

*We are a welcoming, active and business-friendly rural  
foothill community built on California's rich gold rush history*



**City Manager's Report**  
**March 14, 2023, City Council Meeting**  
**Prepared by: Cleve Morris, City Manager**  
**Item #: 12.5**

**Subject:** Consider approving one or more councilmembers and/or staff to attend the El Dorado County Chamber Study Mission 2024, to Columbus, Ohio.

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**Recommendation:** Authorize one or more councilmembers and/or staff to attend the El Dorado County Chamber Study Mission 2023, to Austin, Texas, and approving any necessary budget appropriations from the General Fund undesignated fund balance to cover the cost.

**Purpose:** Approve the attendance of a councilmember(s) or staff for the El Dorado County Chamber Study Mission 2024 to look at ways to further enhance our business districts and encourage economic development.

**Strategic Plan Strategy:** Economic Development  
 4) Strategy - Pursue New Opportunities for Businesses

**Background:** Each year the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Folsom, El Dorado Hills, and Shingle Springs/Cameron Park Chambers of Commerce, sponsor a study Mission for Business Leaders and Chamber Members.

The Study Mission Series is a business immersion program, dedicated to broadening the chamber members' horizon while promoting business and political relations between regions. Each El Dorado County Study Mission is focused on key topics such as agri-tourism, sustainability, economic development, transportation, education, revitalization and government issues. Each Study Mission selects a destination region with similar experience to share their past solutions and best-known-methods to address key challenges.

In 2022 the City Manager attended the Study Mission to St. Louis, Missouri. In 2023, then Vice-Mayor Neau attended the Study Mission to Austin, Texas.

**Discussion:** The EDC Chamber of Commerce is encouraging the City to send one or more members on the Study Mission. In the past other Councilmembers have attended the Study Mission. Participants from other cities include councilmembers and staff from other cities. As El Dorado County Chamber is one of the main sponsors of the program, they are requesting a representative of the City attend.

The Study Mission takes place from July 10 -14, 2024. The cost for individual booking in 2022 was \$2,950 which includes airfare, hotel and sponsored meals. The cost in 2023 was \$3,200 which included the same. It is anticipated that this cost for the coming year will be \$3,500. The brochure for the trip has not yet been released, but the trip is filling up fast and the Chamber is holding a space for the City and has requested that we confirm as soon as possible.

**Options:**

1. Authorize the attendance of a Councilmember or Staff member on the EDC Chamber Study Mission 2023.
2. Authorize a Councilmember and a staff member to attend the Study Mission.
3. Do not approve attendance at the Study Mission.

**Cost:** The cost of the study mission in 2024 is estimated to be \$3500 per person.

**Budget Impact:** This program was included in the Council budget for Conference Training and Travel. Currently that budget has \$8,200 budgeted with nothing spent. The mid-year budget recommends reducing this amount to \$4,100, which would still be sufficient budget for one person to attend the Study Mission. If Council anticipates additional expenditures, or if more than one person attends the Study Mission, the mid-year budget could be amended accordingly.



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager