

Proposal to save county's historic buildings hits a delay

Published in The Valley Springs News / November 1, 2024

A proposed ordinance addressing protection of Calaveras County's historical buildings was considered last week by the County Planning Commission.

After more than two hours of discussion, the planning panel at an Oct. 24 meeting balked at approving the proposal and passing it on to the Board of Supervisors.

Instead, the planning panel continued consideration of the proposed ordinance to its next meeting on Nov. 14.

The proposed "Cultural Resources Management Ordinance" would replace an interim ordinance passed Feb. 13 to block demolition of any historic building in unincorporated Calaveras County.

County staff has been preparing a permanent ordinance in the meantime.

The urgency ordinance came about after a downtown Valley Springs landmark was on the brink of demolition.

Earlier this year, a permit had been pulled to tear down the former Valley Springs train depot located on the southwest corner of State Route 12 and 26. The structure dates back to the late 1880s and Calaveras County had nothing in the code to preserve its historical sites.

The current urgency ordinance is applicable to buildings 75 years or older and either listed or have been deemed by the State Historical Resources Commission to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Places.