

American Legion to relocate state headquarters from SF to Sanger

By Ricardo
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After 96 years in downtown San Francisco, the American Legion is relocating its state headquarters to Sanger, a city official confirmed Saturday.

Sanger City Manager Brian Haddix confirmed in a telephone interview that the legion's state offices will be housed in a vacant building on Seventh Street that used to be a West America Bank. The building will also house other ancillary groups tied to the American Legion.

A formal announcement by Sanger city and veterans group leaders and American Legion representatives is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday.

Haddix did not elaborate on how long the city has been in talks with the American Legion's state leadership about planting roots in Sanger. But he said local veteran groups "did a lot of the early legwork over the last month."

Ultimately, the city's low crime rate, school system, housing market, its "small-town feel" and engagement with local American Legion posts convinced the American Legion to relocate its state offices to the Valley, Haddix said. The city hosted the legion's state finance committee in recent weeks as part of its pitch, he added.

"Our veterans are very much a priority here in Sanger," Haddix said.

Janet Wilson, state commander, said all 30 district commanders voted Saturday to relocate the headquarters, including seven employees.

Sanger made them feel "wanted," she said. "They rolled out the red carpet for us. It's an all-American city."

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