

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



### **City Manager's Report**

**February 24, 2026 City Council Meeting**

**Prepared by:** Denis Nishihara, Director of Community Services

**Item#:**

**Subject:** Receive a status update on America's Semiquincentennial (250th Anniversary) National Celebration on Saturday, July 4, 2026 and consider issuing a Request for Proposal to solicit ideas for a potential event.

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**Recommendation:** Receive a status update on America's Semiquincentennial National Celebration on Saturday, July 4, 2026 and consider issuing a Request for Proposal to solicit ideas for a potential event.

**Purpose:** To provide the City Council with an opportunity to discuss a general plan of action to celebrate America's 250 Semiquincentennial Celebration on Saturday, July 4, 2026.

**Strategic Plan Strategy:** Maintain/Improve Quality of Life – Provide and maintain vibrant public spaces, events, and programs; improve and refine special events through collaboration with co-sponsors to support local businesses and strengthen community cohesion. Fiscal Stability/Sustainability – Deliver cost-effective event administration while leveraging community partnerships and volunteer resources.

**Background:** At the November 12, 2025 City Council meeting, staff presented options for the City's potential level of engagement in the national Semiquincentennial celebration on July 4, 2026. The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission has designated this date as the national anchor, encouraging parades, festivals, educational activities, and reflections on America's founding principles. Community interest has been expressed, including inquiries about supporting or leading a 4th of July parade to complement the existing fireworks show at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds.

**Discussion:** With approximately **130** days remaining until July 4, 2026 (as of late February 2026), the planning window continues to narrow. The Semiquincentennial (pronounced sem-ee-kwin-sen-TEN-ee-uhl) offers Placerville a unique opportunity to celebrate national history while showcasing local Gold Rush heritage and patriotic spirit.

Updated status and considerations:

- There is currently not a budget adopted for a City-specific Semiquincentennial celebration. In order to plan or to advance a plan at a preferred level of engagement budgetary scopes should be considered. (*i.e. How much is the City interested in spending vs. How much is the City able to spend?*)
- Ongoing community interest persists from local organizations, particularly Merchants on Main and Golden History Days. This includes requests to support or organize a Fourth of July parade that could coincide with the established County Fairgrounds fireworks display. Staff recommends implementing a basic Request for Proposals (RFP) process to provide

interested organizations an opportunity to submit written proposals for staff consideration. Under this approach, event costs would primarily be the responsibility of the proposing organization, with minimal financial support anticipated from the City. However, moderate City funding could be considered if allocated by the City Council.

- Staff continue to monitor National America250 guidance and regional planning efforts in nearby communities.

Staff recommendations presented in November 2025 continue to remain viable and restated revisions are listed below:

1. **Assume a lead role** — City organizes a full-scale parade and/or festival, establishing a budget.
2. **Pursue co-sponsorship role**— City collaborates with a lead community sponsor or nonprofit while providing support, permitting, and coordination. With an allocated amount specified to cover City services and moderate supplies or material.
3. **Offer supplementary support** — City contributes modestly and non-monetary to any community-led celebration.
4. **Maintain the status quo** — Limit involvement to existing 4th of July fireworks support, preserving staff time and fiscal resources.

Council direction at this point would allow staff to set a final plan, secure sponsors/volunteers, finalize costs, and return with a final actionable recommendation and timeline. Without a final decision to date, staff will continue to support community-led efforts through permitting only.

**Options:**

1. Approve staff's recommendation.
2. Direct staff to take other actions.
3. Take no action..

**Environmental:** Tonight's action is not applicable.

**Cost:** The projected cost of preparing and distributing an RFP would be de minimis.

**Budget Impact:** The cost of preparing and distributing an RFP could be absorbed within the Operating Budget.



Dave Warren, City Manager



Denis Nishihara, Department Director