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Appendix 15B Delta Recreation

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3 The Delta occupies an area of more than 1,100 square miles at the confluence of the Sacramento and
4 San Joaquin Rivers. It encompasses over 60 islands and tracts, most of which are near or below sea
5 level. The Delta includes some of California's most fertile agricultural land and it is one of the State's
6 major recreation areas. With some 700 miles of waterways, it is one of the largest bodies of
7 protected cruising waters in the western United States. In addition to boating, the Delta supports
8 some of the State's most important fishing recreation. Its rich and varied wildlife populations attract
9 sports enthusiasts and nature lovers from all over the State.¹ This appendix summarizes current
10 recreation priorities as identified in planning and/or other documents by County within the primary
11 zone of the Delta.

12 Since the 1960s there have been a number of studies focused on the availability, development and
13 economic benefits of Delta recreation to both the region and the State. These include the Delta
14 Master Recreation Plan prepared by The Resources Agency of California (now The Natural
15 Resources Agency) in September 1976; DWR's 1981 Delta Recreation Concept Plan and Delta
16 Outdoor Recreation Implementation Plan; the Recreation Facilities Plan for North and South Delta,
17 prepared in March 1988 for the US Department of the Interior (which took a collaborative approach
18 to Delta recreation opportunities and development, and provided a summary of Delta recreation
19 efforts dating back to the 1960s); the Interim North Delta Program Final Draft Recreation
20 Enhancement Potential Reconnaissance Report, prepared in May 1994 by The Department of Water
21 Resources regarding recreational opportunities in the event of the construction of the peripheral
22 canal; and the 1997 "revised" Inventory of Recreational Facilities, prepared by the Delta Protection
23 Commission which was intended as a resource for public and private planners. The report also
24 looked at taxes generated by the boating industry, including state taxes, local property taxes, and
25 other local revenues.

26 Within the last two years, some general policy guidance has also been offered by the Delta
27 Protection Commission's *Economic Sustainability Plan*, the Delta Stewardship Council's *Delta Plan*,
28 and plans produced by collaborations of several local water agencies through the Integrated
29 Regional Water Management planning process. Most recently, California State Parks published the
30 *Recreation Proposal for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh*, in response to and
31 consistent with the 2009 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act. This document advocates 13
32 specific regional recommendations and envisioned outcomes for future recreation planning and
33 development in and surrounding the Delta. Plans resulting from the latter two processes
34 incorporated input from multiple agencies and stakeholder interest groups.

¹ Delta Master Recreation Plan, Third Edition, September 1976, The Resources Agency of California.

15B.1 Sacramento County

15B.1.1 Recreation Setting and Relevant History

As evidenced by the aforementioned historical recreation studies, Sacramento County has provided – and continues to provide - many opportunities for recreation. These include: (in broad categories) parks, river access, bike trails, historic and natural interpretive centers, nature preserves, hiking, and bird-watching/wildlife viewing opportunities. As in most counties, full utilization and expansion of these recreation opportunities in Sacramento County has been significantly impacted by funding limitations. Since the 1960s, Sacramento County has invested in notable projects to enhance recreation for the region, some of which are in the Delta and include:

1. 1962: Cliffhouse fishing access near Rio Vista. Recreation includes fishing, swimming, clamming, bird watching, and picnicking.
2. 1972: Elkhorn boat launch facility in North Natomas, which is leased from the State. This site attracts boaters and their families, has a picnic area, and a launch site for boats and personal watercraft.
3. 1987: Sacramento County purchased over 200 acres of land along the Cosumnes River, and the Nature Conservancy established the Cosumnes River Preserve. Sacramento County Regional Parks officially became a patron of the Preserve in 1993 after purchasing an additional 600 acres. Over the years additional purchases by Preserve partners have expanded the Preserve to nearly 46,000 acres. Recreational opportunities include “non-consumptive” activities such as bird watching, photography, paddling, nature study, hiking, and limited hunting. Fishing is allowed only from a boat.

The communities of Courtland, Clarksburg, Locke, Walnut Grove and Isleton evoke the heritage of small towns, agriculture, riverboats and railroads. Too often, however, the deterioration or loss of buildings impairs these towns’ historic fabric and hinders the reuse of important structures. Revitalization due to increased recreational user traffic will help support growth and economic stability in these towns.

On the north edge of the Delta, Interstate 5 (I-5) and Freeport Boulevard (SR 160) lead into the town of Freeport, which serves as a Gateway for recreation and the Sacramento River. At the entrance of Highway 160 from I-5 is a public ball field and golf course. Along the river side of Highway 160 is the Freeport Water Intake facility and various industrial staging areas. This is an ideal location for a trailhead and information center supporting the Delta as a unique place. Currently many people utilize the abandoned railroad tracks and dirt paths for jogging and biking. The unmaintained pathways lead for miles past the town of Freeport. From Freeport as far south as Walnut Grove people park along Highway 160 and fish off the levees. Many cycling groups ride down busy Highway 160 because the current trails do not support this sport. There are no public bathrooms or safe parking areas for these recreational users.

15B.1.2 California State Park's Proposal

Several of the recommended projects in State Parks' 2011 *Proposal* are located in Sacramento County. These include:

1. Delta Meadows is a state park which is closed to the public and has no visitor facilities. It is currently being managed as a preserve to protect an undeveloped piece of the Delta, and encompasses sloughs and wet meadows which support abundant wildlife and wetland birds. Enhanced recreation opportunities include boating, canoeing, bird watching, photography and camping. Currently the Delta Meadows area is used by recreational boaters who tie-up to shorelines for the summer in large houseboats and privately-rented platforms. The trails are maintained for maintenance access but there is not public access, parking or restrooms. State Parks' recent Proposal recommends to "Complete park planning and create a basecamp by developing facilities, connections, and interpretation."
2. Locke Boarding House: Locke is a National Historic Landmark, unique in the United States as a city built exclusively by Chinese immigrants during the early 20th Century. Currently the town provides for historical landmarks, small museums, as well as a memorial that is undergoing upgrades/updates. Unmaintained trails lead behind the small town to Snodgrass Slough, where many people fish. There is no public parking, restrooms or easy access. There is an old boat launch that is no longer accessible.
3. Stone Lakes: The Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has just opened their Blue Heron Trails feature, after many years of habitat restoration and development. The Refuge offers guided nature tours and a viewing platform. Increased education/recreational opportunities and partnerships include connecting to the California Recreational Trail System and formulating a cooperative management plan. There are also ideas of connecting train rides to and/or through the refuge to allow more public access and reduce impacts to wildlife.
4. Brannan Island SRA: This serves as a regional "base camp" and is one of the outstanding water-oriented recreation areas in the world, with a maze of waterways and marshes through the Delta. The park is implementing budget-driven service reductions and though the boat launch is open 7 days a week, the park itself is closed several weekdays and camping is limited. Recreational opportunities at this site include boating, canoeing, windsurfing, swimming, camping, hiking and picnicking. Recreational opportunities for expansion and addition to facilities include maintaining this area as a base camp to explore the nearby rivers and public lands; rehabilitating and expanding angling, picnicking, swimming, and camping opportunities; rehabilitating and expending boating facilities, rehabilitating and restoring the windsurfing area; and connecting park facilities to Highway 160 and the California Recreational Trails System.
5. California State Railroad Museum: Located in Old Sacramento State Historic Park, this is one of North America's most popular railroad museums, featuring lavishly restored trains. Recreational opportunities include collaboration with California State Railroad Museum, Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge, and other partners in State Parks' envisioned activation of the line from the Meadowview/Pocket Road area in south Sacramento to Hood, with interpretive rail service for both wildlife viewing and other recreational purposes.

1 State Parks' recreation *Proposal* also makes specific recommendations directed at DWR, for areas
2 located in Sacramento County, which include:

- 3 • Increase access to publicly owned areas at Twitchell and Sherman Islands.

4 Twitchell Island is owned by DWR and much of the land is currently used to perform research on the
5 Delta, such as shaded riverine aquatic habitat and water hyacinth control. Due to these research
6 activities, there is currently no public access. Recreational opportunities exist, however, for Sherman
7 and Lower Sherman Islands. Sherman Island is an exceptionally popular windsurfing location, with
8 several beach venues. Recreational improvement opportunities exist for developing campsites,
9 picnic areas, bathrooms, potable water, and especially parking. CDFW manages the Lower Sherman
10 Island Wildlife Area, where hunting is popular.

11 **15B.2 Yolo County**

12 Yolo County encompasses much of the northern Delta west of the Sacramento River. The
13 Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel crosses from north to south through this portion of the
14 county, and the Yolo Bypass occupies the area west of the ship channel. The Yolo Bypass constitutes
15 a floodway for the Sacramento River when the river water level is high.

16 Water-based recreational facilities of the type found throughout most of the other Delta counties are
17 relatively few. The most numerous facilities are the 17 private duck hunting clubs in the vicinity of
18 the Yolo Bypass. Three land-based State Wildlife Areas are otherwise the most prominent developed
19 recreation features of the Delta portion of Yolo County, along with some development of riverbank
20 facilities in West Sacramento parks.

21 **15B.2.1 Recreation Setting and Relevant History**

22 The potential for a Yolo County gateway to introduce visitors to the Delta has long been recognized.
23 Yolo County and the Yolo Basin Foundation have advocated development of a "Pacific Flyway
24 Center," an interpretive facility at the heart of expanded visitor activities and attractions in and
25 around the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. This vision is explicitly detailed in the Pacific Flyway Center
26 Interpretive Plan, prepared in 2005 by the Yolo Basin Foundation, and could conceivably be an
27 element of the "basecamp" feature described below.

28 Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, owned and operated by the CDFW, is in the northwestern Delta along the
29 Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel. It is a major public waterfowl and pheasant hunting
30 area, with duck blinds and parking areas. Fishing occurs primarily at the East Toe Drain and along
31 Putah Creek. The area also provides wildlife viewing and photography opportunities. The
32 automobile tour route and also the 16 miles of walking trails here can be used for viewing. The Yolo
33 Basin Foundation conducts many educational and interpretive programs in the wildlife area,
34 including the Discover the Flyway school program, Marsh Madness Youth Days, tours of the wildlife
35 area, a vernal pool open house, bat tours, and the California Duck Days wetland festival.

36 Two other State wildlife areas, and a popular developed fishing access site, also exist in the Yolo
37 portion of the BDCP Plan Area. Fremont Weir Wildlife Area is where the Sacramento River water
38 spills over at the Fremont Weir into the Yolo Bypass. The 1,461-acre Fremont Weir Wildlife Area has
39 no facilities, but there are opportunities for fishing, bird watching, and wildlife viewing. Hunting is

1 allowed during spring turkey season, and daily for waterfowl and upland game from July 1 through
2 January 31.

3 The Sacramento Bypass Wildlife Area is an element of the Yolo Bypass just north of I-80. This 360-
4 acre area provides valuable cover and feeding grounds for wildlife, particularly during late fall,
5 winter, and early spring. There are no recreation facilities here, but fishing occurs in the Tule Canal;
6 wildlife viewing and bird watching are also common here. Hunting is also allowed between
7 September 1 and January 31—game species in this wildlife area include waterfowl, pheasant, and
8 dove.

9 Clarksburg Fishing Access, owned and managed by Yolo County, provides a boat ramp, parking, and
10 bank access for boating, waterskiing, and fishing activities. The facility occupies a 3.9-acre shelf of
11 land inside the Sacramento River levee.

12 Several of the recommended projects in State Parks' 2011 *Proposal* are located in Yolo County.
13 These include:

14 1. Elkhorn Basin "Basecamp" Feature

15 The Elkhorn Basin is expansive open space at the northern end of the Yolo Bypass. Possibly in
16 the form of a future State Park unit, this area is a high priority for a basecamp. By providing
17 campsites, picnic sites, trails, fishing access, and interpretive services, basecamps invite and
18 support a diversity of recreation activities deeper into the heart of the Delta region. By
19 partnering with landowners on the Sacramento River, such a project would require securing
20 about 1,500 acres and restoring habitat.

21 2. Explore recreation potential for the Cache Slough complex

22 There exists the potential to develop lands in this area for environmental restoration and
23 outdoor recreation, primarily wildlife observation, boating, fishing access, and hunting. This will
24 require CDFW to lead coordination with DWR, Yolo and Solano Counties, and landowners.

25 3. Complete planning and development of the American Discovery Trail through the Delta

26 Consider using West Sacramento's Clarksburg Branch Line Trail as part of the route from West
27 Sacramento to Clarksburg.

28 Yolo County proposed multiple projects with recreation features in their 2007 Integrated Regional
29 Water Management (IRWM) Plan. They are currently in the process of merging that plan with plans
30 from neighboring counties as they develop the Westside IRWM Plan, and plan to apply for funding
31 from DWR during a future round of Proposition IRWM grants. Proposed recreation enhancements
32 include the following:

33 **15B.2.1.1 Knights Landing Boat Launch**

34 Renovate launch ramp and shore facilities as part of Sacramento River Integrated (project R7).

35 **15B.2.1.2 Elkhorn Regional Park**

36 Renovate the southern portion of Elkhorn Regional Park located eight miles north of West
37 Sacramento (project R10). Improvements would include an accessible educational trail, river
38 overlooks, wildlife habitat, interpretive kiosks, and an easement to connect the park to CDFG's
39 wildlife area.

15B.2.1.3 Davis Wetlands Public Access

Improve public access to Davis Wetlands with a trail bridge at the mouth of Willow Slough (project R31).

15B.2.1.4 Davis to West Sacramento Bike Trail

Develop an at-grade bike trail including bridging the Tule Canal as part of Yolo Bypass Integrated Project (project R12).

15B.2.1.5 West Sacramento Main Drain Canal Recreation Corridor

Develop recreation corridor along Main Drainage Canal in West Sacramento between Barge Canal and Deep Water Ship Channel.

15B.2.1.6 West Sacramento Central Park

Develop West Sacramento Central Park facilities along the Sacramento River between Palamidessi and Jefferson bridges (project R35). Facilities may include an aquatic/boating center, marina, viewing platforms and shore access pathways, gathering areas, sport fields, meeting facilities, and cultural facilities.

15B.2.1.7 Deep Water Ship Channel Recreation Trail

Develop a 5 mile biking/walking trail along the east levee of the Deep Water Ship Channel and the north levee of the south city cross drain (project R13). Improvements would include staging areas and access controls, picnic areas, information kiosks, wildlife or port viewing areas, and bank fishing access.

15B.3 San Joaquin County

San Joaquin County encompasses a large area of the eastern and southern Delta, east of the Mokelumne and Old Rivers. The county includes the cities of Lathrop, Stockton, and Tracy at the margins of the Delta and the San Joaquin River as it crosses this part of the Delta. Although recreational facilities are scattered on various waterways throughout the county, including more than 30 marinas and yacht clubs, many of the facilities are in or near Stockton. The largest marinas contain more than 700 berths. There are also several private clubs located on channel islands in the vicinity of Stockton, and several public launch ramps in Stockton and on the San Joaquin River to the south.

The 21 private marinas, nine yacht clubs, three duck clubs, and one sailing club that are located in San Joaquin County offer a variety of facilities. Twenty of the marinas provide boat berths for long-term storage. The marinas include seven small (fewer than 50 berths), nine medium (50 to 200 berths), and five large (more than 200 berths) facilities. Over half of the marinas provide a launch ramp (13) and waste pump-out facilities (11), and many also provide campsites (9) and picnicking opportunities (7). Five of the marinas in San Joaquin County also provide houseboat rentals. Only one marina provides dry storage and fuel facilities. The sailing club and two of the yacht clubs provide boat berthing facilities. The other seven yacht clubs and all three duck clubs do not provide any amenities.

15B.3.1 Recreation Setting and Relevant History

Public facilities associated with Delta waters are operated by the County, and the City of Stockton. These include Buckley Cove and Louis Parks; Dos Reis Regional Park; Grupe Park, on Fourteenmile Slough, and Legion Park, on Smith Canal; McLeod Park, Weber Point Park, and the North and South Seawalls (at the terminus of the Stockton Channel); Morelli Park; Mossdale Crossing Regional Park; and Westgate Landing Regional Park.

Two State properties also offer recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities: the White Slough Wildlife Area and the Woodbridge Ecological Reserve, both owned by CDFW. White Slough Wildlife Area consists of 880 acres of designed ditches, canals, marshes, grasslands, riparian habitat, and nine ponds that were created during the construction of I-5. This wildlife area, west of Lodi and north of Stockton, provides opportunities for fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing; hunting opportunities occur in-season. Woodbridge Ecological Reserve is also known as the Isenberg Sandhill Crane Reserve. It consists of two parcels of land west of I-5 that provide opportunities for viewing migratory sandhill cranes. The southern parcel is open to the public, and a seasonal 2-hour, docent-led crane tour begins at this location, continuing to the northern parcel, where a parking lot, restroom, and crane viewing blind are provided. (The northern parcel can be visited only on these tours.) Crane tours generally are available the first three weekends of each month from October to February.

A couple of the recommended projects in State Parks' 2011 *Proposal* are located in San Joaquin County:

1. South Delta "Basecamp" Feature

Possibly in the Old River area, State Parks recommends exploring the potential to create a basecamp on an upland area of about 200 acres using construction spoils. In this area there could be developed picnic sites, trails, and education and interpretive services, and possibly campsites. This area could also be associated with (or facilitate interpretation of) a water trail connecting to the San Joaquin River.

2. Wright-Elmwood Tract

State Parks recommends evaluating the feasibility of a new State Recreation Area adjoining Stockton on the 1,300-acre Wright-Elmwood Tract. A new SRA here would provide Delta access and recreation, and could enable restoration of habitat. Facilities and programs developed here could support many thousands of recreationists and also achieve related restoration and recreation goals.

3. Great California Delta Trail

The Delta Protection Commission is currently embarking on a "blueprint" endeavor as the next step toward bringing the Delta trail to fruition. The most recent effort encompassed San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Yolo counties. DWR staff participated on a "Technical Advisory team" convened to guide development of the Blueprint Reports.

Other noted recreation development in San Joaquin County would probably involve expansion of or additions to existing recreation facilities. No new marinas have been constructed in decades, and aging infrastructure combined with difficult and costly permitting may make continued operation of all existing private marinas more difficult. The State Parks 2011 *Proposal* also recognizes that San

1 Joaquin County may add a million new residents by 2050 – with commensurate additional
2 recreation demand created.

3 **15B.4 Solano County**

4 Solano County encompasses a portion of the northwestern Delta, west of the Sacramento River, and
5 includes the Cache and Lindsey Slough complex north of Rio Vista. The City of Rio Vista on the
6 Sacramento River is outside of, but immediately adjacent to, the statutory Delta, with the boundary
7 defined by the river in that area. Recreational facilities are not numerous, but several public parks
8 with boat launching facilities and a large private marina in the Rio Vista area provide recreational
9 access to the Delta.

10 The Suisun Marsh is outside the statutory Delta, but nevertheless is an important component of the
11 Delta system and is also located in the Solano region. California State Parks' 2011 *Proposal* envisions
12 concurrent planning and includes at least one recommendation for the Suisun Marsh region.

13 **15B.4.1 Recreation Setting and Relevant History**

14 The 116,000-acre Suisun Marsh is east of Interstate 680 (I-680), south of SR 12, north of Suisun and
15 Grizzly Bay, and west of the statutory Delta. The marsh provides natural wetlands and essential
16 habitat for hundreds of species and is located along the Pacific Flyway; thus, the marsh is an
17 outstanding place for bird watching, wildlife viewing, and waterfowl hunting. The marsh offers
18 opportunities for fishing, hiking, and boating. It includes two public wildlife areas, one public
19 ecological reserve, one public open space area, and many private duck clubs. Unlike the Delta, there
20 are few developed public recreation facilities in the marsh; most developed facilities are at the Rush
21 Ranch Open Space Area and the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area.

22 The total estimated annual recreation use of Suisun Marsh is about 130,000 user-days, about half of
23 which is attributed to waterfowl hunting at the numerous private duck clubs. Each season, the
24 Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Complex hosts 7,000–8,000 waterfowl hunters, more than 1,000
25 pheasant hunters, and perhaps 100 elk, rabbit, and pig hunters. The manager of the complex has
26 estimated more than 45,000 user-days of fishing activity in the marsh (two-thirds of that in the
27 wildlife area), and more than 12,000 user-days of recreational activity are attributed to non-
28 hunting/fishing activities such as wildlife viewing and dog training (nearly all of which occur in the
29 wildlife area).

30 California State Parks' 2011 *Proposal* recommends restoring and developing the recreation and
31 wildlife potential of Barker Slough.

32 **1. Barker Slough**

33 The potential exists to restore wildlife habitat and develop picnic sites, trails, facilities for
34 kayaks and other small paddlecraft, and interpretive services. This is envisioned as a
35 cooperative opportunity for CDFW, Solano County, and the Division of Boating and Waterways.

15B.5 Contra Costa County

Contra Costa County includes the southwestern Delta, bounded by the San Joaquin River on the north and Old River on the east. Major cities include Pittsburg and Antioch on the San Joaquin River and the communities of Oakley, Brentwood, and Discovery Bay south of the San Joaquin River. The Contra Costa County portion of the Delta contains numerous public and private recreational facilities, including more than 40 marinas and yacht clubs, the largest of which provides several-hundred berths. More than 20 private marinas and yacht clubs are on Bethel Island, making that area a focus for Delta boating activity.

15B.5.1 Recreation Setting and Relevant History

The cities in Contra Costa County have active Park and Recreation Departments, and are also within the jurisdiction of the East Bay Regional Park District. Collectively, these entities have a relatively well-developed and essentially cooperative system of urban parks (including many at the wildland and waterside interfaces) and developed trails. In some cases these trail developments represent the first segments that will become the corridor of the envisioned Great California Delta Trail.

The State recreation presence in the Contra Costa part of the Delta is currently limited to Franks Tract State Recreation Area, just north of Bethel Island. This SRA occupies two flooded islands, Franks Tract and Little Franks Tract. No recreational facilities have been developed and both flooded islands are accessible only by boat. Recreation opportunities in the SRA include fishing, boating, and waterfowl hunting on part of the open water. Additionally, California State Parks is collaboratively working with the City of Brentwood (and other concerned citizens and entities) to develop the Cowell Ranch/John Marsh, encompassing 3,659 acres of natural habitat, wildlife, and unique cultural features (including the historic John Marsh Home). This is one of California's newest state parks, although currently not open to the public.

Contra Costa County is also the home of the SWP's Clifton Court Forebay and the prospective expanded forebay envisioned as an element of the BDCP conveyance system. While boating, camping, and swimming are not allowed at the forebay, bank fishing is popular at the southern end where vehicle access is permitted. Hunting is allowed on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during designated seasons for waterfowl, but otherwise there are no recreational facilities.

A federal recreation presence exists in Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1980. This was the first "wildlife" refuge in the country to be established to protect endangered plants and insects. The refuge was closed to the public in 1986 to protect the refuge's endangered species and their habitats. The refuge is fenced, and public use is currently limited to monthly docent-led tours and educational tours given to groups upon request.

1. Franks Tract SRA

California State Parks' award-winning 2011 *Recreation Proposal for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh* includes the recommendation to "explore partnerships at Franks Tract SRA to increase boating, fishing, and hunting opportunities and enhance boating safety." Some specific concepts for development of Franks Tract are also envisioned in the General Plan, which was written and adopted under the same cover as the General Plan for Brannan Island SRA (located in Sacramento County).

1 2. State Historic Park at John Marsh/Cowell Ranch

2 California State Parks' *Recreation Proposal for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun*
 3 *Marsh* also recommends specific actions to enable public use of this new State Park.
 4 Partnerships and funding will ultimately be required to preserve the historic John Marsh home;
 5 develop campsites, picnic sites, special-event facilities; establish education and interpretive
 6 services; and develop trails. Examples of the latter will include, if feasible, connecting the park to
 7 the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail, and the
 8 American Discovery Trail.

9 3. Big Break Regional Shoreline

10 EBRPD owns and manages Big Break Regional Shoreline—1,648 acres along the San Joaquin
 11 River in the City of Oakley (California State Coastal Conservancy 2007). Since adopting the Big
 12 Break Regional Shoreline Land Use Plan in 2001, EBRPD has been developing portions of the
 13 site in phases, with construction of a parking lot, an access road, restrooms, and a fishing and
 14 observation pier already completed. EBRPD has designated two Recreation Units on the site
 15 (totaling 12 acres of long-abandoned asparagus fields) for interpretive exhibits, trails, an
 16 observation platform, a picnic area, a pier, and a small boat launch ramp. The Delta Science
 17 Center, also located at the Big Break Regional Shoreline, provides opportunities for
 18 environmental education and research. The center is a collaboration among the cities of Oakley,
 19 Brentwood, Antioch, and Pittsburg; EBRPD; Pacific Gas and Electric Company; and the Sierra
 20 Club, among others.

21 4. Big Break Regional Trail

22 EBRPD is developing the Big Break Regional Trail. More than 1 mile of the trail has been
 23 completed and connects the Marsh Creek Trail in the east to a residential neighborhood in
 24 Oakley. The open portion of the trail runs just south of Big Break Regional Shoreline and has a
 25 rest stop. The proposed trail extension continues to the west for approximately 1 mile, beyond
 26 Big Break Regional Shoreline and within 0.5 mile of the Delta Science Center at Big Break.

27 5. Browns Island Regional Preserve

28 Browns Island lies at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, north of the City
 29 of Pittsburg. The 595-acre island is owned and managed by EBRPD. There are no recreational
 30 facilities on the island, and access is arranged by appointment only.

31 6. Marsh Creek Regional Trail

32 EBRPD's Marsh Creek Regional Trail runs along Marsh Creek in eastern Contra Costa County,
 33 from the Delta shores of Big Break south to Creekside Park in Brentwood. The paved, multiuse
 34 trail is 6.5 miles long. Plans exist to extend the trail to 14 miles, connecting the Delta to Morgan
 35 Territory Regional Preserve and Round Valley Regional Park east of Mount Diablo State Park.

36 7. Rhode Island Wildlife Area

37 The Rhode Island Wildlife Area, owned and managed by CDFW, consists of a 67-acre island
 38 located in Old River between Holland Tract and Bacon Island. It provides habitat for rivers
 39 otters, beavers, muskrats, and birds such as ducks, herons, and egrets, among others. The
 40 wildlife area is accessible only by boat and provides opportunities for fishing, wildlife viewing,
 41 and waterfowl hunting. Though the public can access this area, no facilities are provided.