



## City of Colusa California

### STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** June 3, 2025  
**TO:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Jesse Cain, City Manager

#### **AGENDA ITEM:**

Discussion on City of Colusa's donation Policy.

**Recommendation:** The purpose of this report is to bring forward concerns regarding the City of Colusa's current donation policy, which has hindered the City's ability to solicit and receive donations for community events and recreational programs. This matter has been requested for Council discussion and potential revision by two Council Members.

#### **BACKGROUND ANALYSIS:**

. Historically, the City of Colusa has relied heavily on donations from individuals, businesses, and community organizations to fund and support events such as the annual Fourth of July celebration and various Parks and Recreation activities. These donations have been critical in offsetting costs and enabling the City to provide quality events and programming to the community at little or no cost to participants.

However, since the implementation of the City's current donation policy, staff has encountered increasing difficulty in soliciting donations. Specifically, the policy's requirement to publicly acknowledge or report donations has deterred many donors who prefer to give anonymously or without public recognition. In multiple instances, potential donors have declined to contribute due to concerns about confidentiality and visibility.

As a result, the City has been unable to secure the level of community financial support it has traditionally depended upon. For example, in the past, Fourth of July concerts in the park were significantly funded through donations. Since the adoption of the current policy, the City has borne the full cost of these events, which has placed additional strain on the General Fund and limited resources that could otherwise support other programs or infrastructure needs.

Two City Council Members have requested that this issue be brought back for review and discussion. They, along with City staff, believe that amending the donation policy to allow for confidential or anonymous donations (while still complying with relevant financial reporting and

legal standards) may re-invigorate community support and increase financial contributions to City-sponsored events.

Possible considerations for policy revision include:

- Allowing donors to request anonymity in public documents or acknowledgments.
- Establishing a framework for staff to receive and document anonymous donations while maintaining accountability.

#### **ISSUES:**

- The current donation policy requires transparency that conflicts with many donors' wishes for privacy or anonymity.
- The inability to accommodate anonymous donations has reduced community contributions for events and recreation.
- The full financial burden of the Fourth of July celebration has shifted to the City's budget since the policy change.
- There is concern among Council Members and staff that the policy is unintentionally discouraging civic generosity.

#### **BUDGET IMPACT:**

No immediate fiscal impact from this report. However, future fiscal impacts could include reduced burden on the City's General Fund if private donations are once again secured for community events and recreational activities.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the current donation policy and provide direction to staff on whether to prepare a revised policy that better supports fundraising efforts by allowing donor anonymity, while ensuring appropriate financial controls and transparency in accordance with state and local laws.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

Current City of Colusa Donation Policy