



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

980 NINTH STREET, SUITE 1500
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
WWW.DELTACOUNCIL.CA.GOV
(916) 445-5511

October 26, 2012

Chair
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Patrick Johnston
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Executive Officer
Christopher M. Knopp

Honorable Representative John Garamendi
House of Representatives
609 Jefferson Street
Fairfield, California 94533

Dear Representative Garamendi:

I am writing to tell you that the Delta Stewardship Council endorses the designation of a National Heritage Area in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Delta Stewardship 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 designation by Congress of a National Heritage Area as proposed in the feasibility study. We note that your bill, H.B. 486, 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.

"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

Honorable Representative John Garamendi
October 26, 2012
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Isenberg', written over a faint, large, stylized outline of the state of California.

Phil Isenberg, Chair

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