CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD

county of ventura

November 23, 2026

The Honorable Mikey Taylor, Mayor
Members of the City Council
Andrew Powers, City Manager
City of Thousand Oaks
2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Subject: Historic Preservation in Thousand Oaks

Dear Mayor Taylor, Councilmembers, and City Manager Powers:

On behalf of the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board, I respectfully ask the City Council to direct staff to review opportunities to strengthen historic preservation in Thousand Oaks and the City's partnership with our Board.

Historic places give a community a sense of continuity. They help residents understand how their city took shape and whose lives shaped it. Their preservation depends on identifying significance early enough for property owners and public agencies to consider their options carefully.

The City's 2045 General Plan provides a strong starting point. Goal C-11 calls for protecting historic and cultural resources, and Policy C-11.7 expressly identifies our Board among the agencies and organizations to be involved in decisions affecting those resources. We appreciate that recognition and would welcome a discussion about how to put that partnership to fuller use.

Municipal Code Section 1-9.205 assigns our Board responsibility for evaluating potential landmarks and points of historic interest referred by the City Council. The November 2003 services agreement centers on those referrals and requires separate written authorization for additional services, including historical surveys. More than two decades later, a review would help determine how that arrangement can support the City's preservation priorities today.

We recommend focusing that review on three areas:

1. Assess the historic resource inventory. Ask staff to summarize existing surveys and inventories, their dates and coverage, and any gaps that merit further study. Where updates would be useful, establish a manageable sequence of work, with attention to

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Exhibit 1 – Proposed Letter to the
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properties or areas facing near-term change. Having a current inventory gives the City and property owners a clearer basis for planning.

2. Review the referral and consultation process. Examine how potentially historic properties come to the City's attention and reach the Board for evaluation. Identify opportunities for earlier, appropriately authorized consultation so historic significance can be considered while project options remain open. Clear guidance for property owners and residents would make the process easier to understand and use.

3. Align the services agreement with the work ahead. Review whether the agreement supports the priorities the City chooses to pursue. If additional County assistance would be useful, identify the services, staff capacity, estimated costs, and any amendments needed. A mutually approved scope of work and funding arrangement would give both agencies clear responsibilities.

This review should include affected property owners and local historical organizations, with tribal participation where appropriate. Their knowledge and experience can help the City establish priorities that reflect the community and can be carried out with the resources available.

We respectfully request that city staff return to the Council with an assessment of current preservation work, recommended improvements, estimated resource needs, and a proposed schedule. That would give the Council a clear basis for deciding how to proceed. Our Board would welcome the opportunity to contribute within an agreed scope.

Thank you for considering these recommendations and for your stewardship of Thousand Oaks. The choices we make today will determine which parts of Thousand Oaks' history future generations can still experience firsthand.

Sincerely,

_____
Anthony Angelini
Chair
Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board

_____
Tyson Cline, District 1

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Herbert Gooch, District 2

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Sylvia Schnopp, Vice Chair, District 3

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Anthony Delarosa, District 4

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Gary Blum, District 5

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Miguel Fernandez, At-Large