

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



**City Manager's Report**

**November 12, 2025 City Council Meeting**

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

**Item#: 12.2**

**Subject:** Provide general direction to staff on the City's level of engagement for the celebration of Independence Day and the Nation's 250 Anniversary, occurring on July 4, 2026.

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**Recommendation:** Provide general direction to staff on the City's level of engagement for the celebration of Independence Day and the Nation's 250 Anniversary, occurring on July 4, 2026.

**Purpose:** Provide staff direction and recommendations in anticipation of Independence Day on July 4, 2026.

**Strategic Plan Strategy:** Maintain/Improve Quality of Life – 3) Strategy- Improve and refine special events

- a. Work with co-sponsors to produce events that support the local businesses and increase community cohesion.

**Background:** The U.S. Semiquincentennial (sem-ee-kwin-sen-TEN-ee-uhl) Commission ([America250.org](http://America250.org)) has designated July 4, 2026, as the national anchor date, encouraging communities to reflect on America's founding principles through parades, festivals, and educational activities. In less than 234 days on July 4, 2026, the United States will mark its 250th birthday—the Semiquincentennial. This epic milestone offers our community a unique opportunity to celebrate our nation's history, to boast our local patriotic passion, foster community unity, and showcase Placerville's spirit of historic pride through with a vibrant parade and/or festival. Cities nationwide are planning enhanced events to honor this occasion. Staff is seeking Council direction as to the level of City engagement: whether City resources should be allocated to facilitate a ceremonial activity. If desired, this direction would allow staff to develop a plan of action to secure sponsors, rally volunteers, and build community excitement for an event with a goal to unite residents, highlight local history, and create lasting memories.

Councilmember Carter has stated in the recent past his desire to work with the Community on facilitating an event. The Community Service Department recently received inquiries from other community leaders (past and present) as to their willingness to support or lead a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in 2026 in parallel to the local firework show hosted at the County Fair Grounds.

Event planning and overall involvement at any level will have an impact on the City's budget and staff's current workloads and subsequent priorities. Current practices and processes frame straightforward precedents as to facilitating large events within the City. The Special Events permitting process is designed to allow either a local organization to lead a Citywide event or for the City to assume lead responsibility. The request and goal of this item is to discuss and determine the City course of action in anticipation for America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in July 2026.

**Discussion:** The City Council could consider facilitating a parade, street faire, or another type of celebration for July 4, 2026. More specifically, the Council may want to consider one of the following recommendations for the Semiquincentennial celebration:

1. **Assume a leading role:** Organize a full-scale parade and/or celebration, establishing a maximum budget.
2. **Pursue co-sponsorship role and recruit partnerships:** Research and recruit a lead sponsor, while collaborating with community partners to develop a comprehensive plan.
3. **Offer supplementary support:** Contribute to existing local events, such as by hosting a City booth.
4. **Maintain the status quo:** Avoid additional involvement due to constraints on City resources, including staff and funding.
5. **Alternative Plan:** Provide revision to considerations and establish a contingent option.

Once the Council determines its desired level of engagement by the City, staff will analyze the projected costs and funding opportunity for the event and return to the Council with additional information and recommendations.

**Options:**

1. Provide general direction to staff on the City's level of engagement for the celebration of Independence Day and the Nation's 250 Anniversary, occurring on July 4, 2026.
2. Take no action.

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

**Cost:** If the City Council desires to further explore an event for July 4, 2026, there will be some staff time involved in analyzing the associated costs.

**Budget Impact:** If the City Council desires to further explore an event for July 4, 2026, the associated staff time for analyzing the event costs would be absorbed by the adopted Operating Budget.

**Attachments:**

- A. None



Dave Warren, City Manager



Denis Nishihara, Department Director