

Scope of Work

The Great California Delta Trail Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo Counties

Background

Senate Bill 1556 (Torlakson) signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in September 2006, directed that the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) prepare a plan for the Great California Delta Trail (Delta Trail) System:

...the Commission shall develop and adopt a plan and implementation program, including a finance and maintenance plan, for a continuous regional recreational corridor that will extend around the ...delta, including, but not limited to, the delta's shorelines in Contra Costa, Solano, San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Yolo Counties. This plan shall link the San Francisco Bay Trail system to the planned Sacramento River trails in Yolo and Sacramento Counties. This plan shall include a specific route of a bicycling and hiking trail, the relationship of the route to existing and proposed park and recreational facilities and land and water trail systems, and links to existing and proposed public transportation and transit.

Throughout Delta Trail planning, the Commission can play a role as a facilitator organization, working closely with local governments, as well as representatives from diverse groups in each county including habitat, agriculture, business, and recreation organizations, to ensure that Delta Trail planning is closely aligned with the varied interests, capabilities and infrastructure of each county. Existing public lands will be identified as key places for Delta Trail implementation. The Commission does not support the use of eminent domain, and tools such as fee purchases, easements, licenses and MOUs can be explored to acquire property access in relevant areas, with the consent and involvement of willing landowners. Water trails will also be a key component of the Delta Trail system, and can be a viable option to ensure trail continuity in places where land trails are not feasible, however sensitive habitat and wildlife areas will not be adversely affected by the trail. Buffer zones will be implemented between the trail and places with sensitive wildlife habitat and private uses.

Work Completed

Blueprint Reports were identified as the first step in the planning process, prior to developing a master plan for the Delta Trail system. *The Great California Delta Trail Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano Counties* (hereafter referred to as *The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano*) was approved by the Commission in

September 2010. The process included input from Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Committees (SAC and TAC, respectively) to best utilize local interests and expertise.

Next Steps

Development of *The Great California Delta Trail Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo Counties* (hereafter referred to as *The Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo*) is being initiated by Commission staff, using *The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano* as a model. This Scope of Work outlines the necessary tasks that must be conducted in order to complete this document and present it for adoption by the Commission; as well as the Boards of Supervisors for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo Counties.

Partners

National Park Service - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

The Commission received in-kind assistance from the National Park Service through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. 160 hours of assistance were awarded for the 2012 fiscal year, and additionally, the Commission can reapply for RTCA technical assistance for the 2013 fiscal year. RTCA supports community led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects by providing technical assistance for projects which conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

As part of the RTCA grant application, a number of organizations provided letters expressing support and explaining the ways in which the organizations would work in partnership with the Commission on various tasks of *The Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo*. Early on in the process, Commission staff will hold kickoff meetings to discuss the relevant project task(s) with each of the partner organizations. The organizations are summarized below, and the full letters of support/commitment can be viewed at:

www.delta.ca.gov/RTCApartnershipandsupportletters.htm

California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau

The California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau is a local organization with a membership of over 400, who undertake projects to market the Delta, advertise local businesses, and develop maps which link many of the Delta's economic and recreational resources.

City of Sacramento

The City of Sacramento is located in the northern portion of the Delta. The City hopes that the Delta Trail will eventually link and overlay onto the Sacramento River Trail System.

Counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo

The Delta portions of these three counties contain valuable natural habitat, productive farmland, idyllic waterways, historic communities, and more. As each county has different environmental considerations and public policies which are relevant to trail planning, it is important to work with the counties early on in the process to ensure that trail planning is closely aligned with the local opportunities and constraints.

Recreational Boaters of California

The Recreational Boaters of California is an advocacy group, with 40+ years of service, involved in the protection of the rights of boaters to enjoy their choice of recreation, as well as protection of the environment.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

The Delta Conservancy was created to act as a primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta and also support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well being of Delta residents.

Task Descriptions

This section explains the tasks that will be undertaken as part of this process. Commission staff will conduct all tasks or serve as the facilitator to ensure the completion of tasks that involve partners. The tasks which will include RTCA assistance include a note stating that underneath the task description.

1) Kickoff meetings with partners

Conference calls will be conducted with staff or representatives from each of the project partners. The objective of these calls will be to go over this scope of work to ensure that partners have an understanding of the project as a whole and discuss the specific tasks which the organizations agreed to undertake in their commitment letters. These calls will also be an opportunity for the partners to provide any input or suggestions on this process.

2) Kickoff meetings with County Parks departments

Meetings will be scheduled with the Parks Departments from Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo Counties. The objectives of these meetings will be to discuss the Blueprint Report process, and the Commission's role in Delta trail planning and facilitation.

3) Delta Trail meeting with all five Delta counties

A meeting will be held with representatives from all five Delta counties to discuss continued Delta Trail Master Planning efforts, what a completed Delta Trail Master Plan would consist of, and what the Commission's role as a facilitator organization would be. Staff from the East Bay Regional Parks District will be invited to present about their trail master planning efforts in Contra Costa County.

Involves RTCA assistance

4) GIS data

GIS data collection and mapping will be conducted in a manner similar to what was done for *The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano*. Table F-1 of that document is an inventory of collected GIS layers, and pages 23 and 24 are county maps which were created utilizing GIS software. Commission staff will determine what GIS layers are necessary for this process and work with relevant partners to obtain the GIS layers. Commission staff will then produce GIS maps for each of the three counties and develop an inventory list of all the data, with sources and descriptions.

5) Conduct policy reviews

The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano includes a policy review in Chapter 6, as well as a more detailed review in Appendix B. A similar review of relevant planning and policy documents will be conducted for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo Counties.

Involves RTCA assistance

6) Form a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Commission staff will identify and invite persons to serve on the SAC and TAC. Committee memberships will be modeled after the SAC and TAC that were developed for *The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano*, as outlined in the document's credits.

7) Funding Opportunities

Chapter 10 of *The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano* describes funding opportunities, and Appendix E is a Funding Opportunities Matrix. These sections should be updated for *The Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo* to reflect both current funding opportunities, as well as county-specific opportunities.

Involves RTCA assistance

8) Hold TAC and SAC workshops to discuss visions/goals and potential trail concepts

A SAC and a TAC workshop will be held in each of the three counties to discuss visions/goals and potential trail concepts. The vision and goals which are outlined in

chapter two of *The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano* will be used as a basis to develop the vision and goals for *The Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo*. Mapping exercises will be conducted to determine potential trail locations.

Involves RTCA assistance

9) Public workshop to discuss visions/goals and potential trail concepts

A public workshop will be held in a location which is accessible and central for Delta region residents of Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo Counties. The vision and goals which were developed in step 8 will be presented to meeting attendees for their consideration and possible modification. Mapping exercises will be conducted to determine potential trail locations.

Involves RTCA assistance

10) Descriptive settings

The descriptive settings section of the document, based off of Chapter 3 of *The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano*, will discuss the region's communities, agriculture, recreation, and existing and planned trails (including the GIS maps that were developed in step 4).

11) Prepare draft blueprint

Many of the sections in *The Blueprint Report for Contra Costa and Solano* are fairly general and could be incorporated into *The Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo* with few or no revisions. These sections include: 4) Technical Issues, 5) Best Practices, 7) Action Plan, 8) Outreach and Engagement, 10) Funding opportunities, Appendix A) Summary of SB 1556, Appendix C) Technical Issues Analysis, and Appendix D) Best Practices Analysis. Commission staff will review these sections, revise if necessary, and incorporate into *The Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo*. Work completed in previous steps of this process including the Visions/Goals, Setting, Policy Reviews, Potential Trail Concepts, Existing Policy Analysis, GIS Mapping Summary, and Funding Opportunities will be written up and incorporated into this draft. Commission staff will review and modify the document to ensure a consistent writing style throughout its entirety.

12) Circulate draft document for public comment

Once a draft of *The Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo* is complete it will be posted to the Commission's website and circulated for a 60 day public comment period. Commission staff will send the document out to the Commission's interested parties email list and ask interested parties to forward it on to their own mailing lists or any other interested persons. Partners who have committed to assist with outreach will also be asked to forward the document to their email lists. Commission staff will also ask staff from Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo Counties, as well as staff from the cities within the counties that may be affected by the project, to

forward it to relevant organizations within their jurisdictions such as Parks and Recreation Commissions and recreational agencies.

13) Discuss draft document at TAC/SAC workshops

During the 60 day public comment period, TAC and SAC workshops will be held to discuss the draft document in each of the three counties.

14) Present draft blueprint report to Commission

During the 60 day public comment period, the document will be presented at a Commission meeting to receive input from the Commissioners and interested members of the general public.

15) Discuss draft document at public workshop

During the 60-day comment period, a public workshop will be held somewhere in the Delta portion of Sacramento, San Joaquin, or Yolo counties. This public workshop will consist of a presentation on the draft document, and allow time for members of the public to comment on any aspects of the draft document.

16) Produce final document

Based on input received from the general public, TAC and SAC, and the Commission, a final document will be produced.

17) Present final document to Commission for adoption

Once the Blueprint Report is completed, it will be presented to the Commission for consideration to adopt.

18) Present final document to Counties for adoption

Once adopted by the Commission, Commission staff will work to schedule presentations to each of the three county Board of Supervisors for their consideration to adopt.

Relative Timeline*

Task	2012												2013																																
	March			April			May			June			July			August			September			October			November			December			January			February			March			April			May		
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
1 Kickoff meetings with partners																																													
2 Kickoff meetings with County Parks departments																																													
3 Delta trail meeting with all five Delta counties																																													
4 GIS Data																																													
5 Conduct policy reviews																																													
6 Form a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)																																													
7 Funding Matrix (update)																																													
8 Hold TAC and SAC workshops to discuss visions/goals and potential trail concepts																																													
9 Public workshop to discuss visions/goals and potential trail concepts																																													
10 Descriptive settings																																													
11 Prepare draft blueprint																																													
12 Circulate draft document for public comment																																													
13 Discuss draft document at TAC/SAC workshops																																													
14 Present draft blueprint report to Commission																																													
15 Discuss draft document at public workshop																																													
16 Produce final document																																													
17 Present final document to Commission for adoption																																													
18 Present final document to Counties for adoption																																													

 Deliverable

*Dates are approximate and may change due to schedules of the project partners