

Calistoga City Council FY 24/25 Priorities

The Calistoga City Council is mindful of the following values, in no order of ranking, as they consider city business and focus on the annual priorities: economic vitality, housing, infrastructure, recreation, professional services, our environment, public safety, small-town character.

1) Infrastructure – Human and Physical

The Calistoga City Council wishes to maintain a “Human and Physical Capital Infrastructure Reserve Fund” based on fiscally responsible principles for the following purposes:

- a) Prioritize planning and investment that will allow for revenue generation from the Fairgrounds RV Park.
- b) Prioritize other Fairground infrastructure projects that will allow for additional Fairgrounds revenue generation to offset General Fund subsidies to the Fairgrounds.
- c) Explore options for adequate staff office space.
- d) Disaster response or major systems failures including wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, or infrastructure/facilities breaks.
- e) Road and transportation system repairs, upgrades, and traffic mitigation efforts.

For the purpose of budgeting, any available monies above the base General Fund needs and General Fund reserve will be directed to this fund.

2) Housing

The Calistoga City Council wishes to encourage the creation and maintenance of the housing stock to continue to support Calistoga’s unique identity and to minimize commute traffic impacts, described as follows:

- a) The City Council’s foremost housing interests are in encouraging ownership and rental housing for city employees, school employees, and local businesses with an emphasis on the “missing middle” for those who wish to live and work in Calistoga.
 - i) Analyze rezoning of Rural Residential zones to allow for more housing units with the goals of providing affordable and guaranteed access (possibly deed-restricted) for “missing middle” buyers and discouraging new homes from becoming infrequently-used second homes.
- b) Prioritize development of city-owned properties between Earl & Eddy.
- c) Seek input from the Housing Advisory Committee on additional ideas related to this priority and ask for their help researching implementation measures.
- d) The City Council wishes to collaborate with the school district on reuse of the property the district has identified as a possible housing site.
- e) Active staff engagement to support the above interests may require additional staff resources and will be explored as specific efforts are determined.

3) Fairgrounds

- a) Prioritize planning and investment that will allow for revenue generation from the RV park.
- b) Prioritize the creation of a 501(c)(3) to accept tax-deductible donations.
- c) Conduct a citywide assessment of the community wishes for uses of the property prior to the next set of decisions about financial investment, re-openings, and uses.

4) Small-town Character

The Calistoga City Council wishes to respect and maintain Calistoga’s authentic small-town character by being mindful of the following actions:

- a) Review proposals with preference for community values: small-town tradition; friendly, welcoming, unassuming culture; local business; sustainability; volunteerism; simplicity; honest, unpretentious way of life; sense of belonging, connectedness.
- b) With any proposal, consider whether it enhances or diminishes small-town character.
- c) Encourage accessible government representatives.