

A sister city in Mexico is good for Sacramento

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By the Editorial Board

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It may surprise many that while Sacramento has sister cities spanning the globe, it doesn't have one in Mexico.

It looks like that's about to change – a good move.

Tuesday evening, the City Council is being asked to pass a resolution in support of making Mexicali, the capital of Baja California, Sacramento's 11th sister city.

There are many historical, economic and cultural ties that are worth deepening through the relationship. An estimated 249,000 people of Mexican origin live in Sacramento County. **Cien Amigos, a Sacramento-based group trying to strengthen ties between the United States and its southern neighbor, is led by Melinda Guzman, whose family roots are in Mexicali.**

There is a less obvious, though important, human link between the two regions. For 15 years, members of Bayside Church have gone to the Mexicali Valley to work with churches there to build houses, offer food and help out in orphanages. What started with two dozen grew to 960 for the mission trip this Easter, the regional church says.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson is on board, as is Mexicali Mayor Francisco Perez-Tejada Padilla, who plans to be at Tuesday's meeting. Also in support are Baja California's governor and Mexico's consul general here. With the council resolution in hand, supporters in both cities will seek final approval from Sister Cities International.

City Council members must be relieved that there's no dispute over this move. The last sister city resolution, for Ashkelon in Israel, was a huge fight because of objections lodged by Palestinian advocates.

This time, council members only have to say, "Welcome."

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