

# San Jacinto plans demolition of old city hall, museum

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By GAIL WESSON  
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Two San Jacinto city buildings that date to the 1930s and '40s but are considered no longer usable will be demolished and the downtown land made available for future development.

The old city hall at 201 E. Main St. was declared seismically unsafe in 2005 and since then used only for storage. The former site of the San Jacinto Municipal Museum a block away on Main Street was shuttered after a 2003 storm caved in the roof. The building opened as a city museum in 1939.

The City Council approved seeking bids for the demolition earlier this month and voted last week to transfer title of the two properties from the city to the San Jacinto Redevelopment Agency.

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San Jacinto Assistant City Manager Tim Hults shows ceiling damage at the old city hall on East Main Street, which will be demolished. **Gail Wesson / The Press-Enterprise**

The expense to demolish and clear the properties, estimated at \$75,000, will be covered by agency funds, according to a staff report. The city will be compensated for the value of the land when it is sold, the report said.

Structural engineers estimated it would cost \$1.4 million to retrofit the old city hall building and make it safe to use, City Manager Barry McClellan said.

"It just was not cost effective for that building," he said.

The building was expanded in 1995.

In 2005, city employees relocated across the street to the Virginia Lee Hotel, which already housed community development offices, or nearby storefronts. Last year, most city offices moved into two new buildings on San Jacinto Avenue.

The San Jacinto Municipal Museum collection was moved into a modular building on the grounds of the Estudillo Mansion in 2005.

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