



# Staff Report and Recommendations

## Agenda of November 12, 2024, Item 6a

### County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • [www.vcrma.org/divisions/planning](http://www.vcrma.org/divisions/planning)

#### I. **REQUEST:**

Receive a presentation and provide feedback on the draft Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2024-2025 to be included in the Certified Local Government Annual Report that will be prepared in spring 2025 for submittal to the California Office of Historic Preservation.

#### II. **BACKGROUND:**

The County of Ventura has been a Certified Local Government (CLG) for the purpose of cultural and historic resource preservation review since 1991. Each year, the County of Ventura must prepare the CLG Annual Report and submit it to the California State Office of Historic Preservation for review and filing. The CLG Annual Report is a summary of Cultural Heritage Program during the reporting period; one voluntary component of this report is the inclusion of goals and priorities for the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program for the subsequent reporting period.

A statement of goals and priorities is an important aspect of the Cultural Heritage Program. It provides direction to Planning Division staff and helps rank various elements of the preservation program, outlines the work program for the community, and represents a statement of the philosophy by which the Cultural Heritage Board guides the preservation program. Planning Division staff is bringing this draft document forward for input by your Board well in advance of the deadline for preparation of the CLG Report in 2025 so that priorities can be established and pursued, as needed. In particular, it's worth noting that early direction allows staff to apply for potential grants to achieve goals that may be of particular interest to your Board.

#### III. **DISCUSSION:**

The reporting period for the upcoming CLG annual report will cover October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024, which corresponds to the Federal Fiscal Year 2023–2024, as required by the State Office of Historic Preservation. The Goals and Priorities to be included in the CLG report will cover the reporting period that began October 1, 2024, and runs through September 30, 2025. Following your Board's review and input today, the full draft CLG report, including the 2024-2025 Goals and Priorities, will return for your Board's approval in spring 2025 prior to submittal to the State Office of Historic Preservation. However, staff will move forward with identified priorities immediately, or as needed, dependent on the timing of the tasks. The draft 2024-2025 Goals and Priorities are included in Exhibit 1 for your review.

Your Board's input is critical to development of these 2024-2025 goals and priorities. Your direction is needed to focus limited staff time on specific program tasks.

Specifically, direction on the following items is requested from your Board: Task #6, Task #8, Task #9, and Task #11. Please note that Exhibit 1 provides more information on decision points for your Board in the last column, titled “Proposed Actions” for each of these tasks. In addition, newly proposed priorities by staff, consisting of Tasks #13 and #14, are underlined in Exhibit 1 for your consideration, while Task #16 is recommended for removal from the list of CHB Priorities for 2024-2025. Finally, additional tasks may be suggested by your Board, such as the potential task outlined for your consideration on the next page of this report regarding the location of your Board’s meetings.

In addition to providing input on new tasks proposed by staff and on ongoing CHB Program tasks, your Board may weigh in on the preferred prioritization and the timeline for specific program tasks. This item has been scheduled for an early hearing well before the CLG annual report deadline so that discussion may take place and direction provided to staff from your Board.

TASK No.	PRIORITY LEVEL (High, Low, Medium)	PROPOSED TIMELINE (where applicable)	PROGRAM TASK	DESCRIPTION	ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE PREVIOUS REPORTING YEAR (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)	PROPOSED ACTIONS (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)
TBD by CHB	TBD by CHB	TBD by CHB	Hold 1-2 Mobile Meetings of the Cultural Heritage Board Each Year at Historic Locations	<p>If desired, the CHB may meet at different, publicly accessible historic properties across the county approximately 1-2 times per year.</p> <p>Mobile meetings would provide an opportunity for education for both CHB members and public hearing attendees. In addition, such meetings could provide an avenue for increased attendance, particularly for Ventura County residents, who live in eastern Ventura County.</p>	<p>CHB and staff did not conduct a mobile meeting in 2023-24.</p> <p>This is a new, proposed task for the 2024-25 timeframe.</p>	<p>If desired, CHB Members may identify suitable historic locations to hold CHB hearings within their districts and provide that information to staff for scheduling.</p> <p>If desired, as part of the hearing, the CHB Member from the local district may lead public hearing attendees on a tour of the property and/or provide a brief presentation on the history and significance of the site or arrange for a knowledgeable docent.</p> <p>The CHB may provide direction to staff on the level of public outreach and official promotion of such events, as desired.</p>

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comment regarding this item has been received to date.

**V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

CHB staff recommends the CHB take the following actions regarding this item:

1. **CONDUCT** public hearing, **RECEIVE** oral and written testimony, and **CONSIDER** the Planning Division staff report and all exhibits and attachments hereto; and
2. Based on the preceding evidence and analysis, **PROVIDE** comments on the proposed Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2024-2025.

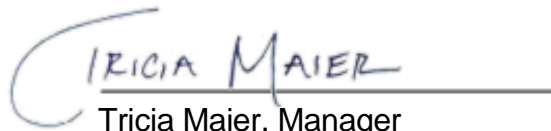
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Exhibits:

- Exhibit 1: Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program Proposed Goals and Priorities for 2024-2025