



**CITY OF SALINAS
LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

DATE: JUNE 10, 2026

DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

FROM: KRISTAN LUNDQUIST, DIRECTOR

TITLE: COMMUNITY PROCESS FOR RENAMING OF THE CESAR CHAVEZ LIBRARY AND CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Receive report and consider whether or not to rename the Cesar Chavez Library and Cesar Chavez Park and determine next steps.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In light of recent media reports and allegations of sexual abuse involving Cesar Chavez, and the resulting community concerns about City of Salinas facilities bearing his name, the Library and Community Services Commission is tasked with evaluating the issue and determine an appropriate course of action. The City Council has directed the Commission to consider leading a transparent, community-informed review process and provide recommendations regarding whether the Cesar Chavez Library and Cesar Chavez Park should be renamed.

BACKGROUND:

On March 18, 2026, the New York Times published a story outlining accusations of sexual abuse involving Cesar Chavez, one of the most revered figures in the Latino civil rights movement. Following these accusations, many local jurisdictions, school districts and college campuses began to rename facilities that were named after Cesar Chavez. At the Council meeting of April 7, 2026, the Mayor after making a public statement, referred the matter to the Library & Community Services Commission to establish and oversee a community process to consider the renaming of the Cesar Chavez Library and Cesar Chavez Park and bring back recommendations to the City Council for consideration.

The City of Salinas has two facilities currently named after Civil Rights Leader, Cesar Chavez; the Cesar Chavez Library and Cesar Chaves Park.

Cesar Chavez Library:

The Cesar Chavez Library, located at 615 Williams Road, opened in 1978 under the name of the Santa Lucia Library. In 1992, the library added a Chicano Cultural Center with several books, manuscripts and other materials. In 1993, the library was renamed to honor Cesar Chavez, after the United Farm Works union founder following his death in April of that year.

Cesar Chavez Park:

Cesar Chavez Park, located at 250 N. Madeira Avenue, opened in 1977 under the name of Hebronn Community Park/Hebronn Heights Community Park. In 1993, like the library, the park was renamed to honor Cesar Chavez, after his death earlier that year.

In December 2011 the City Council established a Policy for Naming of City Buildings, Facilities and Property. The policy established guidelines and process for naming or renaming of City buildings, facilities and property.

Both facilities previously had different names, and the Commission may suggest returning to those original names. If the Commission recommends renaming the facility, staff recommends the following process which is consistent with the Naming Policy:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Call for Nominations | Late June- July 2026 |
| Review of Nominations | August 2026 |
| LCS Commission Review | September 2026 |
| Council Adoption | October- November 2026 |

Staff is also asking the Commission to provide feedback on a community process and consider establishing a sub-committee of the Commission to assist with the review of nominations and recommended name selection.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE §84308 APPLIES:

No.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This action supports the City Council goals of:

- Youth & Seniors
- City Services

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

The Library & Community Services Department has worked with Administration and the City Attorney's Office on the potential renaming of Cesar Chavez Library and Cesar Chavez Park process in accordance with city's naming policy and direction from the City Council.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There is no significant fiscal impact at this time. However, if the two facilities were to be renamed, the signage at both locations would need to be updated resulting in the need for funding associated with the costs for a monument sign and facility signage.

ATTACHMENTS:

Naming Policy