




**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

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<b>DATE</b>	May 20, 2025
<b>TITLE</b>	Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) through its Lead Agency, Delta Protection Commission, to Provide Programmatic Support and Services – District-wide
<b>DIVISION</b>	Operations
<b>FROM</b>	Sandi Funke, Division Lead of Interpretive & Recreation Services Lisa Goorjian, Assistant General Manager of Operations
<b>APPROVED</b>	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

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**RECOMMENDATION**

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorizes the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) to enter into an Agreement with the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (SSJDNHA) through the SSJDNHA local coordinating entity, the State of California’s Delta Protection Commission (DPC), to provide programmatic support and services.

**BACKGROUND**

National Heritage Areas (NHA) are proposed, approved, and partially funded by Congress in recognition of the unique characteristics of a region. There are 62 NHAs across the country, each operated through/by a “local coordinating entity” (lead agency or non-profit organization) with partial funding from the federal government. They are overseen, but not directly operated, by the National Park Service, Department of Interior.

The Sacramento San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (SSJDNHA) is the first NHA in California, initially proposed by Senator Diane Feinstein and Congressman John Garamendi in 2016 and created by Congress in 2019. Though the SSJDNHA spans the 5 Delta Counties, much of it overlaps Park District jurisdiction, facilities, properties, and parks in northern and eastern Contra Costa County.

The Park District has seated 1-2 members (presently Director Coffey and Regional Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager Michael Moran) on various SSJDNHA advisory and task committees, either by application directly to the DPC or recommendation and selection by the DPC. These committees advise on development of SSJDNHA outreach, function, administrative structure, and public programming. The Park District has also provided programmatic support (e.g., participating in Delta Heritage Forum, interpreting the SSJDNHA in public interpretive programs) since the SSJDNHA inception in 2019.

Since 2020, the Park District has been partnering with the Delta Protection Commission, California State Parks, Department of the Interior and various non-profit and other agencies, and individuals to

develop the Management Plan for the SSJDNHA. The plan sets direction for the SSJDNHA's role in interpretation, stewardship, tourism and economic development, partnerships, governance, and evaluation. In January 2024, the Park District provided the SSJDNHA with a letter of commitment to continue support for the development of the SSJDNHA Management Plan and subsequent programmatic assistance (e.g., committee representation, providing meeting facilities and resources, interpretive programming and training, branding, letters of support). The Management Plan was accepted by the Secretary of the Interior in January 2025, allowing the SSJDNHA to begin implementing the plan.

As local coordinating entity for the SSJDNHA, the Delta Protection Commission requires all partner individuals, organizations, and agencies enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (Agreement) to clarify expectations and responsibilities of all involved parties.

## **ANALYSIS**

Park District support, expectations, and responsibilities to be included in the Agreement are clarified in the District's January 20, 2024, Letter of Commitment (attached). There are no legally binding duty or funding requirements for the Park District. District duties and responsibilities to be included in the MOU are existing, planned, and normal to the operation and service delivery of the Park District. Park District support will be within the framework of, and not contrary/antagonistic to, Park District mission, business, duties, and responsibilities.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact. Expectations and responsibilities in this Agreement are already within the normal operation of the Park District (including but not limited to the departments of Interpretive and Recreation Services, Planning, Stewardship, Public Affairs, Government and Legislative Affairs) within the boundaries on the SSJDNHA. The Park District may pursue projects and funding that complement SSJDNHA, and support grant proposals by SSJDNHA that may or may not fund District initiatives.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- SSJDNHA Fact Sheet (2020)
- January 2024 District Letter of Support (LOS Delta)
- Sacramento-San Joaquin National Heritage Area Partnership Program Memorandum of Understanding (DRAFT)



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 05 -  
MAY 20, 2025**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE  
SACRAMENTO SAN JOAQUIN DELTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (NHA)  
THROUGH ITS LEAD AGENCY, DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION, TO  
PROVIDE PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT AND SERVICES – DISTRICT-WIDE**

**WHEREAS,** The Delta Protection Commission, an agency of the State of California, is the local coordinating entity of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (SSJDNHA); and

**WHEREAS,** the area of the SSJDNHA overlaps the jurisdiction and service areas of the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) in eastern and northern Contra Costa County; and

**WHEREAS,** the mission, goals, objectives, and services of the SSJDNHA complement, support, intersect, and parallel those of the Park District; and

**WHEREAS,** on January 20, 2024, the Park District provided a Letter of Commitment to the SSJDNHA to support, as a partner agency, the proposed SSJDNHA Management Plan; and

**WHEREAS,** the Park District has contributed to the development of the SSJDNHA Management Plan, which was accepted by the United States Department of the Interior on January 16, 2025, and adopted by the Delta Protection Commission on March 20, 2025; and

**WHEREAS,** the Delta Protection Commission is required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU; agreement) with SSJDNHA partner agencies;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby [authorizes the General Manager to enter into agreement (MOU) with the Delta Protection Commission as a Partner Agency of the SSJDNHA according to the District's January 20, 2024, Letter of Commitment, as presented to the Board on May 20, 2025; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, and  
adopted May 20, 2025, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: