

# National Heritage Areas

## An Option for the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta?



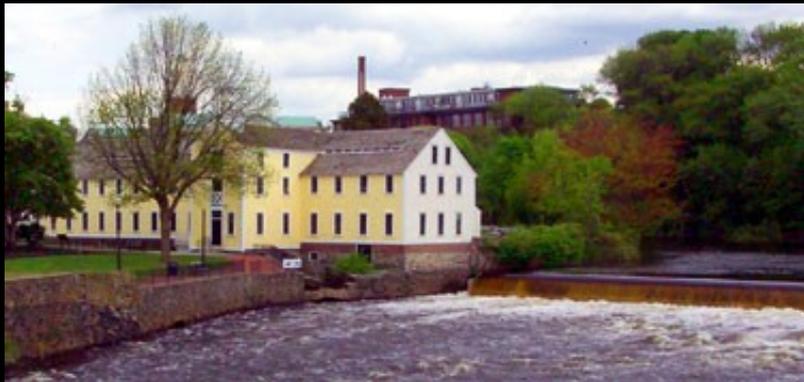
**Alex Westhoff**

**Delta Protection Commission**

**4/24/09**

# What are National Heritage Areas (NHA)?

A "national heritage area" is a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally-distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These areas tell nationally important stories about our nation and are representative of the national experience through both the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved within them.

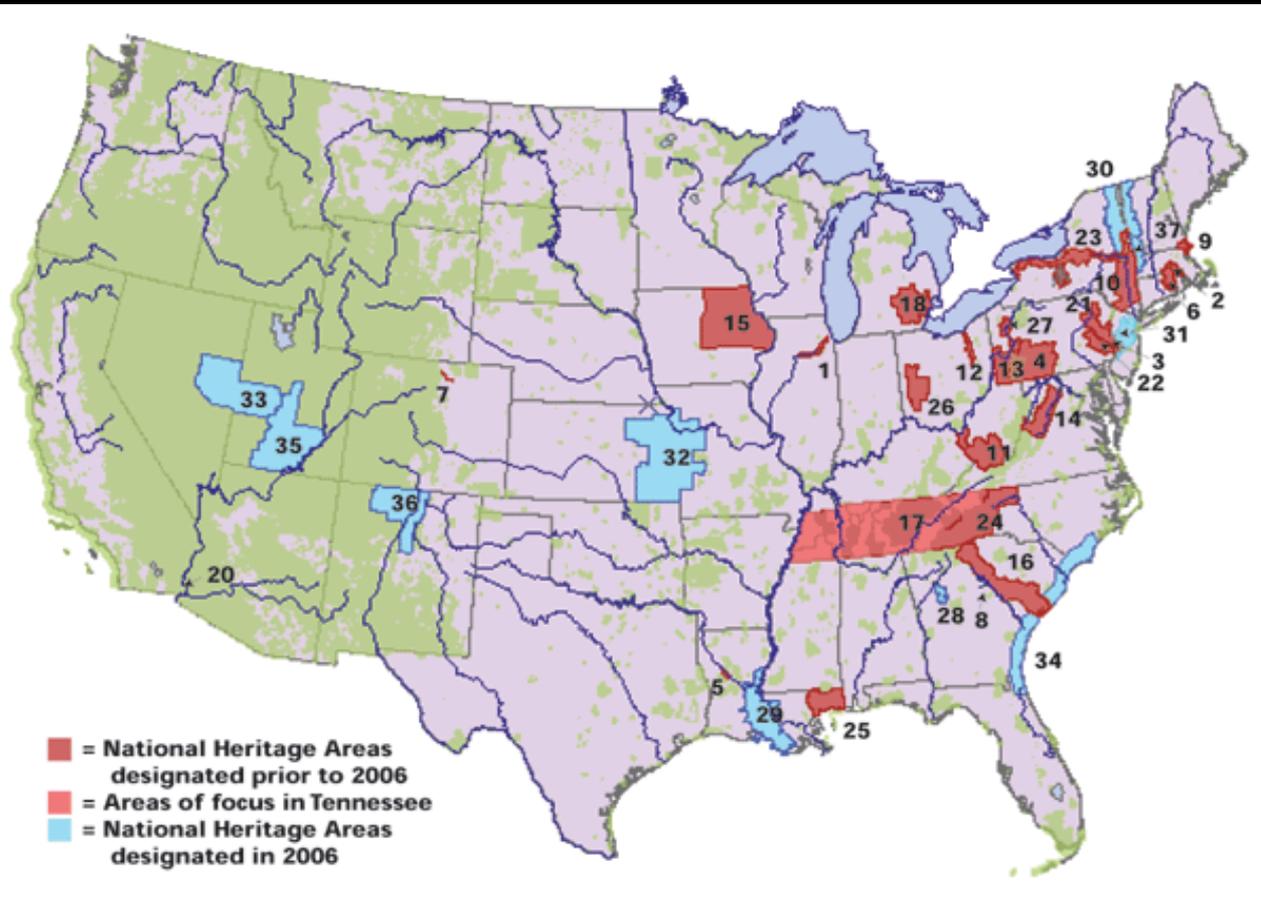


John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley  
NH Corridor



Cane River NHA

# Since 1984, 37 places have been designated as NHAs



## Examples

2) John H. Chafee  
Blackstone River  
Valley NH Corridor

12) Ohio & Erie  
Canalway NH Corridor

13) Rivers of Steel NHA

15) Silos and  
Smokestacks

20) Yuma Crossing  
NHA

25) Mississippi Gulf  
Coast NHA

# Benefits of NHA Designation

- Limited financial assistance from NPS
- Planning and interpretation assistance
- Helps to connect with federal agencies
- Use of NPS arrowhead symbol
- Protect community identity, pride and sense of place
- Educational and inspirational opportunities
- Building strong commitment to stewardship
- Collaborative approach to conservation that does not compromise local control



# NHA vs. National Park

- NHAs are locally-managed designations over a complex matrix of public/private lands
- The Federal government does not impose land use controls to NHAs and no federal land acquisition authority is granted with designation
- NHA initiatives are coordinated by a local entity in partnership with stakeholders that work collaboratively on projects to meet stated goals
- NPS enters into an agreement with the local parties, assessing mutually shared goals

# Case Studies

<b>1) Silos and Smokestacks</b>	<b>Agritourism and Regional Branding</b>
<b>2) Yuma Crossing</b>	<b>Ecological Restoration and Community Involvement</b>
<b>3) Delaware and Lehigh Corridor</b>	<b>Historic Preservation and Small Town Revitalization</b>

1



2



3



# NHA Criteria

1. An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.
2. Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.
3. Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and /or scenic features.
4. Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.
5. The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.

# NHA Criteria (cont.)

6. Residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.
7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.
8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.
9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.
10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

# How is the Delta significant on a National Level?

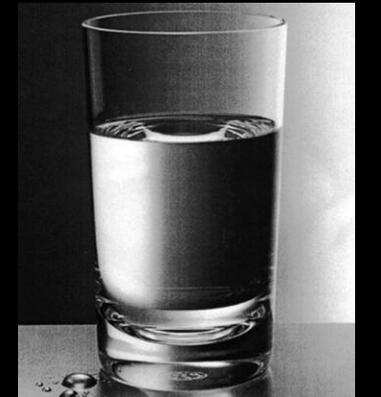
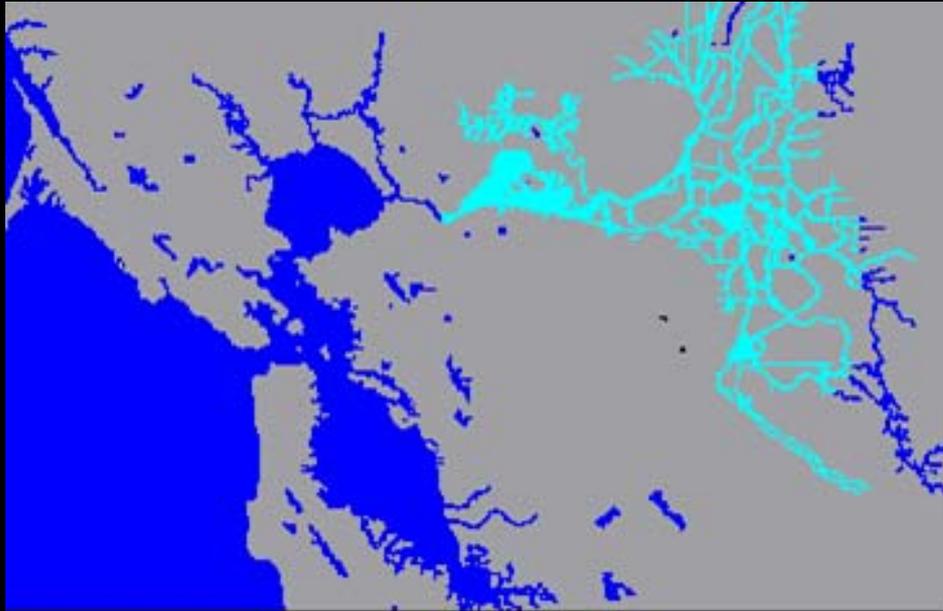
- **Natural Heritage**

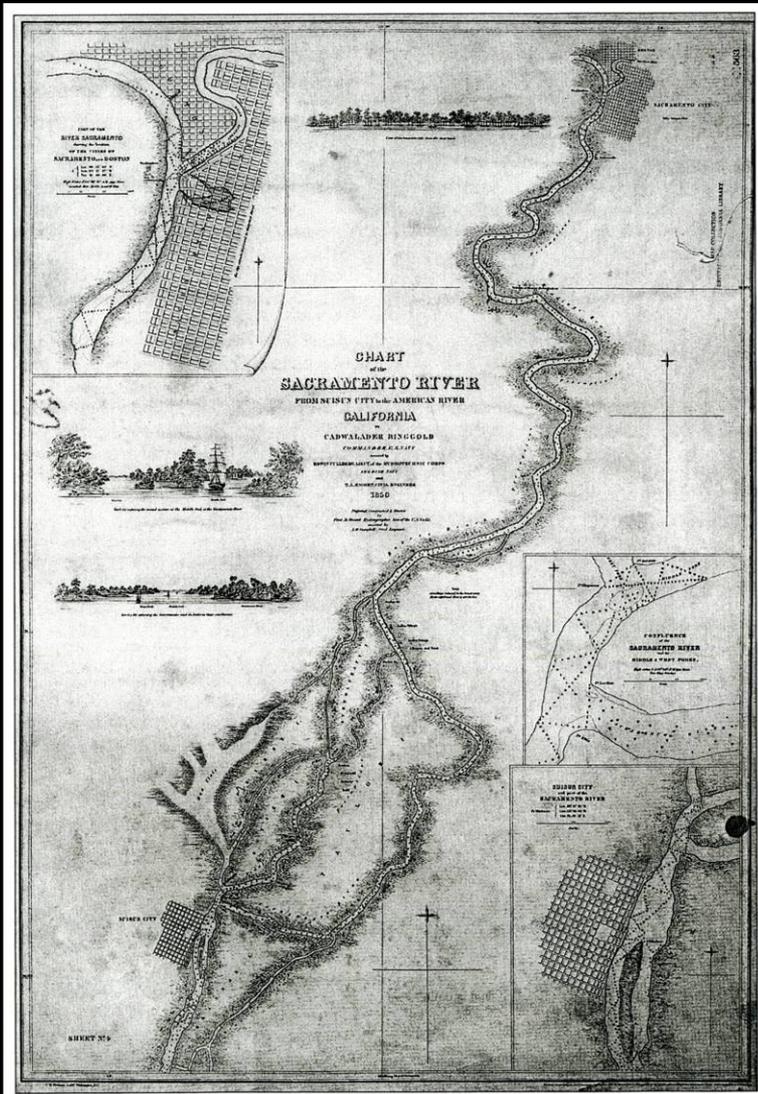
- One of the only 'Inverse Deltas' in the world
- Second largest estuary in U.S.
- Pacific flyway stopover
- Mediterranean climate, but supports anadromous fish
- Inland delta in the middle of huge urban areas
- Provides a large amount of natural resources to California and beyond

- **Cultural Heritage**

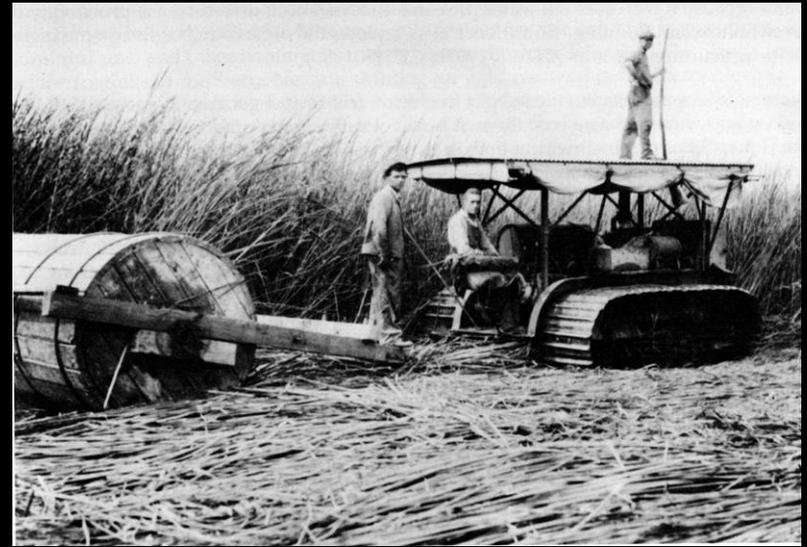
- Gold Rush Corridor
- Major center for water based recreation
- Multi-Cultural Rural Landscape
- Key act of hydraulic infrastructure/engineering
- Productive agricultural region which shipped products throughout the world
- Innovative center for agricultural Equipment Invention

# Natural Heritage and Natural Resources





Pre-1850 chart of the Sacramento River (current Rio Vista to Sacramento) for Gold Rush navigation



Reclamation began in the 1850's

# Steamboat Landings into Towns

## ‘Legacy Towns’

Clarksburg – 1849

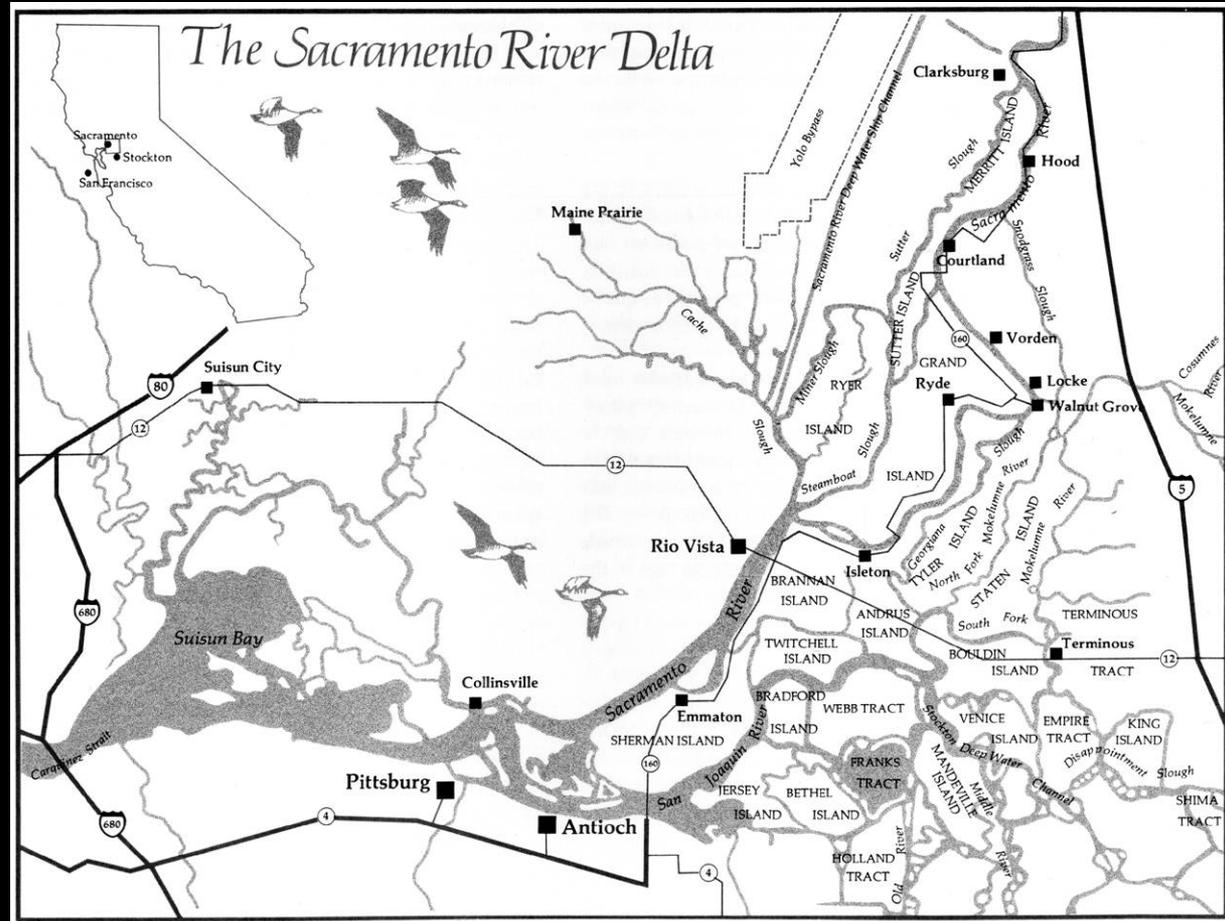
Walnut Grove – 1850/1

Rio Vista – 1857

Courtland – 1870

Isleton – 1874

(and more)

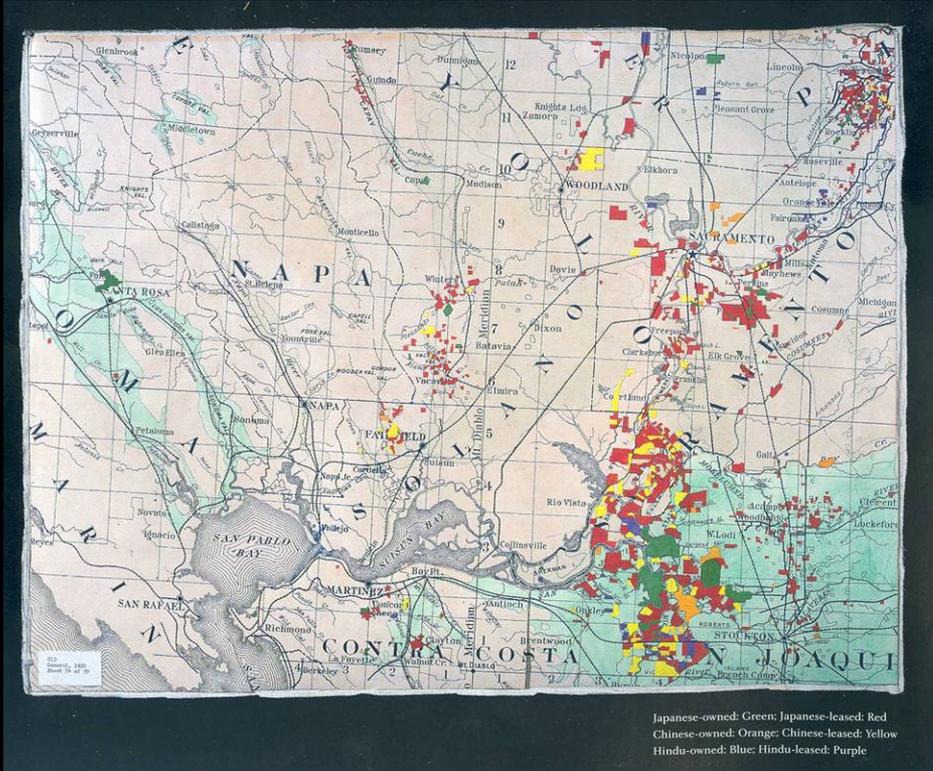
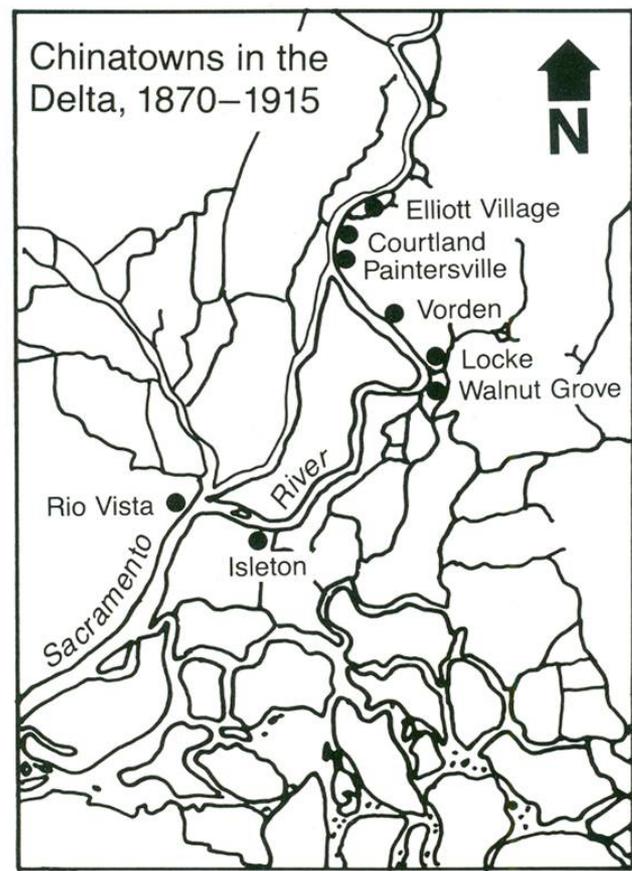




Drawing of Chinese levee builders, dated 1896



Mainstreet Locke, 1939



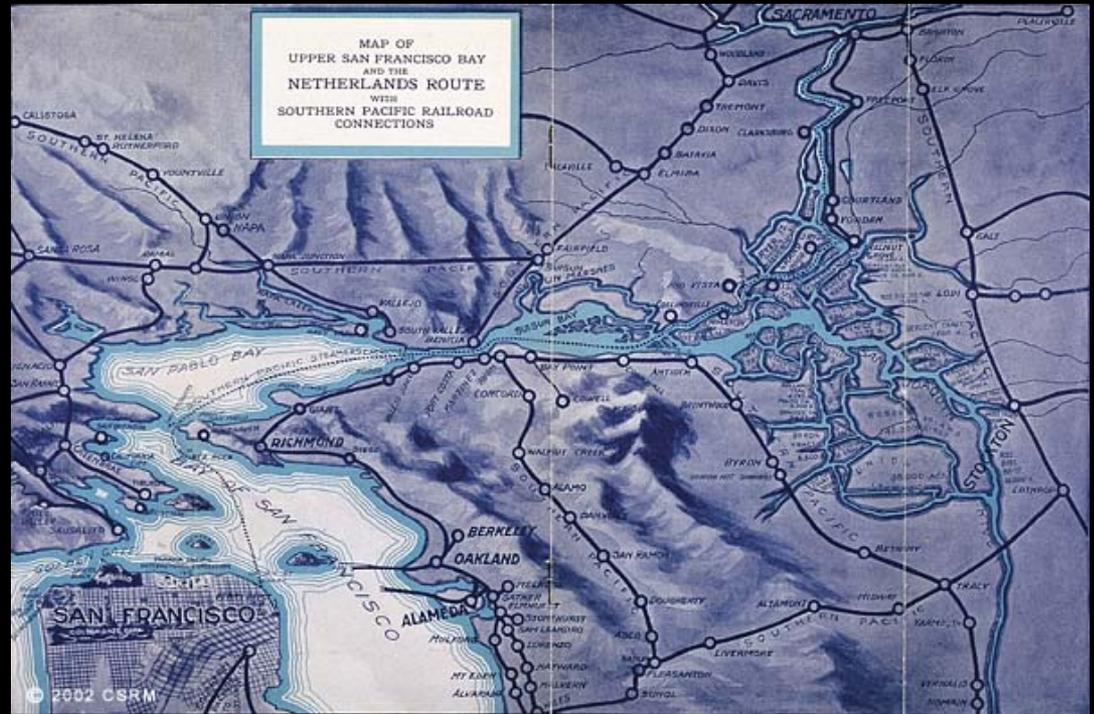
'Oriental Land Occupation Map' of 1920



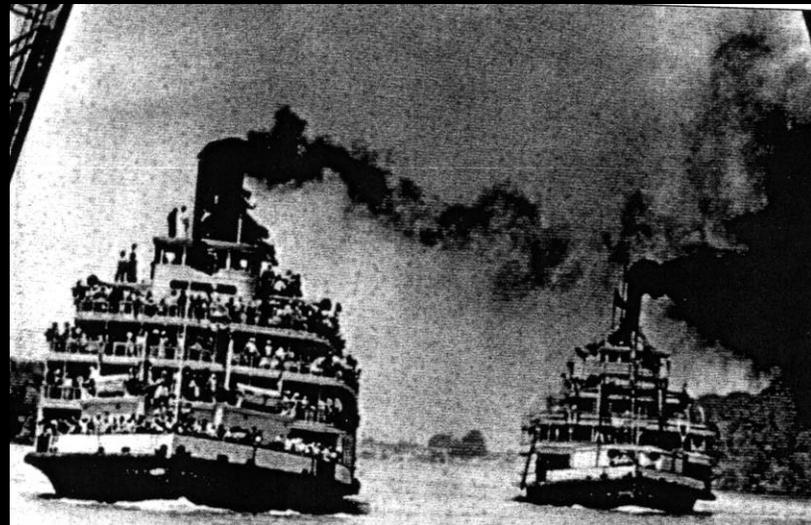
Isleton's Japantown, pre 1926



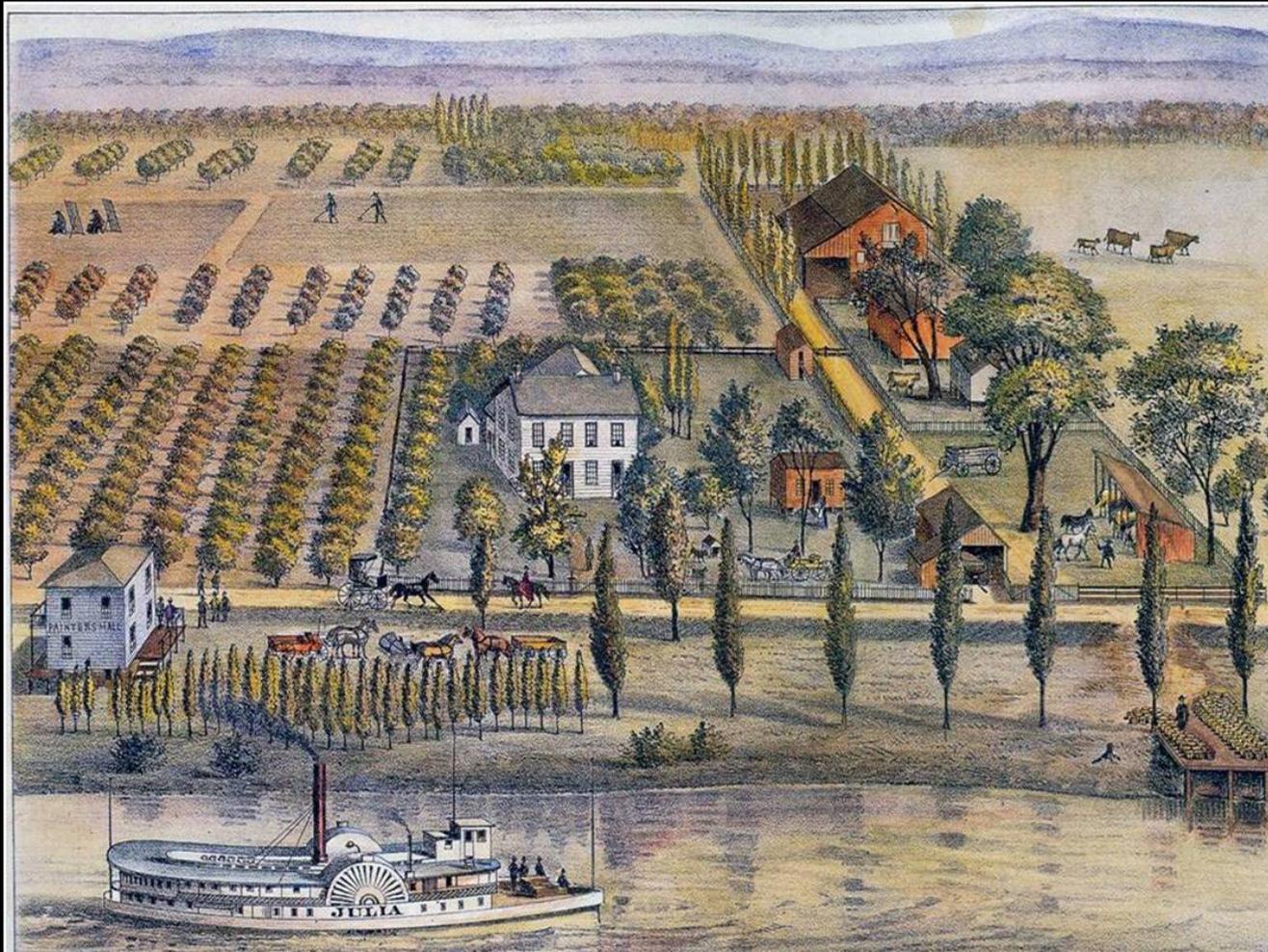
Netherlands route poster, 1911



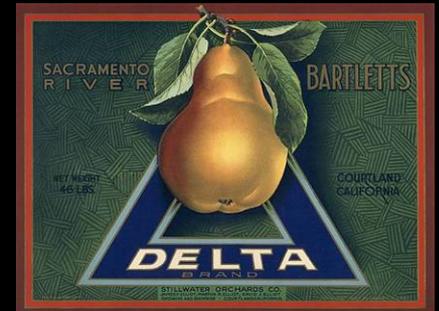
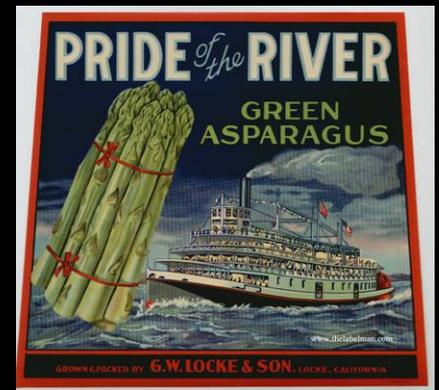
Netherlands route map, 1911



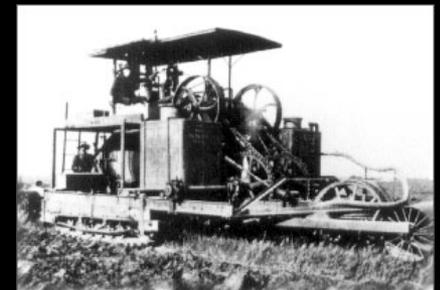
Delta Queen and Delta King, 1939



Levi Painter's farm near Courtland ca 1880



Various produce labels, 1910-1930



The original Caterpillar, 1906

# Steps to obtain designation

1. Completion of a suitability/feasibility study
2. Public involvement in the suitability/feasibility study
3. Demonstration of widespread public support among heritage area residents for the proposed designation
4. Commitment to the proposal from appropriate players which may include governments, industry, and private, non-profit organizations, in addition to local citizenry



# Potential Projects



**Ecological Restoration**



**Regional Branding**



**Historic Preservation**



**Heritage Tour Routes**



**Agritourism**



**Ecotourism**

# Existing State Trails and Delta Heritage Tourism Attractions



Existing State Trails	Delta Heritage Tourism Attractions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American River Trail •</li> </ul>	<p>Historic Towns of: Freeport, Clarksburg, Locke, Walnut Grove, Ryde, Isleton, Rio Vista</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail •</li> </ul>	<p>Isleton, Rio Vista, Antioch</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail •</li> </ul>	<p>Antioch/Oakley Regional Shoreline (Anza Expedition Campsite 101" Plaque), Brentwood agritourism</p>

# The Great Delta Trail

- In 2006, legislation passed for Delta Protection Commission to do planning for the 'Great Delta Trail.'
- This regional network will run through all five Delta counties, and link the San Francisco Bay Trail with the Sacramento River Trails
- Challenge: No funding
- Opportunity: Stakeholder involvement in trail route designation and design



# The Great Delta Trail and the Delta NHA

- The Trail will help to link visitors from surrounding urban areas into the Delta NHA, utilizing the Delta's historic bridges and ferries.
- Interpretive signage will be developed for the Trail, educating people on the Delta's natural and cultural heritage.



# More Information

- **Delta Protection Commission**  
[www.delta.ca.gov/](http://www.delta.ca.gov/)
- **National Park Service**  
[www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/](http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/)
- **Alliance of National Heritage Areas**  
[www.nationalheritageareas.org](http://www.nationalheritageareas.org)
- **Email - alexdpc@citlink.net**