

Heritage Park. The Commission was established to assist the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its political subdivisions in planning and implementing an integrated strategy for protecting and promoting cultural, historic and natural resources. The Commission reports to the Secretary of the Interior and to Congress.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission was established by Public Law 100-692, November 18, 1988 and extended through Public Law 105-355, November 13, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: C. Allen Sachse, Executive Director, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, 1 South Third Street, 8th Floor, Easton PA 18042, (610) 923-3548.

Dated: November 4, 2003.

C. Allen Sachse,

Executive Director, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission.

[FR Doc. 03-28156 Filed 11-7-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820-PE-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Fish and Wildlife Service

Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh, Solano County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (PEIS/EIR) and hold public scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Public Resources Code, Sections 21000-21178.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the co-lead Federal agencies, and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the lead State agency, propose to prepare a joint PEIS/EIR. The PEIS/EIR will develop and analyze a regional plan that would outline the actions necessary in Suisun Marsh to preserve and enhance managed seasonal wetlands, implement a comprehensive levee protection/improvement program, and protect ecosystem and drinking water quality, while restoring habitat for tidal marsh-dependent sensitive species,

consistent with the California Bay-Delta Program's strategic goals and objectives.

DATES: Three public scoping meetings will be held:

- Tuesday, November 25, 2003, 12-3 p.m. in Fairfield, CA.
- Thursday, December 4, 2003, 6-8:30 p.m. in Benicia, CA.
- Wednesday, December 10, 2003, 6-8:30 p.m. in Fairfield, CA.

In addition to the scoping meetings, a Suisun Marsh Science Workshop sponsored by the San Francisco Bay-Delta Science Consortium is being planned for the latter part of January 2004. Details on this workshop will be publicized when the schedule and location have been determined.

Written comments on the scope of the proposed Suisun Marsh Plan or issues to be addressed in the PEIS/EIR must be received on or before February 9, 2004.

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the meetings must submit requests no later than 1 week before the meeting (*see* **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for further details).

ADDRESSES: Scoping meetings will be held at:

- Fairfield, CA, (November 25) Solano County Mosquito Abatement District, 2950 Industrial Court.
- Benicia, CA, Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Meeting Room, 150 East L Street.
- Fairfield, CA, (December 10) Solano County Office of Education, Pena Adobe Room, 5100 Business Center Drive.

Written comments on the scope of the proposed Suisun Marsh Plan or issues to be addressed in the PEIS/EIR should be sent to the California Department of Fish and Game, Attention: Ms. Laurie Briden, 4001 N. Wilson Way, Stockton, California 95205. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (209) 946-6355 or e-mailed to lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laurie Briden with DFG at (209) 948-7347 or via e-mail at lbriden@delta.dfg.ca.gov, or Dan Buford with FWS at (916) 414-6600 or via e-mail at Daniel_Buford@fws.gov, or Lee Laurence with Reclamation at (916) 978-5193 or via e-mail at llaurence@mp.usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Suisun Marsh is the largest contiguous brackish water wetland in California. It is an important wetland on the Pacific Flyway, providing food and habitat for migratory birds. This intricate mosaic of tidal wetlands, diked seasonal wetlands, sloughs, and upland grasslands comprises over 10 percent of the

remaining wetlands in California and is an important part of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. The Suisun Marsh provides habitats for many species of plants, fish, and wildlife, in addition to wintering and nesting habitat for waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway. The Suisun Marsh is located within the Bay-Delta estuary. As a result, its water quality affects, and is affected by, California's two largest water supply systems, the Federal Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, and other upstream diversions. These factors have made the Suisun Marsh one of the most highly regulated wildlife habitat areas in California and, as such, the Marsh occupies a prominent place in the Bay-Delta Program, a joint State-Federal planning group formed to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta.

California Bay-Delta Authority and member agency managers with primary responsibility for actions in Suisun Marsh formed a Charter Group to develop an implementation plan for Suisun Marsh that would protect and enhance Pacific Flyway and existing wildlife values, endangered species, and water quality. Because the Suisun Marsh includes private lands, the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) also serves on the Charter Group to represent the interests of private landowners. Other Charter Group members include DFG, FWS, Reclamation, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Other Bay-Delta Program participating agencies include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The proposed Suisun Marsh Plan would be developed to balance the goals and objectives of the Bay-Delta Program, Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement, and other management and restoration programs within the Suisun Marsh in a manner that is responsive to the concerns of all stakeholders and is based upon voluntary participation by private landowners. The proposed Suisun Marsh Plan would provide for simultaneous protection and enhancement of: (1) Pacific Flyway and existing wildlife values in managed wetlands, (2) endangered species recovery, and (3) water quality.

The PEIS/EIR would address the design, implementation, and maintenance of specific actions needed to achieve the Suisun Marsh Plan. The Suisun Marsh is that portion of San Francisco Bay downstream from the