

News Release



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RECREATION PROPOSAL for the SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA and SUISUN MARSH RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

California State Parks' long-term plan and vision for expanding recreational opportunities and the economic foundation in the Delta has won a prestigious national award.

The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners (NARRP) has presented its **2012 Excellence in Planning Award** to California State Parks for its Recreation Proposal for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. NARRP is the Nation's leading professional association of outdoor recreation and related planners who strive to protect our natural and cultural resources while providing sustainable recreation access.

The far-reaching plan will serve as the leading recreational guide in the dynamic Delta estuary for decades. It states that by protecting, enhancing and expanding recreational opportunities in the five-county Delta region, the result will be a significant boost in visitors and that in turn will contribute to an improved and more sustainable Delta economy.

The study found that many state and local agencies, environmental organizations and businesses contribute to the rich diversity of existing recreation amenities, yet hold the key to many untapped opportunities. Enhancing and expanding recreational opportunities in the region will require extensive collaboration and partnerships, so California State Parks planners shared input from local agencies such as East Bay Regional Park District and the City of Stockton; state agencies such as California Department of Boating and Waterways; federal agencies such as the US Fish & Wildlife Service; not-for-profit organizations such as The Yolo Basin Foundation and The Nature Conservancy; and business interests such as the Delta Chamber of Commerce and Sportsman Yacht Club.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh have little-known but significant natural, cultural, recreational, and agricultural values. Waterways, parks, wildlife refuges, marinas, historic communities and pleasant country roads seem to be hidden from, but are well within reach of, millions of Northern Californians and other visitors. The report suggests that these wonderful places to relax outdoors, cruise the waterways, learn about and enjoy nature, or appreciate the food, culture and history of the region could be enhanced, expanded and promoted to provide many more recreational opportunities for visitors and jobs for residents as California's Central Valley grows.

The study, funded by the Delta Stewardship Council, is part of a larger planning effort directed by the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

For more information: www.parks.ca.gov/deltarecreation, www.narrp.org ###

For energy efficient recreation –
California State Parks on the Internet: www.parks.ca.gov>

