

**File ID:** 2026-01191

6/25/2026

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## **Establishing a Sister City Relationship with the City of Morelia, Michoacán, México**

File ID: 2026-01191

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Adopt a **Resolution** establishing a Sister City relationship with Morelia, Michoacán, México.

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**Presenter:** Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra, City Councilmember District 6

### **Attachments:**

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Resolution
- 3-Exhibit A - Memorandum of Understanding

### **Description/Analysis**

**Issue Detail:** Multiple conversations have been held to explore the establishment of a Sister City relationship between the cities of Sacramento and Morelia. Sacramento and Morelia recognize the importance of cooperation and the exchange of expertise and experiences between the two cities, and will encourage visits, student exchanges, and joint initiatives by their respective citizens, institutions, and organizations. Both cities wish to enter a formal Sister City relationship.

In July 2025, the airline Volaris began direct flights between the Sacramento International Airport and Morelia International Airport. This enables both capital cities to promote direct exchanges, tourism and economic opportunities. Following informal discussions, the Mayor of Morelia, Alfonso Martínez Alcázar, expressed his desire to promote a Sister City relationship with the City of Sacramento and is concurrently bringing the formation of this relationship to Morelia's city council.

On September 16, 2025 the city council adopted a Resolution of Intention to establish a Sister City relationship with Morelia.

**Policy Considerations:** While the sister city agreement is formally maintained by the two city governments, its success depends on active community participation. Local organizations, businesses, schools, and residents create meaningful connections through events, exchanges, and volunteer activities.

**Economic Impacts:** Increased travel between Sacramento and Morelia is anticipated to raise revenue through tourism, entertainment, and trade.

**Environmental Considerations:** California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The proposed action is not a project under CEQA because it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines §15378(b)(5).)

**Sustainability:** Not applicable.

**Commission/Committee Action:** Not applicable.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Sister City relationships encourage cross-cultural learning and promote opportunities for social, cultural, and professional exchanges.

**Financial Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Not applicable.

**Background:** The City of Sacramento has a Sister City program which currently includes twelve relationships with cities across the world. Sacramento's sister cities and their respective establishment dates are as follows:

- Manila, Philippines (1961)
- Matsuyama, Japan (1981)
- Jinan, China (1984)
- Hamilton, New Zealand (1988)
- Liestal, Switzerland (1989)
- Chisinau, Moldova (1989)
- Youngsan-gu, Seoul, South Korea (1997)
- San Juan de Oriente, Nicaragua (2006)
- Pasay City, Philippines (2006)
- Bethlehem, Palestine (2009)
- Ashkelon, Israel (2012)
- Mexicali, México (2013)

## RESOLUTION 2026-XXXX

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

June XX, 2026

### **Establishing a Sister City Relationship Between the City of Sacramento, California, United States and the City of Morelia, Michoacán, México**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- A. The mission of the Sister Cities Council of Sacramento is to develop mutually beneficial cultural, educational, social, and/or economic relationships between the citizens of Sacramento and its Sister Cities.
- B. The City of Sacramento has benefitted from having 12 Sister Cities from countries around the world but has not yet established a Sister City relationship within the state of Michoacán, México, from where many Sacramentans share family ties.
- C. On September 16, 2025, the Sacramento City Council adopted a Resolution of Intention to establish a sister city relationship with Morelia.
- D. In February 2026, Mayor McCarty and Mayor Pro Tem Guerra led a delegation to Morelia, Michoacán, México, to formalize the signing of the Morelia-Sacramento Sister Cities Agreement and to establish a directly coordinated framework for implementing the Agreement.
- E. A formal sister city relationship will further enhance the ties that already exist between Morelia and Sacramento.

#### **BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

##### **Section 1:**

The Sacramento City Council gives its endorsement to formalize a sister city relationship with the City of Morelia, Michoacán, México, as outlined in Exhibit A.

**Section 2:**

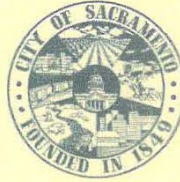
The Mayor is authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mayor of the City of Morelia, Michoacán, México.

**Section 3:**

The City Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to the City of Morelia, Michoacán, México.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

Exhibit A – Memorandum of Understanding



## **SISTER CITIES**

### BETWEEN THE CITY OF MORELIA AND THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO

Executed through a Memorandum of Understanding

Between the City of Sacramento, California, United States of America,  
and the City of Morelia, Michoacán, United Mexican States

WHEREAS, the **City of Sacramento and the City of Morelia** desire to formalize a Sister City relationship based on mutual **friendship**, historical ties, and the deep cultural roots shared by our communities;

WHEREAS, both cities are committed to strengthening the bonds between the **United States and Mexico** through international goodwill and cooperation;

#### **Therefore, the Cities of Sacramento and Morelia agree to:**

- **Official Partnership:** Establish a formal Sister City relationship to foster long-term friendship.
- **Bilateral Cooperation:** Encourage cultural, artistic, and academic exchanges, as well as the transfer of technical knowledge in public policy and sustainability.
- **Economic & Social Growth:** Promote bilateral trade, tourism, and direct dialogue between our citizens and institutions.
- **Shared Commitment:** Work together as a symbol of peace, stability, and regional prosperity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Councils, sign this **Memorandum** of Understanding on this 6th day of February, 2026.

**Kevin McCarty**  
Mayor of Sacramento

**Alfonso Martínez Alcázar**  
Municipal President of Morelia