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# DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

*A California State Agency*

April 19, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Via email: [Alexis\\_Segal@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:Alexis_Segal@feinstein.senate.gov)

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Randy Fiorini

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**Executive Officer**  
Jessica R. Pearson

**Re: SUPPORT – S. 731 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area**

Dear Senator Feinstein,

On behalf of the Delta Stewardship Council (Council), I am writing to express our support for your S. 731, which would establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) as a National Heritage Area.

The Council is the independent California state agency charged with developing and implementing the Delta Plan – a comprehensive long-term management framework to achieve California's coequal goals of a more reliable water supply and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

Protecting the Delta as an evolving place is inherent in the coequal goals since attaining these two goals will require a growing awareness among Californians of the Delta and its values, including its agriculture, recreation, natural resources, and unique culture. Additionally, changes required to provide a more reliable water supply or enhance the ecosystem will influence the kind of place the Delta becomes, especially if structures to improve conveyance or areas of restored habitat significantly alter the Delta's familiar landscape. At the same time, the needs to protect the Delta's land uses and people will shape and constrain decisions about water supplies and ecosystem restoration, including allocation of water supplies, flow and salinity objectives, levee priorities, and how impacts to communities and land uses are mitigated.

Consistent with a recommendation in the Council's Delta Plan, designating the Delta as a National Heritage Area would help cultivate and retain the public's appreciation for the significance of this unique region, while building more support for preserving and enhancing the Delta in the years to come. To advance this recommendation, the Council recently provided funding to the Delta Protection Commission in support of the Delta Heritage Area Initiative that will demonstrate the region's capacity as a National Heritage Area.

We look forward to working with you, Senator Harris, and other members of California's congressional delegation in support of this endeavor and on other efforts that will advance the state's coequal goals.

Sincerely,

Randy Fiorini  
Chair

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*"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."*

– CA Water Code §85054

cc: Senator Kamala Harris  
Congressman John Garamendi  
Congressman Mark DeSaulnier  
Congresswoman Doris Matsui  
Congressman Jerry McNerney  
Supervisor Skip Thomson, Chair, Delta Protection Commission