

Tracy Skelly

From: Lee Pagni <lee@studiomundo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 11:33 AM
To: tskelly@sonoraca.com
Cc: Tyler Summersett
Subject: comments for August 4th City Council Meeting

Please include in the packet that will be made available to the public.

Thank you,
Lee

July 31, 2025
55 Tuolumne St.
Sonora, CA 95370

City of Sonora
94 N. Washington St.
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing in advance of your August 4, 2025 meeting regarding the proposal to vacate a portion of APN 056-108-015 (hereafter referred to as "The Parcel").

As I have previously stated in public comments, vacating The Parcel would be both detrimental to public safety and financially burdensome for taxpayers, far outweighing any perceived benefits of relinquishing the property.

The Parcel is part of the South Washington Street corridor, a critical transportation artery connecting the City of Sonora to Highway 108. This corridor is prominently featured in multiple transportation planning documents, including the [Vision Sonora Plan \(2013\)](#) and the [2024 Tuolumne County Regional Transportation Plan](#). Disposing of a property so clearly identified as integral to future mobility and planning efforts would not only be short-sighted, but potentially negligent.

Moreover, vacating The Parcel would severely compromise what is currently the primary fire evacuation route for downtown Sonora residents. As detailed in the County's 2024 Downtown Sonora Evacuation Map (<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22173/Sonora-Downtown---Updated-2024>), the existing corridor is approximately 60 feet wide. This proposed action would eliminate roughly 30 feet – half of its usable width – dramatically limiting the city's options for future roadway improvements or emergency access enhancements.

To date, the City Council has not publicly articulated a rationale for vacating The Parcel, despite its known long-term value for transportation and emergency planning. In light of the serious and permanent consequences of this decision, I believe it is imperative that the Council provide a clear explanation of the public interest served by this action – particularly when it would reduce the City's flexibility for future development and safety planning.

I respectfully urge the Council to reconsider this proposal in the interest of public safety, responsible fiscal planning, and long-term community resilience.

Lee Pagni