DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

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Executive Officer
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Honorable Representative Jerry McNerney
House of Representatives
2222 Grand Canal Blvd., #7
Stockton, California 95207

Dear Representative McNerney:

I am writing to tell you that the Delta Stewardship Council endorses designation of a National Heritage Area in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Council is the California state agency charged with developing and implementing a plan to achieve California's coequal goals of a more reliable water supply and a restored ecosystem in the Delta. Inherent in these two goals is protection of the Delta's unique values as an evolving place, including its agricultural, historic, cultural, and natural resources.

Designating a National Heritage Area in the Delta is an important step in pursuing the coequal goals. The designation would affirm the significance of the Delta's unique values through Federal recognition and, through the preparation and implementation of the management plan for the area, will improve public awareness and appreciation for the region's waters, ecosystem, and other resources.

The Council has received the Delta Protection Commission's feasibility study for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area and endorses the Congress's designation of a National Heritage Area as proposed in the feasibility study. We note that H.B. 486, the bill you and Representative Garamendi have introduced to designate a Delta National Heritage Area, provides that the management plan to be prepared for the area will be referred to the Council for an assessment of its consistency with the Delta Plan before the Secretary of Interior considers its approval. This is an important provision for coordinating activities in the Delta and helps ensure that they follow the Delta Plan's single blue print for the region.

We look forward to working with you and other members of California's congressional delegation to complete the designation of a National Heritage Area in the Delta and on other efforts to improve Delta water supply reliability and to restore its ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Phil

Phil Isenberg, Chairman

Cc: Mr. Mike Machado, Executive Director, Delta Protection Commission