

06/16/2026

To: Placerville Planning Commissioners

From: Kris Kiehne, Chair

Re: Draft memo to City Council for review and comment

The attached draft for your review is for response to the request from the City Council on updates to our work on Historic Preservation, as directed in a memo from the City Manager in January 2025.

I have incorporated information provided by other commissioners and have focused the response on directives given in the 2025 memo and on work that has been completed to date.

We should strive to approve a reply to City Council at our Regular Meeting on June 16, 2026 to provide a timely response to their inquiry. I look forward to receiving your comments on the attached so that the memo can be finalized and transmitted shortly after our next meeting.

Thank you.

Date: []

To: Placerville City Council: Mayor Gotberg, Vice Mayor Neau, Councilmembers Carter, Clerici, and Yarbrough

From: Kris Kiehne, Chair, Placerville Planning Commission

Subject: Update regarding Historic District Preservation Recommendations

The members of the Placerville Planning Commission thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on work undertaken pursuant to direction received via memo from Cleve Morris, City Manager, January 7, 2025. Work completed to date for Recommendations 1 and 4, are detailed below. No work has been completed for Recommendations 2 or 3 and no update is given here.

Recommendation 1, *Improve Community Knowledge of the Historic Districts*. The majority of work on this recommendation was completed by Commissioner Amy Lepper, with assistance from City staff.

1. Website

Status: In progress

The City's websites regarding historic preservation were extensively reviewed. These sites were compared to historic preservation websites maintained by other jurisdictions. City Staff has developed an interactive GIS map of parcels within the three historic districts.

Next steps: improve navigation within the website; develop FAQs to assist owners when with application submissions; enhance the interactive GIS map with site-specific information about structures on each parcel.

Timeline: TBD

2. Informational Flyers

Status: Pending

Flyers or billing inserts to inform the public, spark interest in the historic districts and direct the public to the City's website for more information.

Next steps: flyer design, coordinate with City staff for inclusion in utility billing.

Timeline: TBD

3. Install signage at entries to Historic Districts

Status: Pending

Signage is an excellent opportunity to inform:

- Residents of historic districts who may not be aware that their home is within a historic district;

- Other residents of the City visitors of the boundaries of our historic districts.

Unfortunately, commissioners do not have the resources to secure grants to pay for this signage, as was suggested in the January 2025 memo. The Commission strongly urges the Council to prioritize this direct method of outreach and move forward with installing signage as soon as possible. We are, of course, willing to assist City staff if a grant opportunity comes available for signage or assist in the design of such signage.

4. Conduct informational workshops. No workshops have been developed or scheduled as part of a Planning Commission meeting.

Recommendation 4, *Systematic Examination of the Current Standard For Review*

Status: Draft Framework under consideration by Commission

Progress has been slow on Recommendation 4 as Planning Commission agendas have been full, and the Regular Meeting schedule reduced to once per month, resulting in fewer opportunities for discussions about a framework which comply with Brown Act Open Meeting requirements. Nonetheless, some progress has been made on this recommendation.

In order to develop a decision-making framework, commissioners reviewed the SOI Standards, technical bulletins and direction regarding sustainability issued by the US Park Service and reviewed procedures used in other jurisdictions with historic districts. (Commissioners Silvester maintained a spreadsheet of these other jurisdictions with historic districts.)

At the recent Special Meeting, the Commission was provided a draft framework for guidance in decision making which incorporates the information reviewed and which addresses the specific points in the January 2025 from Council.

Next steps: Commissioners are to review the draft and provide edits. The draft will be discussed at future meetings where public comment can be taken and the Framework to then be updated and submitted for final review and approval by the Commission.

Timeline: October 2026, or as otherwise be accommodated in the upcoming Regular Meeting agendas.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to update the Council, and thank you for your support in our endeavors. We look forward to continuing our work on the recommendations and reporting our progress.