs more time to pursue their goals beyond the original August 2025 expiration. He recommended extending the task group for one year.

Johnson motioned to approve the one-year extension. Stuart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Patterson asked for public comment and there was none.

10. Report on Proposition 4 Funding – Karen Buhr, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Roberts presented in place of ex officio Karen Buhr, who was unable to attend. He provided an overview of Proposition 4, passed in November 2024, which provides \$29

million of state funding to the Delta Conservancy. Of this, \$7 million is designated for community projects. There are two paths for grants: projects above \$100,000 (with two rounds, one in September 2025 and another in fall 2026) and projects under \$100,000 (continuous application, no rounds).

Vice Chair Patterson brought up a concern regarding the state not releasing all of the promised funds. Ex officio Chris Lim said he had heard that, yes, there is this potential at least for the first year. Roberts said he would stay on top of that issue and keep the Committee informed.

Vice Chair Patterson asked what the Conservancy's jurisdiction is and Roberts responded it is the legal Delta plus the Suisun Marsh. Vice Chair Patterson said there is a property assessment funding out of the Bay Area that nine Bay counties voted on and that Solano County would have access to. She stated it is in response to rising sea levels and the funding needed for work related to this issue. She recommended the Committee look into this.

The Conservancy will fund three categories of projects: community enhancements, restoration, and nature-based solutions. Roberts stated the Conservancy would like Committee to provide feedback on project types and criteria for prioritization. He said they are also looking for expert opinions from people who are willing to volunteer to be involved in the application review process.

Roberts stated that the Conservancy agreed to award additional points to projects associated with the NHA or aligned with the values of the Management Plan. He noted, however, that matching funds would not be used as a criterion, explaining that the federal government evaluates match fund eligibility based on whether a project could proceed without NHA support. Ex officio Amanda Blosser suggested that staffing the NHA is essential to its operations and therefore federal funding is critical to supporting those functions.

Member Nottoli requested a list of projects the Conservancy has funded as it would be helpful to assess future projects.

Member Coffey asked whether land acquisition is allowable under the grant and noted that East Bay Parks has often encouraged the Conservancy to pursue such acquisitions, as there are Delta islands that need preservation. Roberts was not certain, but Member Hsia suggested that it is included based on his experience with the town of Locke's ongoing processes.

Ex officio Trevor Rice spoke of support for small nonprofits and historical societies through training and workshops, as they often lack funds and expertise for preservation

activities. A suggestion was made to use small grants (under \$100,000) to fund workshops or trainings, such as on historical preservation tax credits or database management. Member Jenson agreed and noted it would make a world of difference.

Vice Chair Patterson asked Roberts to send out a response form to allow everyone to comment.

11. Partnership and Passport Program Update – Blake Roberts

Roberts stated there are now 11 partnerships established, and the list is being constantly updated on the Delta NHA website (delta.ca.gov/NHA). An online form is available for organizations interested in becoming partners, which asks for information regarding partnership agreements and alignment with NHA management plan strategies. He thanked Holly Heyser for assembling the web resources. He reported there is continued outreach to potential partners in communities that do not yet have passport sites. He will speak to the San Joaquin County Historical Society in October and plans to increase outreach with being as geographically spread as possible. He announced the passport program is close to launching, with a placeholder page currently available. The launch is delayed due to bureaucratic issues with Eastern National (National Park Service's nonprofit partner) regarding ordering complex rubber stamps. The website will feature a map of passport locations and nearby attractions.

Ex officio Amanda Blosser suggested reaching out to Wilton Rancheria, which is interested in co-managing Delta meadows.

12. Business Partnerships – Blake Roberts

Roberts discussed the potential inclusion of businesses as passport sites. Current selection criteria require that participating sites be located within the NHA boundaries, open to the public, and connected to interpretive themes outlined in the Management Plan. While no other NHAs currently allow businesses to serve as passport sites, he recommended permitting them when a strong connection to interpretive themes can be demonstrated—particularly for businesses such as agritourism venues, marinas, or those operating in historic buildings identified in the Management Plan as potential interpretive locations. He stated he wanted to get the Committee's feedback on these ideas before moving forward to confirm everyone's comfort with these partnerships.

Vice Chair Patterson asked for a simple thumb-up from everyone in the room to confirm comfortability with these plans and determined it was only a warm response and should be revisited.

13. Federal Funding Update - Blake Roberts

Roberts provided an update on federal funding for the NHA. The NHA will receive \$157,000 for the current federal fiscal year, not the previously expected \$500,000. This is due to National Park Service guidance that Tier 2 funding only begins in the fiscal year following management plan approval. The deadline to receive the funds is September 30. Plans to hire a new interpreter and begin a grant program are postponed until Congress approves a new budget.

He also reported that the FY 2026 federal budget process is underway and there is cautious optimism for similar funding next year, as appropriations committees in both the House and Senate have approved budgets for National Heritage Areas.

14. Delta Heritage Forum Planning – Kira O'Donnell and Blake Roberts

Roberts noted that, based on feedback received, planning for the event is expected to follow a similar one-day format to the November 2024 forum, including panels, lightning talks, storytellers, and networking opportunities for a broad audience. Also, it was recommended to hold the next Forum in early 2026 due to current staffing constraints. He commented that staff does not want to be stretched too thin but recognizes the need for a steering committee to help plan the forum and asked for volunteers to contact him.

Vice Chair Patterson stated she and Carol Jensen had already talked about providing input and would volunteer. She then recruited Dwayne Eubanks as well.

Roberts mentioned he may solicit the expertise of others as needed.

Member Campbell asked for the theme of this year's forum which would be helpful to refine needs for input.

Vice Chair Patterson concluded the discussion with the idea of building on the success of last year's forum but also looking at ecological aspects that could be featured.

15. Member Announcements and Adjourn

Member Campbell suggested a central repository for events that are going on in the Delta, a Delta calendar of events all posted to a single website so that people would have a way to find out about everything in one place. This would also add to brand visibility. Roberts said he would discuss it with the consultants. Ex officio Julie Lee commented that other NHA's have their own websites and that it would give better search results if we have our own NHA site.

Program Manager Blake Roberts thanked Vice Chair Patterson for the tour, Amanda Blosser for the venue, and Allan Gandy for his presentation. He announced the next meeting will be on October 29.

Vice Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Big Break Visitor Center
69 Big Break Road Oakley, CA

1. Call to Order – Amanda Bohl, NHA Advisory Committee Chair

Chair Bohl called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Bohl, who became executive director of the Delta Protection Commission on Oct. 20, introduced herself to the Committee, noting she had been working in the Delta since 2012.

2. Welcome Roll Call

Commission Clerk Heather McClure called the roll. Present were Chair Bohl; Vice Chair Elizabeth Patterson; members Diane Burgis, Colin Coffey, Dwayne Eubanks, Morris Lum, Carol Jensen, Jack Johnson (for Oscar Villegas), David Stuart, and Stuart Walthall; alternates LeighAnn Davis and Douglas Hsia; and ex officio members Karen Buhr, Megan Thomson (for Jeff Henderson), and Mike Moran.

3. Public Comment

Chair Bohl asked for public comment and there was none.

4. Approval of August 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Chair Bohl reported that the minutes were not ready and would be presented at the next meeting.

5. Update on NHA Activities – Blake Roberts and Kira O'Donnell

NHA Information Officer Kira O'Donnell reported that she had attended the September meeting of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas in Bismarck, North Dakota, hosted by the Northern Plains National Heritage Area. She said she had found it educational and inspirational to learn about another NHA's dynamic partnerships and work to preserve and promote the area's rich history.

She also noted that Communications Intern Jada Portillo had been doing excellent work updating the VisitCADelta website, and had begun building an events calendar on the site.

She also pointed out that staff had shared deadlines for the year's *Delta Heritage Courier* newsletters in agenda materials.

NHA Program Manager Blake Roberts reported that staff had created a Delta Reading List at the direction of former Interim Executive Director Dan Ray, with the goal of partner libraries using it to direct NHA visitors to Delta literature in their respective collections.

He also noted the NHA was honored earlier in the month with a Planning Excellence Award from the Sacramento Valley Section of the American Planning Association.

Vice Chair Patterson noted that state publications are required to be sent to all libraries and suggested librarians provide links to Delta-related documents.

Eubanks noted he's trying to plan a Committee tour of Antioch's new desalination plant, and asked Roberts to help coordinate.

6. Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan – Maggie Giordanengo, Meghan Leno, and Ash Rodseth of Honey Agency, Inc.

A team from the Honey Agency discussed its work to date and plans for developing a Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan for the Delta NHA.

Their vision includes:

- Uniting and amplifying the Delta's living heritage.
- Agricultural traditions, natural treasures, and vibrant communities converge to tell a California story.

Their project goals are to:

- Synthesize and enhance previous planning efforts led by the Commission by leveraging existing resources and new market insights.
- Develop the Delta NHA brand positioning as the leading tourism-driven identity for the region, utilizing this work to create cohesiveness in the Delta's brand tapestry.
- Build a marketing plan with sustainable, long-term growth with strategic tactics that are built with holistic, data-backed success measurements in mind.

Their tasks are:

- Project coordination and record keeping (they are currently in the early stages of this task).
- Continue building lasting relationships while advancing our mission in the Delta region.

- Develop insights on the evolving perspectives and state of affairs surrounding the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's brand image.
- Review current landscape of materials to inform brand development of messaging and design.
- Define the strategic and visual brand positioning.
- Build a marketing plan with sustainable, long-term growth with strategic tactics that are built with holistic, data-backed success measurement in mind.

Challenges and opportunities include:

- Low awareness outside the region, which is an opportunity to position the Delta as a hidden gem worth discovering.
- Inconsistent branding and signage, which is an opportunity to build cohesion across towns, experiences and partners.
- Balancing preservation with tourism, which is an opportunity to lead with stewardship and a "travel with care" ethos.
- Limited infrastructure, which is an opportunity to drive economic impact through local business engagement.
- Undefined sense of place for NHA, which is an opportunity to create a unified voice and identity for the region.

They noted that the Committee could help the process by:

- Acting as guides and voices of the community.
- Sharing insights on what makes the Delta unique.
- Helping validate themes, tone and storytelling directions.
- Ensuring authenticity and inclusivity.

They said next steps included:

- Digital surveys, hearing from stakeholders, residents and potential visitors.
- Discovery workshops to review early emerging survey findings and facilitate design-thinking exercises to unpack opportunities for the brand plan in more detail.
- Research and brand analysis to synthesize key findings to inform the overall brand development and marketing plan.

Committee members asked questions about the survey process and target audience. Audiences will include DPC staff and Committee members, as well as businesses and Delta stakeholders, as well as an external audience.

Vice Chair Patterson noted that local officials don't value tourism a great deal, even though it's one of the state's four major revenue sources. She urged including local officials in the survey.

Burgis noted that having lots of things to do nearby is a huge driver for getting major businesses such as a Facebook campus – people want to live there if there are things to do. This represents huge potential for growing jobs where we live.

Stuart noted that research done for Visit Lodi had some real surprises, including the fact that Reno and Los Angeles were big sources of tourists to the area.

Hsia noted that branding Delta agricultural products could be a huge plus.

Bohl asked for public comment, and there was one. University of California, Merced, researcher Isaac Sanchez asked how he can keep up with what the research is finding.

7. Membership of Tourism and Marketing Plan-Related Advisory Task Groups – Amanda Bohl

Chair Bohl said with the development of the tourism and marketing plan, it was a good time to stand up two task groups identified in the Committee charter but not yet activated: communications and marketing, and heritage development and tourism. Each task group can have no more than five Committee members.

At the urging of Vice Chair Patterson, Bohl agreed to solicit interest via an email poll to Committee members.

Bohl asked for public comment and there was none.

8. Recognition of Past Committee Members – Blake Roberts

Roberts solicited Committee input on how we might honor departing Committee members, such as former Interim Executive Dan Ray, who served as chair for much of the year.

Vice Chair Patterson suggested a celebration, inviting U.S. Rep. John Garamendi and others instrumental in the creation of the NHA. She said a celebratory working group might be in order.

Stuart noted that for gifts, plaques are a default choice, but there are more creative possibilities, including very Delta-specific products.

Chair Bohl offered to coordinate an ad hoc task group to discuss further. Stuart, Burgis, and Vice Chair Patterson volunteered to be part of the ad hoc task group.

Bohl asked for public comment and there was none.

9. Report on Delta 250 Ad Hoc Task Group – Task Group

Roberts reported that the task group would be setting up a meeting over the next few weeks.

Bohl asked for public comment and there was none.

10. Report on Water Tour Ad Hoc Task Group – Task Group

Vice Chair Patterson noted that the task group had been waiting for the new Executive Director to come on board before developing an overarching concept.

She noted that water is the “soft path” into the Delta, and said Eubanks has been writing to marinas to get them to be partners. She noted the group had been thinking about duplicating a flotilla that the State Lands Commission did in the 1990s. And she noted that Jensen had made contact with a boat touring outfit interested in touring the Delta.

She said American Cruise Lines is interested in operating Delta tours but hasn’t had the capacity to pursue a docking situation.

Jensen recalled President Franklin Roosevelt’s presidential yacht, noted that one of the captains is a “Delta rat” (Chris Lauritzen), and that the yacht can shoot the Carquinez Strait and come to Sacramento.

Eubanks mentioned another potential partner: Steve’s Delta Adventures in Lodi.

Bohl asked for public comment and there was none.

11. Partnership and Passport Program Update – Blake Roberts

Program Manager Roberts reported that the NHA had acquired four new partners: California Delta Chambers, City of West Sacramento, Crockett Chamber of Commerce, and Solano County Library.

He also reported that the Passport Program is ready to go, waiting now only on stamps, which has been a challenging process.

Bohl asked for public comment and there was none.

12. Member Announcements and Adjourn

Hsia announced that Feb. 14 would be the date of the Locke Chinese New Year celebration. He hopes to add something regarding America 250.

Eubanks said the Antioch Historical Museum would have its First Congregational Church Bell dedication on Nov. 1, and it's also the 50th anniversary of the Antioch Historical Society.

He also discussed development of a symposium commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Anza expedition, tentatively scheduled for April 11.

Davis noted that she had secured 10 Contra Costa authors to be at the History Center in Martinez for "Cocoa with CoCo County Authors" for Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29.

Chair Bohl asked for public comment and there was none. She adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

December 17, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 6: 2026 Meeting Schedule

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Recommended Action: Approve the Committee's 2026 Meeting Calendar

Type of Action: Vote

In 2025, Committee meetings were generally scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of even-numbered months, with alternate meeting dates on the fourth Wednesday of odd-numbered months. Since the fourth Wednesday in December fell on Christmas Eve, the meeting was scheduled for the third Wednesday.

Commission staff recommend that the Committee consider a shift from a bimonthly to a quarterly meeting schedule to provide more time for the Committee's task groups to work between Committee meetings. The Committee meetings would take place on the following dates:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ March 25, 2026 | ▪ September 23, 2026 |
| ▪ June 24, 2026 | ▪ December 16, 2026 |

Alternate Committee meetings would only be held if called by the Executive Director.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ January 28, 2026 | ▪ July 22, 2026 |
| ▪ February 25, 2026 | ▪ August 26, 2026 |
| ▪ April 22, 2026 | ▪ October 28, 2026 |
| ▪ May 27, 2026 | ▪ November 18, 2026 |

A calendar view of these dates is shown on the next page.

Historically, meeting times have been from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. This time, however, makes it difficult for community members and some Committee members to attend. The Committee may want to consider shifting the meeting time to later in the day to better accommodate these conflicts.

Recommended Action

Commission staff recommends the Committee 1) approve the 2026 Committee meeting calendar; 2) discuss shifting the meeting time; and 3) set the meeting time for 2026.

2026

- Proposed meeting date
○ Proposed alternate meeting date

JANUARY

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National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Meeting

December 17, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 7: Update on NHA Activities

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts

Recommended Action: Receive Update on NHA Activities

Type of Action: Receive

Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan

Honey worked with Commission staff to prepare and distribute surveys of internal and external stakeholders, which were released on December 3. After the close of the survey, there will be two discovery workshops attended by Commission staff, Committee members, and stakeholders to discuss detailed survey results and next steps.

Ad Hoc Task Group Membership

After the October 29 meeting, Commission staff asked committee members about their interest in serving on the Communications & Marketing Task Group and the Heritage Development & Tourism Task Group. The development of the Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan provides an opportunity to engage these two task groups in providing feedback on plan components. The Commission's Executive Director has appointed the following committee members to the task groups:

Marketing and Communications

- Gia Moreno
- Colin Coffey
- Carol Jensen
- Jennifer Chapman

Heritage Development and Tourism

- Mike Campbell
- Jennifer Chapman
- Lisa Craig
- Elizabeth Patterson
- Dan Whaley

No more than five voting Committee members can serve on a single advisory task group. Any remaining members of the task group will be comprised of ex officio members, subject matter experts, and stakeholders.

Recognition of National Heritage Area Contributors

On November 24, Amanda Bohl and Kira O'Donnell met with Commission Chair Diane Burgis and Dave Stuart to discuss formal recognition of individuals who contributed to the formation and ongoing support of the NHA. The group decided that, due to restricted Commission staff time, an in-person recognition event must be limited to a scheduled Committee meeting. Chair Burgis suggested this type of recognition could be scheduled once a year.

The group discussed recognizing contributors from the inception of the NHA through the present. Chair Burgis requested that we honor "all significant people," including Committee members, Tribal members, elected officials and their staff, advocates, and citizens. Blake Roberts was tasked with building a comprehensive timeline and list of potential honorees.

The group agreed that an appropriate gift for honorees would involve Delta artwork, and it was suggested that the Delta Leadership Program may be able to play a role in helping to resource appropriate gift items. Currently Amanda is investigating possible funding options for procuring the gifts.

Partnership and Passport Programs

The Commission currently has approved agreements with 16 partners. The Commission website has a [page for the partnership program](#), which includes a fillable form for prospective partners, and a list of all partners on the [main NHA webpage](#). The partnership agreements enable the Commission to have 28 [Passport to Your National Park](#) cancellation stations.

The Commission website has a [passport program page](#) that announces that the program will be launching soon. We anticipate receipt of stamping supplies from Eastern National, National Park Service's nonprofit partner, in the coming weeks. Staff have produced passport stations that include stamping supplies and [NHA fact sheets \(PDF\)](#), and provide QR codes to the [NHA webpage](#), [VisitCAdelta website](#), [Delta Reading List](#), and [Passport to Your National Parks program](#) website.

Staff are training passport program partners and will deliver passport stations and supplies prior to launch. At launch, the current webpage will be replaced with a new page that includes a map of passport locations and nearby attractions.

Commission staff are continuing to conduct outreach to potential partners and anticipate finalizing memoranda of understanding with additional partners, including those that would participate in the passport program. We are seeking partners in communities that do not have passport sites – Bethel Island, Byron, Discovery Bay, Freeport, Hood, Knightsen, Mountain View, Port Costa, Ryde, and Terminous.

Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier Newsletters

Commission staff released the [November/December Delta Heritage Courier](#) on November 13 and have included heritage-related material for the biweekly Delta Happenings newsletter. The deadlines for material for Courier issues for 2026 are:

- **January/February 2026:** Deadline is Wednesday, December 31, with a scheduled release date of Thursday, January 8.
- **March/April 2026:** Deadline is Wednesday, February 25, with a scheduled release date of Thursday, March 5.
- **May/June 2026:** Deadline is Wednesday, May 6, with a scheduled release date of Thursday, May 14.
- **July/August 2026:** Deadline is Wednesday, July 1, with a scheduled release date of Thursday, July 9.
- **September/October 2026:** Deadline is Wednesday, August 26, with a scheduled release date of Thursday, September 3.
- **November/December 2026:** Deadline is Wednesday, November 4, with a scheduled release date of Thursday, November 12.

Reopening of the Federal Government

The Heritage Partnership Program (HPP) provides federal funding to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA and nearly all members of the National Heritage Area System. HPP funding is distributed based on a formula that differentiates NHAs that have not completed their management plan (Tier 1) from those who have completed the plan (Tier 2). As a Tier 1 NHA, we received \$157,500 during Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. NHAs are eligible to move up to Tier 2 (typically \$500,000) in the fiscal year following their management plan being approved.

Since National Park Service (NPS) approved our management plan on January 16, 2025, we are eligible for Tier 2 funding in FY 2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026). The

continuing resolution that reopened the Federal government and expires on January 30, 2026, maintains the same HPP funding as FY 2025. NPS is awaiting more information about distribution of funds under the continuing resolution.

Staffing Augmentation

Approval of two positions for the NHA, which would make the limited term NHA information officer position permanent, is postponed until Federal funding is confirmed for Federal Fiscal Year 2026.

Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA)

Amanda Bohl and Blake Roberts will be attending the 2026 ANHA annual meeting at Washington, DC the week of February 2.