



AGENDA

Regular Meeting of the Calipatria City Council

**City Council Chambers
125 North Park Avenue
Calipatria, CA 92233**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026
Closed Session at 5:00 pm
Open Session at 6:00 pm**

Michael Luellen, Mayor
Fred Beltran, Mayor Pro-Tem
Javier Amezcua, Council Member
Sylvia Chavez, Council Member
Jesse Rivas, Council Member

Laura Gutierrez, City Manager
Gilbert G. Otero, City Attorney
Jane Hurtado, City Clerk

Christopher Hanks, Acting Fire Chief
Cheryl Fowler, Police Chief
Edgar Self, Public Work Director

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is a public meeting. Any member of the public is invited to attend. The Calipatria City Council welcomes public input during the **Public Comment** period of the sessions.

5:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: Any member of the public wishing to address the City Council on any items appearing on the closed session agenda may do so at this time. Pursuant to State Law, the City Council may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda. (*Government Code Section 54954.2*) There is a time limit of three (3) minutes for anyone wishing to address the City Council on these matters.

CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNS TO CLOSE SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL -

Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) subdivision (d) of Section

54956.9

Number of Potential Cases: 2

2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (SECTION 54956.8)

I. APN: 023-484-028-000, 023-484-029-000, 023-484-030-000, 023-484-031-000, 023-484-032-000, 023-484-033-000, 023-484-034-000, 023-484-035-000, 023-484-036-000, 023-484-037-000, 023-484-038-000, 023-484-039-000, 023-486-001-000, 023-486-002-000, 023-486-003-000, 023-486-004-000, 023-486-005-000, 023-486-006-000, 023-486-007-000, 023-486-008-000, 023-486-009-000, 023-486-010-000, 023-486-011-000, 023-486-012-000, 023-486-013-000, 023-486-014-000, 023-486-015-000, 023-486-016-000, 023-486-017-000, 023-486-018-000, 023-485-007-000

Agency Negotiator: City Manager
Negotiating Parties: Desert Pro Ventures, LLC.
Property Address: Desert Lane, Arroyo Seco Lane
Negotiation: Price Sale/Lease and Terms

II. APN: 023-470-001
Agency Negotiator: City Manager
Negotiating Parties: Estrada Towing
Property Address: 501 S Sorenson
Negotiation: Lease and Terms

3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (SECTION 54957.6)

Agency Representative: City Manager
Employee Organization: Calipatria Police Officers Association

4. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – G.C. 54956.7(B)(1)

Title of Position: City Manager

CITY COUNCIL CONVENES TO OPEN SESSION

6:00 P.M. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION:

CITY ATTORNEY: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION ACTION

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

The City Council will discuss the order of the agenda, may amend the order, add urgent items and or remove items from the consent calendar prior to that portion of the agenda. For the purpose of the official city record, the City Council may take care of these issues by entertaining a formal motion.

MOTION:

SECOND:

ROLL CALL VOTE: FB _____ JR _____ ML _____ SC _____ JA _____

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The City Council welcomes your input. **Please remember to shut off all cell phones.** Now is the time for any member of the public to speak to the Council. If there is an item on the agenda on which you wish to be heard, at this time, please step to the podium and state your name and address for the record.

For matters not appearing on the agenda: If you wish to address the City Council concerning a matter and/or any item not on the agenda but is within the City Council’s jurisdiction you may do so now. At this time, please step to the podium and state your name and address for the record.

The Mayor reserves the right to place a time limit of three (3) minutes on each person’s presentation. It is requested that longer presentations be submitted to the City Clerk in writing 48 hours before the meeting.

PRESENTATION:

1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING *APRIL 2026* AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH & APRIL 2, 2026, AS WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE DAY IN THE CITY OF CALIPATRIA
2. GAFCON ~ Airport Community Center/Park Update

CONSENT AGENDA:

The items appearing under the Consent Agenda will be acted upon by the City Council in one motion without discussion. Should any Council Member or other person wish to discuss any item, they may request that the item be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the REGULAR BUSINESS Agenda.

1. Minutes: March 10, 2026
2. Letter of Support ~ Distressed Hospital Loan Program Forgiveness
3. Letter of Support ~ Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) – FY27 Community Project Funding Requests

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
ROLL CALL VOTE: FB _____ JR _____ ML _____ SC _____ JA _____

ACTION ITEMS NEW/REGULAR BUSINESS (DISCUSSION/ACTION):

1. **Approve/Disapprove:** Resolution 26-08 - Declaration that the real property located near the northwest corner of Bonita Street and Brown Avenue, Calipatria, California (APN 023-333-004) is exempt surplus land pursuant to California Government Code § 54220 *et seq.*

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
ROLL CALL VOTE: FB _____ JR _____ ML _____ SC _____ JA _____

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION (RECOMMEND/DENY):

1. **Discussion/Direction:** Calling for a Municipal Election on November 3, 2026, for the Submission of a Ballot Measure Relating to City Council Term Limits

2. Discussion/Direction: Calling for a Municipal Election on November 3, 2026, for the Submission of a Ballot Measure Relating to the City Mayor.

STAFF and COUNCIL REPORTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular scheduled meeting of the City of Calipatria City Council is Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 6:00 pm

Close meeting at _____.

MOTION:

SECOND:

ROLL CALL VOTE: FB _____ JR _____ ML _____ SC _____ JA _____

I, *JANE HURTADO*, City Clerk of the City of Calipatria, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the agenda was duly posted at Calipatria City Hall, 125 N Park Avenue, Calipatria, California and on the City of Calipatria’s website not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting per Government Code 54954(2).

Dated: March 20, 2026



CONSENT - ITEM # 1

TENTATIVE MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Calipatria City Council

**City Council Chambers
125 North Park Avenue
Calipatria, CA 92233**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026
Closed Session at 5:00 pm
Open Session at 6:00 pm**

Michael Luellen, Mayor
Fred Beltran, Mayor Pro-Tem
Javier Amezcua, Council Member
Sylvia Chavez, Council Member
Jesse Rivas, Council Member

Laura Gutierrez, City Manager
Gilbert G. Otero, City Attorney
Jane Hurtado, City Clerk

Christopher Hanks, Acting Fire Chief
Cheryl Fowler, Police Chief
Edgar Self, Public Work Director

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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5:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER: 5:03 PM

ROLL CALL: *Fred Beltran, Jesse Rivas, Michael Luellen, Sylvia Chavez,
Javier Amezcua-late*

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR CLOSED SESSION ITEMS: Any member of the public wishing to address the City Council on any items appearing on the closed session agenda may do so at this time. Pursuant to State Law, the City Council may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda. (*Government Code Section 54954.2*) There is a time limit of three (3) minutes for anyone wishing to address the City Council on these matters.

CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNS TO CLOSE SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL -

Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) subdivision (d) of Section

54956.9

Number of Potential Cases: 2

2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (SECTION 54956.8)

I. APN: 023-484-028-000, 023-484-029-000, 023-484-030-000, 023-484-031-000, 023-484-032-000, 023-484-033-000, 023-484-034-000, 023-484-035-000, 023-484-036-000, 023-484-037-000, 023-484-038-000, 023-484-039-000, 023-486-001-000, 023-486-002-000, 023-486-003-000, 023-486-004-000, 023-486-005-000, 023-486-006-000, 023-486-007-000, 023-486-008-000, 023-486-009-000, 023-486-010-000, 023-486-011-000, 023-486-012-000, 023-486-013-000, 023-486-014-000, 023-486-015-000, 023-486-016-000, 023-486-017-000, 023-486-018-000, 023-485-007-000

Agency Negotiator: City Manager
Negotiating Parties: Desert Pro Ventures, LLC.
Property Address: Desert Lane, Arroyo Seco Lane
Negotiation: Price Sale/Lease and Terms

II. APN: 023-070-007 (A Portion of) or 023-232-001 (A portion of)

Agency Negotiator: City Manager
Negotiating Parties: Golden State Connect Authority
Property Address: 440 W Main Street or 125 North Park Avenue
Negotiation: Lease and Terms

III. APN: 023-070-007 (A Portion of)

Agency Negotiator: City Manager
Negotiating Parties: Imperial Valley Resources Management Agency
Property Address: 440 W Main Street
Negotiation: Lease and Terms

3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (SECTION 54957.6)

Agency Representative: City Manager
Employee Organization: Calipatria Police Officers Association

CITY COUNCIL CONVENES TO OPEN SESSION

6:00 P.M. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL: *F. Beltran, J. Rivas, M. Luellen, S. Chavez and J. Amezcua*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION: *Ms. Clark/Mr. Otero*

CITY ATTORNEY: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION ACTION

Five (5) matters were discussed in close session

1. *Each one of them was informational only and there was no direction given*

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

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*Resolution 26-07 LADY HORNETS DAY on Consent Agenda #3
Along side our Presentation as well.*

MOTION: *Fred Beltran*

SECOND: *Sylvia Chavez*

ROLL CALL VOTE: *FB-Y, JR-Y, ML-Y, SC-Y, JA-Y*

5/0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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The Mayor reserves the right to place a time limit of three (3) minutes on each person's presentation. It is requested that longer presentations be submitted to the City Clerk in writing 48 hours before the meeting.

William Cooper: 210 W. California St., Two (2) Questions: 1. Requested information regarding Golden State Water Property solar project 2. Asked about the old bar property as it was on the Board of Supervisors Agenda.

PRESENTATION:

1. Declaring March as Women's History Month
Proclamations were presented to Council Woman Sylvia Chavez, City Clerk, Jane Magaña Hurtado and Calipatria's Superintendent, Angelita Ortiz.
2. Proclamation and Certificates of Recognition to the Calipatria High School Girls Basketball team (CIF Champions)
Proclamation and Certificate of Recognition presented to Team and Coach's.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The items appearing under the Consent Agenda will be acted upon by the City Council in one motion without discussion. Should any Council Member or other person wish to discuss any item, they may request that the item be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the REGULAR BUSINESS Agenda.

1. Minutes: February 23, 2026, Special Meeting and February 24, 2026

2. Warrants: February 1-31, 2026
3. RESOLUTION NO. 26-07
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALIPATRIA
PROCLAIMING "LADY HORNETS DAY" IN HONOR OF THE CALIPATRIA
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Consent Item #3 Resolution No. 26-07 will pass pending date from the Coaches

MOTION: *Sylvia Chavez* SECOND: *Javier Amezcua*
ROLL CALL VOTE: *FB-1&3-Y,2-N, JR-Y, ML-Y, SC-Y, JA-Y* 4-1

ACTION ITEMS NEW/REGULAR BUSINESS (DISCUSSION/ACTION):

1. **Approve/Disapprove:** Approval of Right of Entry Indemnification and License Agreement for Authorization to Use Firing Range at Calipatria State Prison

Item was presented by City Manager

MOTION: *Fred Beltran* SECOND: *Jesse Rivas*
ROLL CALL VOTE: *FB-Y, JR-Y, ML-Y, SC-Y, JA-Y* 5-0

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION (RECOMMEND/DENY):

1. Discussion/Direction: City of Calipatria Community Recognition Program

Item was presented by Councilwoman Chavez

Motion to reject by Luellen
No motions received.

Motion to table by Rivas Second: *S. Chavez and J. Amezcua*

2. Discussion/Direction: FIRST (1st) ADDENDUM TO ORDINANCE 07-002
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CALIPATRIA REGULATING THE SALE
AND USE OF FIREWORKS AND OTHER EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WITHIN
THE CITY OF CALIPATRIA

Item was presented by Beltran

Item to be placed on 1st meeting in April for Public Comment and 1st Reading.

STAFF and COUNCIL REPORTS:

Zambrano: Update provided

Hanks: Update provided

Otero: Nothing to report.

Hurtado: Nothing to report.

Gutierrez: Nothing to report.

Beltran: Commended Public Works for Parks and Flagpole. Provided meeting and community participation updates.

Rivas: Had dog catcher question.

Chavez: Congratulated the school for the Lighting Project. Provided meeting and community participation updates.

Amezcuca: Provided community participation updates.

Luellen: Provided meeting and community participation updates.

Meeting recording available upon request to the City Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular scheduled meeting of the City of Calipatria City Council is Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 6:00 pm

Close meeting at 6:56 PM.

MOTION: *Fred Beltran*

SECOND: *Sylvia Chavez*

ROLL CALL VOTE: *FB-Y, JR-Y, ML-Y, SC-Y, JA-Y*

5-0

I, *JANE HURTADO*, City Clerk of the City of Calipatria, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the agenda was duly posted at Calipatria City Hall, 125 N Park Avenue, Calipatria, California and on the City of Calipatria's website not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting per Government Code 54954(2).

Dated: March 6, 2026

Laura Gutierrez

From: Michael Luellen
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2026 10:46 AM
To: Laura Gutierrez
Subject: Fw: Request for Letter of Support – Distressed Hospital Loan Program Forgiveness
Attachments: Distressed Loan Forgiveness.pdf; DHLP LOS Template.docx

Please agendize for the next meeting.

Michael James Luellen II (he/him/his)
(760) 623-3590
Mayor, City of Calipatria
Vice Chairman, Imperial County LAFCo
125 N. Park Avenue
Calipatria, CA 92233

From: Hernandez, Guillermo <Guillermo.Hernandez@sen.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 11:37:56 AM
To: Hernandez, Guillermo <Guillermo.Hernandez@sen.ca.gov>
Subject: Request for Letter of Support – Distressed Hospital Loan Program Forgiveness

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I hope you're doing well.

I'm reaching on behalf of Senator Padilla regarding an issue that is particularly important for our region. Senator Padilla, along with several members of the Legislature, is currently working to advance a request for **long-term forgiveness of loans issued through the state's Distressed Hospital Loan Program (DHLP)**.

California created the DHLP through AB 112 (2023) to help hospitals that were at risk of closing due to financial instability. While the program currently allows hospitals to apply each year for a 12-month period of loan forgiveness, many safety-net and rural hospitals across the state continue to face serious financial pressures. Senator Padilla and his colleagues are asking the state to provide **permanent, long-term forgiveness** for these loans so hospitals can focus on delivering care rather than managing long-term debt.

This issue is especially significant for **Imperial County**. Through this program, [\\$56 million in state funding was provided to our local hospitals — the largest allocation in California](#).

- **\$28 million went to El Centro Regional Medical Center**
- **\$28 million went to Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District**

Across the Senator's district, the total funding provided through the program was **approximately \$64 million**.

At the same time, hospitals are facing growing financial pressure from rising costs and anticipated **federal reductions** to Medicaid funding. Providing long-term forgiveness through DHLP would help stabilize hospitals that communities like ours depend on for essential care.

To support this effort, the **Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services will be discussing DHLP forgiveness during its hearing on April 9**, and we are working to demonstrate strong regional support.

We would greatly appreciate it if your organization would consider submitting a **letter of support** for long-term DHLP loan forgiveness. For your convenience, I've attached a **draft support letter** that can be modified as needed.

Letters can be submitted to **sbud.committee@senate.ca.gov** no later than **April 3**. If you do submit a letter, please **CC me** so we can keep track of participating organizations.

If you have any questions or would like to talk through this further, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,



Guillermo Hernandez
District Representative 
Office of State Senator Stephen C. Padilla, 18th District
El Centro: 760-335-3442 | Capitol: 916-651-4018
Indio: 760-398-6442 | San Diego: 619-409-7690

(LETTERHEAD)

(Date)

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1020 N. Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 3
1020 N. Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request to Provide Permanent Long-Term Forgiveness of the Distressed Hospital Loan Program

Dear Chair Laird and Menjivar,

On behalf of (Name of Organization/Municipality), I am pleased to offer our strong support for Senator Padilla's request for long term forgiveness for struggling hospitals that received funding from the Distressed Hospital Loan Program.

(Brief statement describing what the organization/municipality does).

California created the Distressed Hospital Loan Program through AB 112 (2023) to support hospitals on the brink of financial insolvency. The legislation authorized the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to develop an application process for loan forgiveness. The current process allows applicants to apply yearly for loan forgiveness that if approved will account for the debt service of the succeeding 12-month period. Many of the hospitals who participated in this program are rural or critical access hospitals.

California distressed hospitals are facing enormous financial challenges given federal budget cuts. Last year, the federal government passed H.R. 1, which cut nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid, the largest funding reduction in the program's 60-year history. H.R. 1 is expected to cut \$30 billion a year in federal funding from Medi-Cal, reducing overall access to care and possibly pushing some safety net providers into dire straits, according to the California Budget and Policy Center. Up to 3.4 million state residents could lose coverage, the center said. As the uninsured population rises, more medical bills will go unpaid, cutting revenue for California's health care safety net.

At the same time, small rural hospitals are experiencing increased costs and a 2030 seismic mandate that will require additional spending. Although H.R. 1 provided \$50 billion for the new Rural Health Transformation Program, those funds must be spent on additive programming and cannot be used to pay for existing operations or to service debt. Given these pressures, small rural hospitals, which serve areas already burdened by severe provider shortages, will be at higher risk of closure.

While 12-month forgiveness is helpful, California has a unique opportunity to support the fiscal stability of hospitals by providing long-term forgiveness of these loans while promoting accountability and sustainability for participating hospitals. Without long-term forgiveness, hospitals face uncertainty, and loan repayment presents added challenges in a time that hospitals

are facing enormous pressures from federal cuts. Providing permanent long-term forgiveness through this program will allow the state to support hospitals that are at most danger of closing.

(Add any reasons for why you support the request)

For these reasons, long term forgiveness of the Distressed Hospital Loan Program would further (Name of Organization's) goal of... (Insert short statement of request's importance as it relates to organization), and we are proud to support.

Best regards,

Name, Title

Organization

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET, SUITE 7630
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4018
FAX (916) 651-4918

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE
780 BAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 204
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910
TEL (619) 409-7690

IMPERIAL COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE
1224 STATE STREET, SUITE D
EL CENTRO, CA 92243
TEL (760) 335-3442

RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE
82013 DR. CARREON BOULEVARD, SUITE J
INDIO, CA 92201
TEL (760) 398-6442

WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/PADILLA
SENATOR.PADILLA@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

SENATOR
STEPHEN C. PADILLA
EIGHTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
INSURANCE
CHAIR
MEMBER
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HEALTH
HOUSING
PRIVACY, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES,
& CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Treasurer Fiona Ma
901 P street, Room 411-B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request to Provide Permanent Long-Term Forgiveness of the Distressed Hospital Loan Program

Dear Governor Newsom,

I write to respectfully request long term forgiveness for struggling hospitals that received funding from the Distressed Hospital Loan Program. California created the Distressed Hospital Loan Program through AB 112 (2023) to support hospitals on the brink of financial insolvency. The legislation authorized the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to develop an application process for loan forgiveness. The current process allows applicants to apply yearly for loan forgiveness that if approved will account for the debt service of the succeeding 12-month period. Many of the hospitals who participated in this program are rural or critical access hospitals.

California rural hospitals are facing enormous financial challenges given federal budget cuts. Last year, the federal government passed H.R. 1, which cut nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid, the largest funding reduction in the program's 60-year history. H.R. 1 is expected to cut \$30 billion a year in federal funding from Medi-Cal, reducing overall access to care and possibly pushing some safety net providers into dire straits, according to the California Budget and Policy Center. Up to 3.4 million state residents could lose coverage, the center said. As the uninsured population rises, more medical bills will go unpaid, cutting revenue for California's health care safety net.

Although H.R. 1 provided \$50 billion for the new Rural Health Transformation Program, those funds must be spent on additive programming and cannot be used to pay for existing operations or to service debt. At the same time, small rural hospitals are experiencing increased costs and a 2030 seismic mandate that will require additional spending. Given these pressures, small rural hospitals, which serve areas already burdened by severe provider shortages, will be at higher risk of closure.

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loan repayment presents added challenges in a time that hospitals are facing enormous pressures from federal cuts. Providing permanent long-term forgiveness through this program will allow the state to support hospitals that are at most danger of closing. If you have any questions, please contact Alexis Castro at Alexis.Castro@sen.ca.gov or (916) 651-4018.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Padilla
State Senator, 18th District



Shannon Grove
State Senator, 12th District



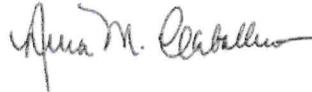
Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
State Senator, 19th District



Rhodesia Ransom
Assemblymember, 13th District



Mike Gipson
Assemblymember, 65th District



Anna M. Caballero
State Senator, 14th District



Laura Richardson
State Senator, 35th District



Mark González
Assemblymember, 54th District



Christopher Cabaldon
Senator, 9th District



Liz Ortega
Assemblymember, 20th District

cc: Senate President pro Tempore, The Honorable Monique Limón
Speaker of the Assembly, The Honorable Robert Rivas
The Honorable John Laird
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
The Honorable Dawn Addis
Joe Stephanshaw, California Department of Finance
Elizabeth A. Landsberg, Department of Health Care Access and Information
Carolyn Aboubechara, California Health Facilities Financing Authority
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Laura Gutierrez

From: Marlene Flores <marleneflores@imperialctc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 4:40 PM
To: Laura Gutierrez
Cc: Gustavo Gomez
Subject: Request of Letter of Support
Attachments: LetterofSupport Sample.doc

Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello City of Calipatria,

The Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) is submitting multiple grant applications under the FY27 Appropriations Community Project Funding process, including requests for key regional transportation and planning initiatives that will improve mobility, safety, connectivity, and economic opportunity throughout Imperial County.

As part of the application process, we are respectfully requesting a Letter of Support from the City of Calipatria. For your convenience, I've attached a draft Letter of Support for your review and consideration. If your agency wishes to include specific information or priorities related to your community, please feel free to modify the letter accordingly.

Given the upcoming deadline for submission, we kindly request that letters of support be submitted to ICTC by Friday, March 6, 2026. I know the deadline is tight, our deadline for submittal is March 9th, if you are able to provide a letter of support by noon of Monday, March the 9th, we appreciate it.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this request, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Gustavo Gomez at gustavogomez@imperialctc.org

Thank you for your time, partnership, and continued support.

Best regards,

Marlene Flores | Regional Senior Transportation Planner
Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC)
1503 N. Imperial Ave., Suite 104
El Centro, CA 92243
Office: 760.592.4494
Fax: 760.592.4497
Mobile: 760. 604.0686
Email: marleneflores@imperialctc.org
ICTC Website: www.imperialctc.org
LTA Website: www.ltaimperial.com



March 5, 2026

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for Imperial County Transportation Commission (ICTC) – FY27 Community Project Funding Requests

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

On behalf of the City of Calipatria, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Imperial County Transportation Commission's (ICTC) FY27 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Community Project Funding requests. These projects represent critical investments in safety, mobility, regional connectivity, transit modernization, and economic resilience throughout Imperial County.

ICTC intends to submit the following six projects under the FY27 Community Project Funding program (in no order of priority):

- 1. ICTC/IVT Operations and Maintenance Facility (Design Phase)**
This project will fund the design phase of a new consolidated transit operations and maintenance facility to support ICTC's transition to a 100 percent zero-emission fleet by 2035 and improve regional transit integration and efficiency.
- 2. ICTC Regional Active Transportation Plan Update – Cross-Regional Connectivity**
This project will update and expand the County's Regional Active Transportation Plan to strengthen cross-regional bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, improve safety, and position the region for future implementation funding.
- 3. Calipatria Transit Center – Environmental and Design Phase**
This project will fund the design of a new transit center in the City of Calipatria to improve rider safety, accessibility, and transit service reliability in an underserved rural community.
- 4. Regional Transit Centers Technology Improvements**
This project will modernize technology and passenger amenities at transit centers across Imperial County, improving operational efficiency, safety, and real-time transit information systems.

**125 North Park Avenue, Calipatria, CA 92233 / (760) 348-4141 / fax (760) 348-7035 /
www.calipatria.com**

5. SR-111 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan

This project will develop a comprehensive, data-driven transportation blueprint for the approximately 65-mile SR-111 corridor, the backbone route connecting Imperial County's largest cities and supporting goods movement, safety improvements, and multimodal mobility.

6. Pedestrian Improvements to the Calexico East Port of Entry Project

This project will enhance pedestrian safety, accessibility, and comfort near the Calexico East Port of Entry by improving sidewalks, high-visibility crossings, lighting, shade structures, and connectivity to transit services.

Together, these projects reflect a coordinated regional strategy to address longstanding infrastructure needs in a rural, border region with unique mobility and economic challenges. Federal partnership is essential to advancing these efforts and ensuring Imperial County remains competitive for future state and federal infrastructure investments.

We respectfully urge your support for ICTC's FY27 Community Project Funding requests and appreciate your continued leadership and commitment to the transportation and infrastructure needs of Imperial County.

Sincerely,



Michael Luellen
Mayor



RESOLUTION

CALIPATRIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date Submitted: March 20, 2026
Submitted By: Laura Gutierrez, City Manager
Council Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Discussion / Action

Subject: Resolution 26-08 - Declaration that the real property located near the northwest corner of Bonita Street and Brown Avenue, Calipatria, California (APN 023-333-004) is exempt surplus land pursuant to California Government Code § 54220 *et seq.*

Background:

The Resolution addresses a small City-owned property (about 0.172 acres) located near Bonita Street and Brown Avenue. It determines that the property qualifies as “**exempt surplus land**” under the California Surplus Land Act because it is under half an acre and not adjacent to land used for open space or affordable housing.

By adopting the Resolution:

- The City Council formally declares the property exempt from Surplus Land Act requirements.
- The City must submit the Resolution and supporting documentation to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) at least 30 days before selling or leasing the property.
- Once HCD concurs, the City can proceed with disposition of the property without additional Surplus Land Act restrictions.

Additionally, the action is **not subject to CEQA review** because declaring the property exempt surplus land is not considered a “project” and does not have environmental impacts. Any future development on the property would undergo CEQA review at that time if required.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council approve the Resolution and submit it to HCD.

Fiscal Impact:

There are no significant fiscal impacts from approving the Resolution, aside from minimal administrative costs required to comply with HCD procedures.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CALIPATRIA, CALIFORNIA DECLARING THAT THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NEAR THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF BONITA STREET AND BROWN AVENUE, CALIPATRIA, CALIFORNIA (APN 023-333-004) IS EXEMPT SURPLUS LAND PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE § 54220 ET SEQ. AND FINDING THAT SUCH DECLARATION IS EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, AND TAKING RELATED ACTIONS

WHEREAS, this Resolution concerns the real property located near the northwest corner of Bonita Street and Brown Avenue, Calipatria, California (APN 023-333-004) (the "Property"), consisting of approximately 0.172 acres (approximately 7,500 sq. ft.) as depicted and confirmed on the Assessor's parcel map and aerial view map included within Exhibit "A" to this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, consistent with California Government Code ("GC") §§ 54221 (f) (1) (B) and 54222.3 and § 103 (c) (3) (A) of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (the "HCD") Updated Surplus Land Act Guidelines dated August 1, 2024 (the "Updated HCD Guidelines"), the Property is exempt surplus land with respect to the California Surplus Land Act (the "SLA"), because it is less than one-half acre in size (i.e., less than 21,780 sq. ft.) and is not contiguous to land owned by a state or local agency that is used for open space or low- and moderate-income housing purposes and in this matter, the Assessor's parcel map appended to this Resolution as Exhibit "A" confirms the size of the Property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §§ 103 (e) and 400 (e) of the Updated HCD Guidelines, any determination by a local agency that its surplus lands are exempt from the SLA must provide HCD with a copy of the resolution (or other documentation recording a formal action by the governing body), at least 30 days prior to disposition, declaring the property exempt surplus land together with written findings and evidence supporting such declaration; and

WHEREAS, once the exemption is concurred in by HCD, the City may sell or lease the Property without any further SLA conditions; and

WHEREAS, approval of this Resolution will confirm the City Council's declaration that the Property is exempt surplus land consistent with GC §§ 54221 (f) (1) (B) and 54222.3 and § 103 (c) (3) (A) of the Updated HCD Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the foregoing, City Staff recommends that the City Council declare the Property to be exempt surplus land pursuant to the SLA and the Updated HCD Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the approval of this Resolution, staff will submit a copy of this Resolution to HCD pursuant to §§ 103 (e) and 400 (e) of the Updated HCD Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, This Resolution has been reviewed with respect to the applicability of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code § 21000 *et seq.*) (the “CEQA”). Staff has determined that the City Council’s declaration that the Property is exempt surplus land does not have the potential for creating a significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from further review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15060(c)(3) because it is not a project as defined by the CEQA Guidelines § 15378. Adoption of this Resolution does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. If and when the Property is sold to a purchaser and that purchaser proposes a use for the Property that requires a discretionary permit and CEQA review, that future use and project will be analyzed at the appropriate time in accordance with CEQA; and

WHEREAS, all of the prerequisites with respect to the approval of this Resolution have been met.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Calipatria, California, as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are a substantive part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The City Council hereby declares that the Property is exempt surplus land consistent with GC §§ 54221 (f) (1) (B) and 54222.3 and consistent with § 103 (c) (3) (A) of the Updated HCD Guidelines.

Section 3. The City Manager, or designee, is authorized to submit an adopted copy of this Resolution to HCD pursuant to §§ 103 (e) and 400 (e) of the Updated Guidelines.

Section 4. This Resolution has been reviewed with respect to the applicability of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code § 21000 *et seq.*) (the “CEQA”). Staff has determined that the City Council’s declaration that the Property is exempt surplus land does not have the potential for creating a significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from further review under CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15060(c)(3) because it is not a project as defined by the CEQA Guidelines § 15378. Adoption of this Resolution does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. If and when the Property is sold to a purchaser and that purchaser proposes a use for the Property that requires a discretionary permit and CEQA review, that future use and project will be analyzed at the appropriate time in accordance with CEQA.

Section 5. The City Clerk is directed to file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15062.

Section 6. The officers and staff of the City are hereby authorized, jointly and severally, to do all things which they may deem necessary or proper to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution, and any such actions previously taken are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Section 7. This Resolution shall take effect upon the date of its adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 24th day of March 2026 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Michael Luellen, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jane M. Hurtado, City Clerk

I, Jane M. Hurtado, City Clerk of the City of Calipatria, certify the foregoing is the full and true Resolution No. 26-08 passed and adopted by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Calipatria at a regular meeting held on March 24, 2026, by the above noted vote.

**AERIAL VIEW MAP
OF THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NEAR THE
NORTHWEST CORNER OF BONITA STREET AND BROWN AVENUE,
CALIPATRIA, CALIFORNIA
(APN 023-333-004)**





CALIPATRIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date Submitted: March 20, 2026

Submitted By: Michael Luellen, Mayor

Council Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Discussion / Direction

Subject: Calling for a Municipal Election on November 3, 2026, for the Submission of a Ballot Measure Relating to City Council Term Limits

Background:

California Government Code § 36502 provides that the legislative body of a general law city consists of five members elected by the voters. State law also allows cities to adopt local regulations governing eligibility for elective office, including term limits, when approved by voters.

Currently, the City of Calipatria does not impose term limits on City Councilmembers, allowing individuals to serve an unlimited number of terms subject to voter approval.

The City Council may consider placing a measure before voters to establish term limits for Councilmembers. The proposed measure would limit service to a maximum of three four-year terms, or twelve years total, and would apply prospectively without affecting current terms.

Submitting this question to voters would allow residents to decide whether to implement term limits to promote accountability, encourage civic engagement, and support leadership renewal. If the Council chooses to proceed, the measure could be placed on the ballot during a regularly scheduled municipal election or a special election, with a consolidated election potentially reducing associated costs.



CALIPATRIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date Submitted: March 20, 2026

Submitted By: Michael Luellen, Mayor

Council Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Discussion / Direction

Subject: Calling for a Municipal Election on November 3, 2026 for the Submission of a Ballot Measure Relating to the City Mayor

Background:

California Government Code § 36501 provides that, in general law cities, the City Council consists of five members, and the method of selecting the Mayor may be determined by the city—either by selection from among the Councilmembers or by election by the voters at large.

Currently, the Mayor of the City of Calipatria is selected by and from the City Council. The Mayor serves as the presiding officer at City Council meetings, represents the City at official functions, and acts as a spokesperson for the City. The Mayor remains one voting member of the City Council and does not exercise independent executive authority, as administrative authority is vested in the City Manager pursuant to state law and the City’s municipal code.

The City Council may consider submitting to the voters the question of whether the Mayor should be elected directly by the voters rather than selected from among the Councilmembers. This change would not alter the City’s form of government or the distribution of administrative authority but would modify the method of selecting the Mayor to provide for direct electoral accountability.

If the City Council chooses to proceed, the measure could be placed on the ballot at a regularly scheduled municipal election or at a special election. Consolidating the election with a regularly scheduled election may help reduce associated costs.