

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (N.C.S.)

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE DRAFT CHINATOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN
AS A KEY STRATEGIC PLANNING DOCUMENT**

WHEREAS, Chinatown’s past reflects a legacy of history, culture, heritage and ethnic diversity as a thriving, multicultural, mixed-use neighborhood which welcomed immigrants; and

WHEREAS, due to an increase in criminal activity, centralization of homeless services, and closed connection to the Downtown and Intermodal Transportation Center, a pattern of decline and disinvestment in the neighborhood emerged in the second half of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, the Chinatown Revitalization Plan is not the first community planning effort undertaken to stimulate Chinatown’s revitalization. The 2007 Chinatown Renewal Project and 2010 Chinatown Rebound community planning efforts also sought to restore Chinatown’s unique historical and cultural identity through proposed solutions that addressed identified challenges; and

WHEREAS, since these plans were developed, the primary plan implementor, the Salinas Redevelopment Agency, was dissolved (2012), necessitating the development of a new planning effort; and

WHEREAS, several of the City’s Economic Development Element’s (2017) goals, policies and action items specifically call for the preparation of a community-driven plan to guide the revitalization and enhancement of the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the Chinatown neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the aim of the 2019 Chinatown Revitalization Plan is to alleviate and reverse the neglect and underinvestment that Chinatown has faced by creating a more vibrant, equitable, and healthy community that builds upon its social and cultural wealth; and

WHEREAS, inclusivity was at the center of the Chinatown planning process to ensure that Plan content was reflective of and equitable for all stakeholders and focused on Chinatown’s specific needs and special character; and

WHEREAS to achieve this objective, the Plan’s robust engagement process not only involved residents, business and property owners, housing developers, social service providers, and cultural and faith-based organizations, but also included individuals experiencing homelessness and future residents of Dai-Ichi Village and Hikari affordable housing developments; and

WHEREAS over 3,000 residents and community stakeholders participated in the community-led engagement process that resulted in more than 200 recommended strategies that evolved into goals, policies and actions that are the “heart” of the Revitalization Plan; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned goals, policies and actions provide the framework for the residents, community stakeholders and organizations, and the City and other governmental agencies to work collaboratively to implement specific action steps toward realizing the community’s vision; and

WHEREAS, a public review document was released on November 27, 2019 and hard copies made available on December 4, 2019 at City Hall, the Permit Center, the John Steinbeck Library, the Chinatown Navigation Center, and the California State University - Monterey Bay Chinatown Student Learning Center; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant/Housing Committee received a Plan update on November 26, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2019, the Planning Commission received a presentation and heard public comment on the public review draft Chinatown Revitalization Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission unanimously approved a resolution recommending that the City Council accept the Chinatown Revitalization Plan as a key strategic planning document; and

WHEREAS, at its December 17, 2019 meeting the City Council received the Planning Commission’s recommendation, were provided a summary of written public comments received and heard public testimony at the meeting; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines section 15378). If recommended policies or actions progress to a “project” level further CEQA analysis will be required to address potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council hereby finds and determines the following:

1. The foregoing recitals and Attachments are true and correct and are included herein by reference as findings.
2. The proposed Chinatown Revitalization Plan supports the Core Value and eight Vision Salinas Guiding Principles accepted by City Council and meant to guide city planning documents.
3. Chinatown Revitalization Plan goals, policies, and actions will inform the General Plan update anticipated to begin in 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council hereby accepts the Chinatown Revitalization Plan (Exhibit “A”) as a key strategic planning document for the City of Salinas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager direct the implementation of the Plan as soon as possible, and seek funding for the recommended capital improvements, policy changes and operating budgets for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and in subsequent years.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of December 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Joe Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk