



Public Comments
City Council Meeting
July 21, 2021

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

From IP Address: 68.111.173.149

Email Christinenava858@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 7/20/2021

Agenda # 15

Subject urban forestry

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Chris Nava

Are you an Escondido Resident Yes

Comments Dear Mayor and City Council, An important element of the E-CAP proposal submitted by the committee of the Sierra Club North County Group (NCG) earlier in the year is one that relates to today's presentation of the work plan of the Planning Commission and its identification of the development of a greening infrastructure plan as one of its goals. We can no longer deny the deadly Consequences of climate change. The dire reports of heat waves throughout the Western United States leave no doubt that city governments must act to provide relief for its urban dwellers. Providing for a greening infrastructure is a responsibility that cannot be ignored. Please direct staff to support the work of the Planning Commission in accomplishing this goal. Sincerely, Chris Nava

Would you like your comment read out loud? Yes

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=b5f44917-4f99-4f22-a53f-242aec433b22>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

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Email Wootton.clark@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 7/21/2021

Agenda # 15

Subject Urban Greening in Escondido.

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Cynthia Wootton

Are you an Escondido Resident No

Comments Dear Mayor and City Council, I am in strong support of the development of the urban greening/green infrastructure plan as part of the Planning Commission work plan. When you go to any park with shade trees, year round, you will find people sitting under them, walking their babies, dogs, wheeling their old and disabled, meeting each other while enjoying the shade and breezes. This is especially important to have for communities during heat waves. Planting native trees such as oaks and plants are drought tolerant and attract birds and butterflies, while bringing delight to all. Some native shrubs, such as toyons and manzanitas can be shaped into small trees, that also provide sculptural beauty. This will attract more people, like me, to Escondido as a hub for culture, beauty and commerce. Greenery is important to quality of life in all climate plans also due to the fact that plants clean our air year round, which is especially beneficial during times of high pollution alerts. They absorb carbon dioxide and release the oxygen that we depend on for our survival. This absorption of CO2 also helps to stabilize the Earth's climate. This will affect every single person in the entire San Diego County and the world. Thank you Cynthia Wootton

Would you like your comment read out loud? Yes

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From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

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Council Meeting Date 7/21/2021

Agenda # 15

Subject Urban Greening

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Joaquin Aganza

Are you an Escondido Resident No

Comments I live in Valley Center so Escondido is my shopping, dining, entertainment and cultural events destination. I strongly support the Urban Greening project proposed for Escondido. Just as Frederick Olmstead envisioned that the Los Angeles River could be a green belt running through LA Escondido has this opportunity to make Escondido Creek a longitudinal green space for the city to go along with additional tree canopy throughout the town. Add on to the city's beautiful existing mature trees to make Escondido the premier and cool destination for shopping and recreation for all North County.

Would you like your comment read out loud? Yes

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<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=66dc7b1c-9ae2-420d-b0f2-2b83ff7fe453>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

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Council Meeting Date July 21, 2021

Agenda # 15

Subject Planning Commission Work Plan Urban Greening

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Laura Hunter

Are you an Escondido Resident Yes

Comments Dear Mayor and City Council, Sierra Club North County Group is in strong support of directing staff to pursue development of the urban greening/green infrastructure plan as part of the Planning Commission workplan. We have learned the hard way through the pandemic/heat waves/climate change the value of green spaces for urban dwellers and of an urban forest. All of these aspects were strong recommendations in the Escondido Climate Action Plan. There is significant funding available that we believe the city could compete for successfully. We look forward to working with the city in some capacity, hopefully in a Escondido Climate Engagement Commission :-), to achieve these great goals for the city. These kinds of actions are also perfect to improve quality of life in our Priority Investment Neighborhoods as outlined in the ECAP. We strongly support this aspect of the Planning Commission workplan and urge your support as well. Thank you Laura Hunter, Chair, NCG Conservation Committee

Would you like your comment read out loud? Yes

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<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=9f5ea214-4ced-42cf-81ca-19e409b7ed37>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

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Council Meeting Date 7/21/2021

Agenda # 15

Subject urban greening/green infrastructure plan

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Marian L Sedio

Are you an Escondido Resident No

Comments Dear Mayor and Council Members Although I do not live directly in the city of Escondido I am in its sphere of influence as I live close by in Valley Center. My family and I spend many hours a week in Escondido shopping, eating, supporting businesses etc. Please instruct staff to pursue development of the urban greening/green infrastructure plan as part of the Planning Commission work plan. Escondido is a lovely town however there are areas that are mostly buildings, concrete, and asphalt. Increasing green spaces in Escondido will help alleviate the urban heat island effect, improve the quality of life for residents, reduce crime rates, contribute to mitigating climate change, and make Escondido a more desirable place to live and do business in. Thank you.

Would you like your comment read out loud? Yes

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<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=00418cfb-aeda-46c2-a10d-325157543dfc>

I join many other stakeholders to ask that Escondido City Council support the urban greening/green infrastructure plan as part of the **Planning Commission work plan**. These targeted investments and actions were all recommendations in the Escondido Climate Action Plan that were carefully analyzed. The co-benefits of Green Urban Infrastructure and the Urban Forest are accurately summarized in the Power Point presentation.

There is already hard data and evidence that links a positive return on investment, with economic/community benefits that are often the outcome when public agencies make investments in green infrastructure. Economic analysts and climate experts generally agree that there is an urgent need for bold action, and immediate investment in green infrastructure that is necessary to combat the climate crises. The consequences of a 'no action' agenda are devastating. As we all cope with combined impacts and hardships from the pandemic/heat waves/wildfire risks/climate change cycle, the actual value of green spaces for urban dwellers, and increased shade from an expanded urban forest become even more desirable, and tangible than ever.

There is significant grant funding available from state and federal agencies to implement green infrastructure and urban forest programs, that Escondido can compete for successfully in the future. Competition for funding is partially measured by specific policies adopted by each City that are consistent with the objectives of funding agencies. It is expected that adoption of this Green Urban Infrastructure plan for Escondido will make future applications by Escondido for state and federal grant funding more competitive, and more likely to be funded.

I strongly support this part of the Planning Commission work plan, and urge your support by Escondido City Council, to make Escondido more resilient, more prepared, more focused on health and well being.

Patricia Borchmann

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

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Council Meeting Date 7/21/2021

Agenda # 15

Subject READ OUT LOUD / Comment Re: Planning Commission Work Plan, pages 169-171 of Agenda; Item # 15

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Timothy Swift

Are you an Escondido Resident Yes

Comments Council: For PC item 21 “Green infrastructure Plan”, please direct PC staff to submit RFP Application to “California Resilience Challenge” to obtain critical funding for green infrastructure planning/implementation. Increasing UF canopy coverage is the cornerstone of a meaningful Green Infrastructure plan, as urban trees return \$3 for every \$1 invested by providing significant carbon emissions & pollution reduction, storm water retention, increasing real estate value, & crime reduction. Furthermore, the shade/cooling they provide can mitigate energy consumption in buildings & reduce urban heat islands by 10-20 degrees F, where communities w/ higher rates of poverty – a defining characteristic of the ECAP’s “Priority Investment Neighborhoods” – suffer by as much as 7 degrees warmer land surface temps than richer neighborhoods. The ECAG laid out numerous proposals in the 2020/2021 ECAP to develop a master plan to assess, fund, increase our urban forest. Additional significant funding is available and should be pursued via CALFIRE Grants to implement comprehensive UF expansion/management plans. Unfortunately the city just missed the deadline for 2021.

Would you like your comment read out loud? Yes

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From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

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Council Meeting Date 9/15/2021

Agenda # 22

Subject Activities Mural Art Documentation

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Bob Bob

Are you an Escondido Resident Yes

Comments In reference to the Discussion by Escondido City Councilperson Marasco at the July 14 2021 City Council Meeting, could we get a more comprehensive 12-3/4 minute City Council presentation about all of the displayed art murals & the "DAK" (Abraham Turk Center) mural , when the 2-hour per week intern finishes the inventory ?

Would you like your comment read out loud? Yes

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Escondido Chamber of Commerce
720 N Broadway
Escondido, CA. 92025

RE: An open letter to the Board of Directors of the San Diego YMCA

Dear Board Members,

We, the Board of Directors of the Escondido Chamber of Commerce, are writing to you on behalf of all the citizens of Inland North County. The pending sale of the Palomar Family YMCA property is imminent, and we are asking your Board to commit that the proceeds from the sale will be directed so as to benefit the Community of Escondido. This request is based on the original purposes of the Palomar Family YMCA, which was developed to serve our community in “Spirit, Mind and Body.”

For over fifty years, our community has generously contributed to the Palomar Family YMCA. The purpose of our generous and consistent philanthropic investment in this facility and its programs was not to support the financial wellbeing of other San Diego YMCA facilities.

The anguish we all feel as to how this is coming about could not be more eloquently expressed than in the poignant letter sent to you April 3, by respected community leader, Jack Anderson. A copy is included below. We have not seen a published response from you to this letter and hope you have sent one to him.

The last year has been rough on all of us. Like you, we as a Chamber as well as many of our members have been wounded severely by the Covid lockdown. However, we are determined to step up to the challenges before us. That you would choose to abandon the Palomar YMCA facility and its programs without warning and without input from the community is, frankly, unacceptable. Generations of generous donors and loyal members have faithfully supported this program and relied on it for the services it has provided. We are certain that when Palomar Family YMCA merged with the San Diego YMCA that no board member of the Palomar Family YMCA could have imagined the way this seems to be playing out.

Please understand that we are not trying to interfere with the sale of the facility. You consider it a liability and we cannot stop you. We also understand that the group that is in the process of purchasing the real estate has committed to assist in the effort to transform it into a valuable community asset. We commend them for that.

The fact that you are continuing some programs in our city such as the foster care program is not enough. That program has nothing to do with the sale of our facility and the resulting windfall.

We believe that you are morally, ethically and—probably—legally obligated to honor the philanthropic intent of those who brought the Palomar Family YMCA facility into being. We urge you to make a public commitment that the proceeds from the sale of the property will be reinvested back into the Greater Escondido community. Our needs are great and have increased exponentially by your decision to abandon this facility. There are any number of ways for this commitment and gesture of good faith to be accomplished.

Our suggestion is that you entrust these funds to the City of Escondido with an understanding that they will be spent in ways that reflect the long-held values and goals of the donors who established and supported Palomar Family YMCA over the many years of its existence.

We, as a community, look forward to hearing back from you on this important issue and trust that you will take this appeal to heart and act accordingly.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Escondido Chamber of Commerce
July 20, 2021

<https://www.times-advocate.com/articles/letter-to-the-editor-troubling-aspects-of-ymcasdecision-to-sell-its-escondido-campus/>

Letter to the Editor: TROUBLING ASPECTS OF YMCA'S DECISION TO SELL ITS ESCONDIDO CAMPUS *on April 03, 2021*

This letter was originally sent by Jack Anderson to the YMCA of San Diego County and is reprinted with his permission.

I write this letter after reading the unsettling news in the Escondido Times-Advocate, that the YMCA of San Diego County intends to sell the Palomar Family YMCA facility. I am a 41-year resident of Escondido and served on the Palomar Family YMCA Board from 1980-2003, including a term as Board Chair; and, I have remained a financial donor to the Palomar Family YMCA since that time. Since its inception, the Y has grown to meet Escondido's needs both programmatically and through facility development with amazing philanthropic support from the community. The facilities that are intended to be sold are the result of community philanthropy and a commitment from the City of Escondido. The facilities are a capital asset to the YMCA Corporate entity, but more importantly, they are a community asset to the residents of the greater Escondido community. Countless residents of this community learned to swim, developed many critical life and leadership skills, maintained healthy lifestyles and received much needed childcare services from Palomar Family's amazing staff leadership. As stated in the news article, "YMCA officials attributed the need to sell the property to the COVID-19 pandemic, which destroyed the Y's programs last

year.” Based on that statement, is one to presume that 12 months of COVID challenges, and their impact on our communities and nation (and presumably the other branches of the San Diego YMCA) are sufficient to remove an essential community asset forever? Is your Corporate Board satisfied to let a pandemic dictate your service provision capability? Or are we all striving to overcome the pandemic and resume services even more strongly? Can one also presume that the YMCA’s mission; “The YMCA of San Diego County is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential as children of God through the development of the spirit, mind and body.” is deemed to be completely fulfilled for the Escondido community? And, such mission fulfillment, determines that there is no longer a need for the YMCA to remain a critical partner with the Escondido community and its other serving organizations that support children, families, and other community needs? What also troubles me is that the first inkling to the community of this drastic change in community resources came in a newspaper article. What effort was undertaken by the Corporate YMCA body to engage the community in this important decision? My personal and professional experience (27 years in various community leadership roles with the City of Escondido) was always driven by engaging the community through critical decision processes. I understand completely the challenging impact of the COVID pandemic, both from an emotional/social perspective as well as an economic impact. However, one does not allow such challenges to forever impact the value of a 50 plus-year serving relationship with a community.

JACK W. ANDERSON, Escondido