DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

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Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
2350 Tulare Street, Suite 5290
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Senator Boxer:

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, S. 29, the bill you and Senator Feinstein 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, Senator Feinstein, 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 Isenberg, Chair

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