



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

CITY HALL

CITY OF SONORA 94 N. WASHINGTON STREET, SONORA, CA 95370 P: (209) 532-4541

SERVICE, INNOVATION, INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION, RESPECT, LEADERSHIP

DATE: June 15, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Chris Gorsky, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Consider Appointment of Patricia Perry to City Historian Emerita and Tracy Skelly to City Historian

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider Appointment of Patricia Perry to City Historian Emerita and Tracy Skelly to City Historian.

BACKGROUND:

Patricia Perry began working for the City of Sonora in 1984. While serving as the City's Finance Director, she also undertook historical research projects on behalf of the City and became a valuable resource regarding Sonora's rich history and heritage.

Recognizing her extensive knowledge and dedication to preserving local history, the City Council officially appointed Ms. Perry as the City Historian in 2002. During her tenure, she has devoted countless hours to researching, documenting, preserving, and sharing the history of Sonora. Her work has enhanced the community's understanding of its past and has provided an invaluable resource for residents, visitors, historians, and City officials.

After more than four decades of service to the City and nearly twenty-five years as the officially appointed historian, Ms. Perry has expressed her desire to transition from the role. Her contributions to the City of Sonora have been extraordinary, and her commitment to preserving the community's heritage has left a lasting legacy. The position she leaves behind will be difficult to fill, and the City is deeply grateful for her many years of dedicated service.

To ensure continuity in the preservation and interpretation of Sonora's history, staff recommends appointing Tracy Skelly as the new City Historian. Ms. Skelly recently retired after twenty years of service to the City of Sonora and possesses extensive knowledge of the community, its government, and its people. Her long-standing commitment to the City makes her well suited to continue the important work of maintaining and sharing Sonora's historical record.

Ms. Perry has graciously agreed to remain involved in an advisory capacity and assist Ms. Skelly during the transition period.



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

CITY HALL

CITY OF SONORA 94 N. WASHINGTON STREET, SONORA, CA 95370 P: (209) 532-4541

SERVICE, INNOVATION, INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION, RESPECT, LEADERSHIP

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS:

The title of Historian Emerita is intended to recognize Ms. Perry's distinguished service and lasting contributions to the City of Sonora. The honorary designation acknowledges her decades of work preserving the City's history while allowing her to continue serving as a resource to the City and its new historian.

Appointing Tracy Skelly as City Historian will provide continuity for this important function and help ensure that Sonora's historical resources and institutional knowledge continue to be preserved for future generations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal Impact to the General Fund

CORE COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Historic Preservation and Community Heritage