



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
September 1, 2010**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor

PREPARED BY: Mercy Cabral, Deputy City Clerk

SUBJECT: Bill by Senator Feinstein to Establish the Delta as a National Heritage Area

DATE: August 26, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

Support in concept a bill authored by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a National Heritage Area, and authorize the Mayor to send a letter supporting Senator Feinstein’s efforts as recommended by Vice Mayor Lara DeLaney.

BACKGROUND:

The Delta Counties Coalition (comprised of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo counties) has been working together for several years on water and Delta issues. U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein offered this year to establish and fund a National Heritage Area (NHA) for the Delta through legislation. An NHA is defined as a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreation resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally-distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. Achieving such a designation is a means to expedite Federal funds to agencies in the Delta (such as the Delta Counties Coalition, and potentially the California Center for Delta Research and Education planned for the Martinez waterfront) for economic development and environmental protection activities. The Delta Counties Coalition conceptually supports Senator Feinstein’s initiative, because it believes such an approach could improve the ability for local agencies to advocate for Delta interests as State agencies move forward with their plans to improve water conveyance through the Delta for export to other areas. Without the Feinstein proposal, Federal funds would not be available until after a NHA proposal is funded, prepared and receives National Park Service approval – which is at least a two to three year process.

Senator Feinstein’s legislative proposal establishes the Delta Heritage Area using the boundaries of the Delta “Primary Zone” as defined in state statute. In Contra Costa County, this includes Jersey and Holland Islands; Bradford, Webb and Orwood Tracts; and the Knightsen area. The Technical Advisory Committee of the Delta Counties Coalition is recommending several changes to the bill, including expansion of the boundaries of the National Heritage Area beyond

the Primary Zone to include portions of Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood, Bethel Island and the Agricultural Core, all areas which historically have been part of the Delta Landscape. Contra Costa County has also received a request from the Carquinez Strait Preservation Trust to consider adding their planning area, which provides a very visible and physical connection between the Delta and the Bay, to the proposed NHA designation. An alternative approach to constructing specific boundaries would be to include authorization to revise the NHA boundaries as part of the planning process funded by the bill.

Federal funding in the Delta Heritage Area will be governed by two plans: the Heritage Area Management Plan prepared by the Delta Protection Commission, and the Heritage Area Strategic Plan prepared by the Delta Conservancy (an agency established by the State this year). Both plans will be submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Interior one year after the proposal, or Act, becomes law.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would appropriate \$2 million to carry out the Heritage Area management plan, with the total amount available not to exceed \$20 million. The allocations would be \$2 million in the first year and such sums as are necessary in each of the following 9 years for the Heritage Area strategic plan. The Federal share of the costs would be no more than 50%.

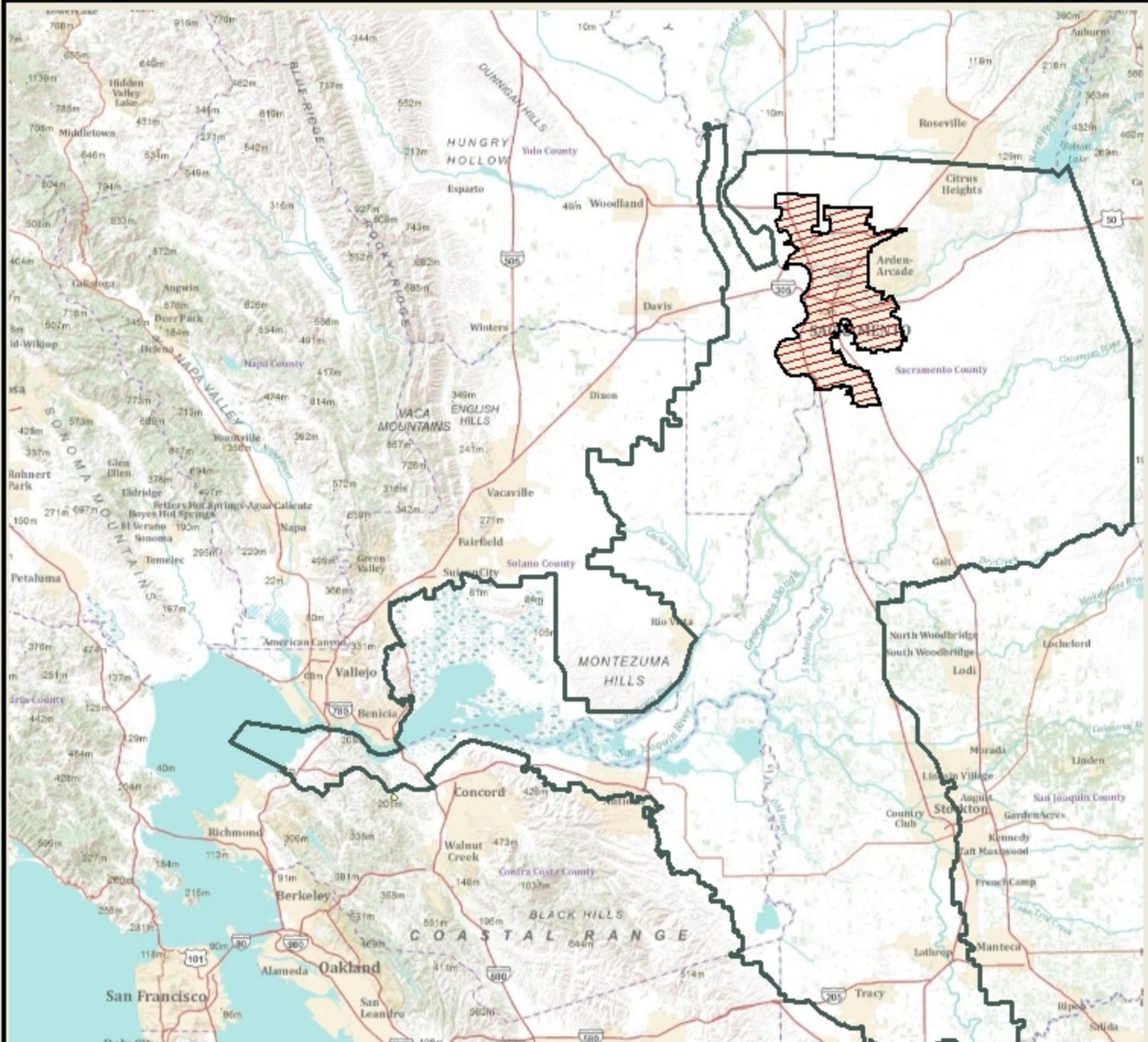
ACTION:

Motion supporting in concept a bill authored by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a National Heritage Area and authorizing the Mayor to send a letter supporting Senator Feinstein's efforts.

Attachments

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Proposed Boundary

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Legend

- Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta NHA Proposed Boundary
- Area not included

OFFICE: Land Resources Program Center
 REGION: Pacific West Region
 PARK: SASA

MAP NUMBER: T27/105,030
 DATE: AUGUST 2010

8 0 8 16
 Miles





County Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho, District III

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Dougherty Valley Oversight
Committee

South West Area Transportation

August 17, 2010

Mr. Ed Balico
Chair, Mayors' Conference
C/O Don Blubaugh, Executive Director
1715 Chardonnay Lane
Brentwood, CA 94513

Dear Chair Balico,

At the July meeting of the Mayor's conference I reported that Senator Dianne Feinstein is authoring legislation to recognize the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a National Heritage Area. I also agreed to pass on the information and request support from the individual cities and the full Conference for the bill.

Please find attached the Board Order passed by Contra Costa County on July 13, 2010 along with further background information for use by those Mayors that wish to carry support forward to their individual cities. I am hoping you will send this on to the Mayor's conference list. I would also like to request a resolution in support from the full Mayors' Conference.

Thank you for your service to the community and for any efforts you make to provide support for preserving our fragile Delta.

Sincerely,

Mary Nejedly Piepho

MNP:mm