

## Meeting Notes

### Delta Narratives Meeting with Museum Experts, Archivists, and Historians

Saturday, April 11, 2015

**Attendees:** Bob Benedetti, Margit Aramburu, Blake Roberts, DPC; Michael Wurtz, UOP; Dave Stuart, San Joaquin County Historical Museum; Tod Ruhstaller, Haggin Museum; Chuck Wallenberg, California Studies at UCB; Brian Aguilar, CSUS; Joe Pltti, History Professor, CSUS; Marcia Eymann, City Historian, City of Sacramento.

**Challenge:** How to use the four essays to create displays to help educate the public about the Delta. At the end of this contract, there will be opportunity to seek funding for a next phase of the project and a plan for exhibitions.

**Audience:** The audiences will include: residents of the Delta, residents of the “rim” lands around the Delta; the entire State of California; and the entire nation, particularly if the National Heritage Area project is approved.

- Lodi has determined the largest number of visitors to that area is from the Bay Area and Greater Los Angeles. In addition to wine, visitors are interested in ecotourism.

#### Concept of an APP:

- Low cost (\$10,000) to develop an App
- App must be hosted and updated
- Low demand for Apps with fee; high demand for free Apps.
- Can start small and add more layers
- Reaches a younger audience and families that may not be museum attendees.
- Special walks/tours are of interest to different visitors.
- Can add recreation, historic homes, etc.

#### Funding Sources for an APP:

- Grant funds might be available.
- May be able to develop income-generating uses that could help fund App hosting and updates.

#### Exhibits:

- Challenge is to engage small museums and historical groups into the overall program
- Could support partnerships between smaller groups and larger museums
- A different theme could be identified every year and one day set aside and advertised for regional museum visitations
- Could offer a “prize” if people visit multiple sites
- Could offer transportation between locations
- Could promote museum day through schools
- Focus could change each year--north, south, east, west

- Engage multiple groups—museums, archives, historical societies, libraries, parks, other groups -- and seek their knowledge and expertise while creating exhibits
- Visitors are interested in what life was like for certain individuals/groups in different times in the past—the story of the people
- Oral histories can be very appealing to visitors

#### **Other Tools:**

- Could develop uniform historic markers; could be linked to App; invite nominations of sites by local groups
- Kiosks could be located at key entry points to the Delta to orient visitors, also at parks and libraries
- Brief film about the Delta—5 minutes standing; 10 minutes seated—could be available at multiple locations
- Book about the history of the Delta; seek assistance and participation of all groups and facilities
- Use “Five key items” identified by groups, museums—create short videos on why they are important and make them available on YouTube, other media
- Create a website

#### **Key Issues:**

- Delta as gathering place—from native peoples, on
- Delta was a barrier to mission construction, difficult land to conquer and develop (1776- Pedro Fages)
- Represent Delta from point of view of native peoples as well as of Spanish/Mexicans and “westerners” who arrived from 1800’s on
- Experts believe California was home to 10% of *all native peoples living north of Mexico*
- The one constant in California history is DIVERSITY—groups, class, race, etc.
- Modern Delta is a human created landscape, a new landscape, a transformation of the land
- Reclamation movement can be linked to modern thinkers and philosophers (Hamiltonian movement, Teddy Roosevelt, etc.)