



PUBLIC NOTICE AND MEETING AGENDA **Delta Protection Commission**

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 5-7 p.m. (end time is approximate)

Members of the public are invited to participate at the main meeting location, at any teleconference location, or remotely via the meeting link:

Main Meeting Location

Marina Community Center, 340 Marina Blvd., Pittsburg, CA 94565

Teleconference Locations

Teleconference Location #1: 675 Texas Street, Suite 6500, Office 6025, Fairfield, CA 94533

Teleconference Location #2: 5555 Zuckerman Rd, Stockton, CA 95206

Teleconference Location #3: 2771 Holland Place, Woodland, California, 95776

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/299623400616368?p=1zUHqs7AoleTkLpmLJ>

Meeting ID: 299 623 400 616 368

Password: 56TN3ko3

Dial in by Phone

[+1 916-573-2034](tel:+19165732034), [904638041#](tel:+1904638041) United States, Sacramento

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 904 638 041#

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

Consent Agenda

4. Approval of Draft May 11, 2026, and June 16, 2026, Meeting Minutes ([p. 4](#))

Regular Agenda

5. Report on Delta Stewardship Council Activities – Chair Diane Burgis
6. Report on Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Activities – DPAC Chair Anna Swenson
7. Executive Director’s Report – Executive Director Amanda Bohl ([p. 6](#))
8. Consider Approval of Appointment to Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) – Executive Director Amanda Bohl ([p. 11](#)) **POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM**
9. Selection of Subcommittee to Review Applications for National Heritage Area (NHA) Advisory Committee – Executive Director Amanda Bohl ([p. 14](#)) **POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM**
10. Consider approval of changes to the National Heritage Area Partnership Agreement Template – NHA Program Manager Blake Roberts ([p. 15](#)) **POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM**
11. NHA Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan: Brand Identity – NHA Information Officer Kira O’Donnell ([p. 30](#))
12. Delta Conveyance Project Update and Approval of a Subcommittee – Executive Director Amanda Bohl **POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM**

Closed Session

13. Discussion of potential litigation regarding the Delta Stewardship Council’s approval of Resolution 20 26-03 on April 23, 2026, largely approving DWR’s Certification of Consistency for the Delta Conveyance Project and denying the majority of appeals filed, including the Delta Protection Commission’s appeal, of the certification. (Govt. Code § 11126(e)(2)(C).)

Return to Regular Agenda

14. Commissioner Comments/Announcements
15. 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. For each agenda item, the Commission will invite public comment; comments will be limited to not more than three minutes per person, or more time at the discretion of the Chair. Meeting materials will be made available on the

Commission's website prior to the meeting. Hard copies will also be available at the in-person meeting location.

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 July 15, 2026, 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 | **Steven Ding**, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors | **Edwin Okamura**, Cities of Contra Costa and Solano counties | **Terri Hupfer**, Cities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties | **Cameron Bregman**, 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 | **Matthew Dumlao**, CA State Lands Commission

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

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Delta Protection Commission

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 5-6 p.m.
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Conference Room
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento, CA 95691

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Flag Salute

Acting Chair Oscar Villegas called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Welcome and Roll Call

Clerk Heather McClure called the roll. Present at roll call were Commissioners Oscar Villegas, Steven Ding (online), Terri Hupfer (online), Edwin Okamura (online), Cameron Bregman, Tom Slater, Mitch Mashburn (online), Dean Ruiz (online), Christine Birdsong (online), Jim Paroli (phone); and Ex Officio Designee Gary Prost (for Sen. Jerry McNerney). At this time a quorum of commissioners was present.

Commissioner Jaylen Tran was present during roll call from a remote location that was not noticed on the agenda; therefore, she could not be counted toward the quorum.

Also present were Executive Director Amanda Bohl, Counsel Nicole Rinke, Ellen Wehr, and Morris Lum.

Ex Officio Member Rhodesia Ransom joined the closed session remotely at 5:10 p.m.

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

There were no comments from members of the public.

Closed Session

4. Discussion of potential litigation regarding the Delta Stewardship Council's approval of Resolution 20 26-03 on April 23, 2026, largely approving DWR's Certification of Consistency for the Delta Conveyance Project and denying the majority of appeals filed, including the Delta Protection Commission's appeal, of the certification. (Govt. Code § 11126(e)(2)(C).)

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 5:07 p.m. and returned from closed session at 6:04 p.m. Acting Chair Villegas stated there was no reportable action taken during the closed session.

Return to Regular Agenda

5. Adjourn

Acting Chair Villegas adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

July 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 7: Executive Director’s Report

Prepared by: Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Presented by: Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Recommended Action: Receive the Executive Director’s Report

Type of Action: Receive

ADMINISTRATION

Commission Budget Update

The FY 25/26 budget year ended June 30, 2026, with the following near-final accounting of spending:

FY 25/26 Categories	Budget Amount	Total Expenses and Projections	Difference
Salaries/Wages and Benefits	\$1,640,000	\$1,144,000	\$496,000
Operating Expenses	\$442,800	\$920,000	(\$477,200)
Reimbursements	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Total	\$2,132,800	\$2,064,000	\$68,800

The FY 26/27 budget year began July 1, 2026. Funding from the state remained the same, but funding from the federal government—for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area—increased from \$157,000 to \$500,000:

26/27 Funding Sources	Fund Amount	FY 26/27 Categories	Budget Amount
Environmental License Plate Fund	\$1,532,000	Salaries/Wages and Benefits	\$1,737,000
Harbors and Watercraft Fund	\$302,000	Operating Expenses	\$597,000
Federal Fund	\$500,000	Reimbursements	-
Total	<u>\$2,334,000</u>	Total	<u>\$2,334,000</u>

Staffing

Senior Environmental Planner – Sarah Sugar joined the Commission on July 1. Sarah joins us from the State Water Resources Control Board where she most recently worked on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation. Sarah will be serving as the land use lead, reviewing land use projects in the Delta and scoping an update to the Land Use Resource Management Plan. Sarah has a master’s degree in Environmental Management from Yale University.

Commission Clerk – Trisha Iley was scheduled to join the Commission on July 13. Trisha most recently worked at the University of California San Francisco as a Research Data Analyst II. Trisha’s duties include Commission and committee meeting planning, meeting material development and review, meeting logistics, and administrative support. Trisha has a bachelor's degree with a double major in economics and history from UC Berkeley.

Program Manager – The Commission is actively recruiting to fill the vacant Program Manager 1 position. This position will perform oversight and management of the Commission’s socioeconomic projects, such as the Economic Sustainability Report, Socioeconomic Indicators Report, and Great California Delta Trail. The incumbent will serve as a leader in applying quantitative and qualitative social science methods and analysis to research that addresses Delta management issues. The application period closes on July 27, 2026, and the job description is available on CalCareers: <https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControllId=522290>.

Research and Legislative Intern – Sergio Montiel started on June 8. Sergio is participating in the Arizona State University Sacramento Scholars Program and will be with the

Commission until August 11. Sergio is assisting in legislative tracking and analysis and research related to levees and the National Heritage Area.

Communications Intern - Makena Lendahl started on June 26. A resident of Rocklin, Makena is majoring in journalism at San Jose State, where she will work at the student newspaper this fall. She will be working primarily on National Heritage Area communications: shooting photo and video at Delta events, populating the VisitCADelta.com calendar, ensuring venue/facility listings at VisitCADelta.com are up to date. Her personal interest in travel (demonstrated in her personal blog, [The Loquacious Nomad](#)) will mesh well with the NHA's focus on encouraging travel to the Delta.

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

NHA Advisory Committee

The National Heritage Area (NHA) Advisory Committee (NHAAC) met on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at the Ryde Hotel in Ryde. The agenda included recognition of former members of the NHA Management Plan Advisory Committee, NHAAC, and task groups. Those in attendance received a commemorative mug decorated with a passport stamp. Elizabeth Patterson was appointed chair of the NHAAC by Executive Director Bohl, and Carol Jensen was selected as the vice chair by the NHAAC members. The committee also discussed the FY 26/27 workplan and budget and provided feedback on draft NHA logos and taglines (please see agenda item 12 for more information).

The next NHA Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23 in Solano County.

NHA Outreach

Commission staff and NHA Advisory Committee members participated in the following outreach efforts:

- **Walnut Grove Rotary Meeting:** Blake Roberts spoke to members of the Walnut Grove Rotary about the NHA on June 1 at Walnut Grove Community Presbyterian Church.
- **Sacramento Historical Society Program:** Blake Roberts spoke about the impact of the Delta's diversity on agriculture and the landscape of the United States on June 23 at the Columbus Hall in Sacramento. He was part of a larger program on the impact of the Sacramento region on American and international history.

LAND USE

Delta Conveyance Project

On June 17, 2026, the Commission—via outside Counsel Ellen Wehr—submitted a letter to the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) requesting that they enter a tolling agreement with the Commission regarding the Council’s April 23, 2026 Decision No. D20257 denying appeals of DWR’s certification of consistency for the Project.

Commission Land Use Comments

Commission staff submitted a letter to the California Department of Transportation supporting the City of West Sacramento’s Active Transportation Program grant application for the Southport Setback Levee Recreation Trail. The project would improve access to an existing trail corridor serving urban and agricultural areas by paving a publicly accessible levee crown. The project is consistent with the Commission’s mission and would strengthen connections to the Great California Delta Trail while advancing the Master Plan’s goals to promote existing trail segments and close gaps.

AGRICULTURE

Walking Wetlands

Commission staff are helping lead a multi-partner team developing a concept proposal for Proposition 4 funding through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. The proposed pilot project would test the walking wetlands concept through research and field implementation as a potential approach to reducing or reversing subsidence while maintaining agriculture in the Delta. Similar to crop rotation, walking wetlands temporarily place agricultural fields into a managed wetland for one or two years before returning them to crop production. The approach has been used in the Klamath Basin, where it has provided wildlife habitat and demonstrated potential benefits such as subsidence reversal, reduced pesticide and herbicide use and improved crop yields.

Agricultural Conversion Report

Staff continue to fine tune the agricultural and conversion report started under the leadership of Interim Executive Director Dan Ray. With an initial scope of studying how the conversion of ag land to restoration is affecting farming, it has been expanded to explore how the third leg of the coequal goals—Delta as an evolving place—can better keep Delta farmers farming. The paper will explore how the State can do a better job supporting agriculture in the Delta especially amidst a rapidly changing climate.

Recent revisions include updated project acreage and farmland conversion estimates,

revised figures and maps, additional policy context, and expanded discussion of impacts to farmers, reclamation districts, and Delta communities. Staff anticipates releasing a public review draft this fall.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletters

As of June 25, the Commission had published three newsletters since the last Executive Director’s Report:

[Delta Happenings – May 19](#)

- Subject line: SR-4 Closures, Leaders, Rice, Bats, and a Feather in Rio Vista's Cap
- Most-clicked links: Delta Leadership Program honored by DPC, VisitCADelta events calendar, Delta Conveyance Project Community Benefits Program listening sessions

[Delta Happenings – June 2](#)

- Subject Line: Beaver Festival, Delta Heritage Leadership (NHAAC openings*), Rice, Newsmakers, Road Closures
- Most-clicked links: VisitCADelta events calendar, NHA Advisory Committee openings, Delta Restoration Forum

[Delta Happenings – June 16](#)

- Subject Line: Farms. Parks. Delta Events this Weekend!
- Most-clicked links: VisitCADelta events calendar, report on “Designs for Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta,” link to submit items for VisitCADelta events calendar

Website Articles

Staff also published one website article with a photo gallery:

- [2026 Delta Leadership Program Recognized by DPC](#) (May 15)

Upcoming Delta Events

Our Delta event listing has moved to [VisitCADelta.com/events](https://www.visitcadelta.com/events).

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

July 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 8: Appointments to DPAC

Prepared by: Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Presented by: Amanda Bohl, Executive Director

Recommended Action: Approve recommendation noted below

Type of Action: Vote

Background

The Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) was created by the Delta Protection Act, Public Resources Code Section 29753(a).

The Committee provides recommendations to the Delta Protection Commission on diverse interests within the Delta, including the Delta’s ecosystem, water supply, socioeconomic sustainability, recreation, agriculture, flood control, environment, water resources, utility infrastructure, and other Delta issues. This seventeen-member committee is appointed by the Commission and meets regularly; members serve three-year terms and may be re-appointed. Meetings are open to the public.

In May, the Commission filled four of the five seats set to expire that month, but was unable to fill the Utilities-Related Infrastructure seat. Subsequently, two applications were received, and a candidate was found to be suitable for the position.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends the appointment of Clay Merrill for the Delta Protection Advisory Committee Utilities-Related Infrastructure seat.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

This agenda item supports objective 0.1 of the Commission’s strategic plan: “Ensure consistent, proactive communication between and among Delta interests and decision-makers.” More specifically, this item supports action 1.4: “Support an active and engaged Delta Protection Advisory Committee structure, including utilizing expert workgroups, to provide recommendations to the Commission.”

Applications for DPAC Utilities-Related Infrastructure Seat

James Azeltine

If you do not live in the Delta, please describe the property or business you own or operate in the Delta, or the nature of your interest in the Delta.

I live in Oakley and own 2 yachts that are berthed at the Driftwood Marina.

Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the Delta Protection Advisory Committee.

As a long time boater and board member of the non-profit Bridge Marina Yacht Club, I am concerned that the current direction of government does not bode well for the Delta, and I want to do what I can to change or mitigate that.

Describe your qualifications - for the committee in general and the seat you're applying for in particular - and skills that would benefit this committee.

I am a professional senior software engineer, and have been a board member of a yacht club for many years, serving as Commodore (Chairman) several times. My line of work and involvement in running the non-profit yacht club has given me relevant experience.

Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts, as they relate to the Delta.

My work over the last 20 years has been involved in supporting the nuclear power industry and currently legislated energy efficiency efforts. I have been a resident of Oakley since 1994, and lived in Antioch before that. As an avid boater who occasionally enjoys fishing and other water related activities, I have a vested interest in preserving and enhancing the Delta.

List any committees, commissions, councils, etc. that you currently belong to.

None at the moment.

Clay Merrill

If you do not live in the Delta, please describe the property or business you own or operate in the Delta, or the nature of your interest in the Delta.

I currently serve as the Local Government Affairs Representative for PG&E covering Yolo and Solano Counties. In my work, I have collaborated with the City of Rio Vista on energy challenges and issues, as well as solutions. I have been part of the effort to increase and improve electric reliability and sustainability in the Delta for Rio Vista and the other surrounding communities.

Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the Delta Protection Advisory Committee.

My experience working with PG&E will bring a unique perspective to this group. I have the desire to make the Delta a better place to live, work, and play. I want to be at the table to help with solutions to problems the Delta is facing.

Describe your qualifications - for the committee in general and the seat you're applying for in particular - and skills that would benefit this committee.

I would be able to speak to utility related challenges with my understanding of the electric grid and what the utility can do to be a part of the solution to challenges and issues that the Delta is experiencing. I am a problem solver by nature, and have the willingness and desire to help those individuals and families who live in the Delta.

Describe your background, employment, volunteer work or other efforts, as they relate to the Delta.

My employment with PG&E as a Local Government Affairs representative allows me to support the community of Rio Vista.

List any committees, commissions, councils, etc. that you currently belong to.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, Davis Chamber of Commerce, Woodland Chamber of Commerce, Metro Political Action Committee, and the Fairfield-Suisun Chamber Political Action Committee. I also serve on the Suisun City Economic Development Advisory Committee, the Solano EDC Economic Development Advisory Committee, and serving as an Honorary Commander for the 349th Reserve Wing of Travis Air Force Base.

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

July 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 9: Selection of Subcommittee to Review Applications for National Heritage Area (NHA) Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Recommended Action: Select NHA Advisory Committee Application Review Subcommittee

Type of Action: Discussion

Background

National Heritage Area (NHA) Management Plan Strategy 5.2.3 guides the development of the NHA Advisory Committee, which ensures partner and public engagement in achieving management plan goals. The Commission approved a charter for the 15-member committee on July 18, 2024, and appointed and reappointed members and alternates on September 19, 2024, and September 18, 2025. The public members serve three-year terms and may be reappointed. Meetings are open to the public and follow the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Law.

Five member seats and one alternate seat will expire in September 2026. The NHA Advisory Committee charter states that a subcommittee of the Commission will review applications and provide recommendations to the full Commission. Commission staff began soliciting applications for the NHA Advisory Committee from interested members of the public beginning on June 1. The application period will close on July 20.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends the selection of two Commissioners to serve with the Executive Director on an NHA Advisory Committee Application Review Subcommittee.

Relationship to Vision 2030

This agenda item supports objective H.2 of the Commission’s strategic plan, “protect and promote the tribal, cultural, and historical resources of the Delta” and more specifically, action 2.1: “Implement the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area.”

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

July 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 10: Consider Approval of Changes to the National Heritage Area Partnership Agreement Template

Prepared by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Presented by: Blake Roberts, Program Manager

Recommended Action: Approve changes to National Heritage Area Partnership Agreement Template

Type of Action: Vote

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) Management Plan emphasizes the importance of a partnership network for the NHA in implementing plan strategies. The Commission established a formal NHA partnership program to provide a general framework for the Commission to work with governments, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties on mutually beneficial projects.

On March 20, 2025, the Commission approved a template memorandum of understanding (MOU) to implement partnership agreements. 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 MOU is a living document that evolves as partnerships change.

Since approval of the MOU template, Commission staff have identified several potential changes to the MOU. These changes reflect both administrative changes to the Passport Program and NHA Advisory Committee recommendations on whether private businesses and locations outside of the NHA boundary can serve as Passport Program locations. Additionally, the appendix on Management Plan strategies has been deleted and reference to the strategies included in the body of the agreement, instead.

The changes can be seen in **red**, in the attachment, and for accessibility purposes, changes are bracketed in *[begin addition/deletion]* or *[end addition/deletion]*. Specifically, the changes include:

- p. 2 – A reference to the now-deleted appendix on NHA Management Plan strategies has been replaced by a hyperlink to the Management Plan and its strategies.
- p. 2 – New text refers the appendix for the Passport Program.
- p. 2 – The word “Partner” has been capitalized for consistency.
- p. 4 – The appendix on NHA Management Plan strategies has been deleted.
- p. 11 – The appendix for the Passport Program is now indicated as “Appendix A.”
- p. 11 – The frequency for the Commission to check with the Partner about operating hours has changed from twice per year to annually.
- pp. 11-12 – The paragraph on eligibility to become a Passport Program location has been revised based on NHA Advisory Committee recommendations on private businesses and locations outside the NHA.
- p. 12 - A hyperlink to the Classic Edition Passport Book available for sale from Eastern National has been inserted.
- p. 12 – The word “Partner” has been capitalized for consistency. The text now refers to the Passport Program Training Guide instead of a document to be attached.

Recommended Action

Approve changes to National Heritage Area Partnership Program Memorandum of Understanding.

Relationship to Vision 2030 (Commission strategic plan)

This agenda item supports the Commission’s strategic plan objective H.2, 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 *[begin addition]* **NHA** *[end addition]* Management Plan strategies *[begin addition]* (<https://delta.ca.gov/nha/delta-nha-management-plan-goals-objectives-and-strategies>), as applicable, and *[end addition]* identified in *[begin addition]* [the NHA Management Plan \(PDF\) \(https://delta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Delta-NHA-Management-Plan-FINAL.pdf\)](https://delta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Delta-NHA-Management-Plan-FINAL.pdf) found on the Commission's website *[end addition]* *[begin deletion]* Attachment XX *[end deletion]*.
2. *[begin addition]* For those partners participating in the NHA's Passport to Your National Parks program, follow the additional terms in Appendix A. *[end addition]*
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. Participate in Commission and NHA meetings and events.
6. Complete a brief annual partner survey.
7. Comply with federal requirements regarding the NHA, including that activities performed by the *[begin deletion]* partners *[end deletion]* *[begin addition]* Partners *[end addition]* 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

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

Commission Representative

Commission Representative Name
 (please print)
 Commission Representative Title
 Date

Goal 1: Interpretation

Strategy 1.1.1 Continue the Interpretive Planning Task Group to Support NHA Interpretive Planning and Projects:

Strategy 1.1.2 Encourage Collaborative Opportunities Among NHA Interpretive Providers to Develop and Implement Interpretive Programs and Media:

Strategy 1.1.3 Broaden Interpretive Content and Resources Through Scholarly Research into the NHA's Interpretive Themes:

Strategy 1.1.4 Provide Technical Assistance to NHA Interpretive Providers to Develop Interpretive Plans and Projects:

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 1.1.6 Provide Interpretive Training Opportunities to Recreation Business Staff and Interpretive Materials for Visitors Who Use Their Services:

Strategy 1.1.7 Connect People with Volunteer Opportunities at NHA Sites:

Strategy 1.1.8 Explore Grants and Other Funding Opportunities for Interpretive Planning and Projects:

Strategy 1.2.1 Promote Delta-Wide Themed Special Events, Such As “Delta Days” or “Delta250” at NHA Sites:

Strategy 1.2.2 Prepare an Interpretive Sign Plan to Aid in the Placement, Design, Funding, and Placement of Interpretive Panels in the NHA:

Strategy 1.2.3 Fund Plaques for National and California Register Sites in the NHA:

Strategy 1.2.4 Develop Thematic Trail Messaging That Connects Interpretive Sites Throughout the NHA:

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 1.3.2 Promote the Area's Agricultural Heritage Through Exhibits, Programs, and Events, Including Culinary Experiences:

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 1.3.4 Share Natural Resource-Themed Interpretive Content, Including Existing Water Education Programs and Training, with NHA Sites and Along Established Land and Water Trail Networks:

Strategy 1.4.1 Establish an Advisory Council with Tribal Representatives to Develop Culturally Sensitive Educational Content:

Strategy 1.4.2 Collaborate with Native American Tribes to Develop Interpretive Content About Traditional Indigenous Land Management Practices and Perspectives:

Strategy 1.4.3 Establish a Funding Source for Native American Tribes and Other Cultural Groups to Assist with Their Time and Expenses Related to Developing Interpretive Programs and Educational Content for the NHA:

Strategy 1.4.4. Develop Interpretive Content and Programs That Describe the Connections of Cultural Groups to the NHA Landscape:

Strategy 1.4.5 Promote NHA-Themed Interpretive Materials and Programs Through Cultural Organizations:

Strategy 1.5.1 Connect Schools to Existing NHA Curriculum and Educational Program Opportunities:

Strategy 1.5.2 Provide Funding to Develop Additional NHA Interpretive Programs and Educational Content Tied to California Content Standards for Education:

Strategy 1.5.3 Encourage the Development, Promotion, and Implementation of Citizen Science Programs:

Strategy 1.5.4 Sponsor Hands-on Experiences and Field Trips for Students Related to the NHA's Interpretive Themes:

Goal 2: Resource Stewardship and Enhancement

Strategy 2.1.1 Document Historic Resources and Cultural Landscapes in the Delta:

Strategy 2.1.2 Secure Technical Assistance from the California Office of Historic Preservation to Develop a Historic Context Statement for the NHA Region:

Strategy 2.1.3 Support Designations of Historic Resources, Including the Development of Best Practices:

Strategy 2.1.4 Provide Information and Coordinate Training to Educate Residents and Leaders, Including Elected Officials, About Preservation and Its Benefits:

Strategy 2.1.5 Support the Existing Groups and Organizations That Promote Historic Preservation Through Grants, Technical Assistance, and Collaborative Stewardship:

Strategy 2.1.6 Promote and Educate Community Organizations, Property Owners, and Developers About the Mills Act and Other Tax Programs That Provide Incentives for Preservation:

Strategy 2.1.7 Create a Fund to Preserve Historic Places and Landscapes:

Strategy 2.1.8 Provide Information and Coordinate Training to Educate Residents and Partners on How to Save Historical Records, Documents, and Artifacts:

Strategy 2.1.9 Study and Support Expansion of the NHA Boundary:

Strategy 2.2.1 Share Educational Information Developed by Partners About Conservation Strategies and Environmental Issues:

Strategy 2.2.2 Recruit Volunteers and Coordinate Activities and Events to Clean Up the Region's Landscapes and Waterways and Combat Invasive Species:

Strategy 2.2.3 Support Development of a Virtual and Physical "Collaboratory," a Hub for a Network of Agencies, Academia, Non-Governmental Organizations, Communities, and Industry to Better Address Major Modeling, Data, and Management Issues:

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 2.4.1 Consider the Development of a Tribal Land Acknowledgement:

Strategy 2.4.2 Continue to Engage California Native American Tribes in the Planning and Implementation of NHA Projects and Programs:

Strategy 2.4.3 Facilitate Documentation, Interpretation, and Right of Access to Places with Meaning for or Traditional Use by Native People:

Strategy 2.4.4 Provide Opportunities to Document, Interpret, and Practice Traditional Lifeways Based on the Region's Natural Environment:

Strategy 2.4.5 Support Educational Programs to Facilitate Intergenerational Knowledge of Tribal Histories, Cultural Traditions, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge:

Strategy 2.4.6 Support Tribes in Developing and Implementing Strategies for the Protection of Tribal Historic Properties in the NHA:

Goal 3: Heritage Development and Tourism

Strategy 3.1.1 Convene Tourism Partners to Create a Regional Network to Develop a Sustainable Tourism Program:

Strategy 3.1.2 Conduct Market Research to Gather More Information on Current Visitors and to Identify New Target Audiences:

Strategy 3.1.3 Work with Partners to Develop a Three to Five-Year Marketing Plan to Brand and Promote the State's First NHA:

Strategy 3.1.4 Create and Consolidate Regional Tourism Information for Trip Planning:

Strategy 3.1.5 Use Media and Social Media to Generate Awareness and Visitation:

Strategy 3.1.6 Create Branding Merchandise with the NHA Logo:

Strategy 3.1.7 Consider Developing Receptive Tour Services for Groups:

Strategy 3.2.1 Adapt the Delta Wayfinding Plan to Include the NHA and Install Signs, Where Appropriate, to Promote the NHA:

Strategy 3.2.2 Create ½-Day, 1-Day and Multi-Day Tours and Thematic Tours:

Strategy 3.2.3 Develop History-Focused Activities and Connect Experiences to Recreational Activities:

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:

Strategy 3.3.1 Partner with Public Agencies and Private Entities to Increase and Expand Recreation and Tourism in the Delta:

Strategy 3.3.2 Promote and Encourage Delta-Wide Coordination and Collaboration on Boating, Boating Safety, and Related Programs:

Strategy 3.3.3 Coordinate with the Great California Delta Trail to Develop and Distribute Educational Materials on Bicycle Safety:

Strategy 3.4.1 Develop Communication Tools for the NHA's Goal of Sustainable Tourism Development:

Strategy 3.4.2 Communicate Identified Needs for the Development and Maintenance of Infrastructure (Communications, Transportation, Lodging, Etc.) to the California State Legislature:

Strategy 3.4.3 Consider Economic Opportunity Zone Status.

Goal 4: Partnership

Strategy 4.1.1 Conduct Partner Gatherings, Enabling Active Engagement and Fostering Participation in Networking and Collaborative Initiatives.

Strategy 4.1.2 Use the Delta Protection Commission's Position as a Government Agency to Facilitate Organizational Connection at Various Levels.

Strategy 4.1.3 Provide Technical Assistance, Coordinate, and Promote Training Opportunities in Interpretation, Grants, Resource Stewardship, Heritage Tourism, Promotion, Community Development, and Organizational Development.

Strategy 4.1.4 Participate in the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and Work Cooperatively with Other NHAs on Joint Initiatives and Projects.

Strategy 4.1.5 Continue the Delta Leadership Program.

Strategy 4.2.1 Establish a Grant Program to Support Projects and Programs That Align with the NHA's Goals.

Strategy 4.2.2 Provide Staff Support to Seek Outside Grants and Funding.

Strategy 4.2.3 Provide Staff Time and Direct Funding to Carry Out Projects and Programs That Align with the Management Planning Goals.

Strategy 4.2.4 Support Educational Initiatives, Including Research Scholarships and Service-Learning Opportunities to K-12 and College Students and Citizen Science Opportunities.

Strategy 4.2.5 Support the Longitudinal Implementation of the Delta Residents Survey.

Strategy 4.3.1 Continue to Hold the Annual Delta Heritage Forum.

Strategy 4.3.2 Act as a Clearinghouse of Information to Support NHA Partners.

Strategy 4.3.3 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.

Strategy 4.3.4 Enlist National Heritage Area Advisory Committee Members to Act as Information Ambassadors.

Strategy 4.3.5 Develop an Initiative for Leadership Capacity-Building to Increase Engagement in Rural and Underserved Communities.

Strategy 4.3.6 Continue Distribution of Delta Happenings and Delta Heritage Courier E-Newsletters:

Strategy 4.3.7 Continue to Manage and Expand the National Heritage Area's Web Presence:

Strategy 4.3.8 Implement the Marketing Plan to Inform and Engage Partners:

Goal 5: Management and Organization

Strategy 5.1.1 The Delta Protection Commission Supports the NHA Partnership Network

Strategy 5.1.2 The DPC Will Operate a Grant Program to Advance Projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA:

Strategy 5.2.1 The DPC Serves as the Coordinating Entity for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA, Supporting the NHA with Established Administrative and Professional Positions:

Strategy 5.2.2 The DPC Will Add Staff as the NHA's Needs Evolve and Change:

Strategy 5.2.3 The Advisory Committee Will Be Involved in the Implementation of the Management Plan in a Restructured Role, Provide Counsel on Recommendations for Policy, Process, and Governance, and Act as Ambassadors to the Partners and Communities in the NHA:

Strategy 5.2.4 The DPC Staff and the Advisory Committee Will Establish Task Groups, as Necessary, in Order to Implement Specific Goals, Objectives, and Strategies of the Management Plan. [end deletion]

Appendix ~~XX~~ **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 _____ (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~~ **at least annually** 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. **Private businesses can serve as passport sites if the**

business can demonstrate a strong connection to the interpretive themes, particularly if the management plan identified them as an existing and potential interpretive site. Passport sites outside of the Delta NHA boundary are allowed if both of the following criteria apply:

- The location is a museum or visitor center whose primary focus is on resources within the NHA and interpretive themes described in the NHA Management Plan.
- The location is within 2 miles of the NHA boundaries. *[end addition]*

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 *[begin addition]* passport books (<https://shop.americasnationalparks.org/collections/passport-books/products/passport-to-your-national-parks-classic-edition>) *[end addition]* 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 *[begin deletion]* partner *[end deletion]* *[begin addition]* Partner *[end addition]* is *[begin deletion]* attached **(to be attached)** *[end deletion]* *[begin addition]* included in the Passport Program Training Guide. *[end addition]*
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.

DRAFT

Delta Protection Commission Meeting

July 16, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 11: NHA Tourism Branding and Marketing Plan: Brand Identity

Prepared by: Kira O'Donnell, NHA Information Officer

Presented by: Kira O'Donnell, NHA Information Officer

Recommended Action: Discuss logo and tagline concepts for NHA Tourism Branding & Marketing project

Type of Action: Discussion

Background

The Delta Protection Commission's marketing contractor—Honey Agency—completed the National Heritage Area (NHA) Market Research and Brand Analysis tasks and presented a Brand Strategy to staff in April 2026. The brand strategy is a long-term plan or “blueprint” that assists Honey in building a clear, consistent NHA image and story. The strategy defines the NHA brand's positioning, messaging, tone, visual identity, and target audiences and is the basis for the next phases: logo and tagline development, brand toolkit, and branding and marketing plan.

Staff shared the strategy with the NHA Advisory Committee Marketing & Communications and Heritage Development & Tourism task groups in May.

On June 2, the Honey Agency presented three new logo and tagline concepts to staff and staff provided initial feedback. During the National Heritage Area Advisory Committee (NHAAC) meeting on June 24, Honey Agency representatives shared the two concepts that staff felt were most promising and recommended changing the NHA's public name—for marketing purposes—to “California Delta National Heritage Area” instead of “Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area.” The longer form of the name would continue to be utilized in all formal correspondence with the National Park Service and the federal government.

Committee member reactions to the logo and tagline were mixed. There were very few comments made about the proposed NHA public name change, but those comments were generally positive.

Several advisory committee members provided suggestions to the Honey team about both the logo design and tagline copy, as well as a request for more time to review and discuss the concepts, which staff agrees should be accommodated.

Current Status and Next Steps

NHA draft logos, taglines and the proposed NHA public name change will be shared at today's Commission meeting. Commissioners will review the current designs, discuss the proposed name change, and provide feedback.

Following today's Commission meeting, the Honey Agency will meet with the NHA Advisory Committee Marketing and Communications and Heritage Development and Tourism task groups to share feedback trends and discuss and finalize logo revision direction. In mid-August, the NHA Advisory Committee will meet to review and provide feedback on a near final logo and tagline.

At the September 17 Commission meeting, Commissioners will decide on the final NHA logo and tagline.

Recommended Action

Discuss logo and tagline concepts and goals for proposed brand identity and provide feedback on concepts

Relationship to Vision 2030

This agenda item supports objective H.2 of the Commission's strategic plan, "protect and promote the tribal, cultural, and historical resources of the Delta" and more specifically, action 2.1: "Implement the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area."