



**Public Comments**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**August 11, 2021**

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

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** # 5

**Subject** Housing Element- Planning PHG20-0030

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Maria Bowman

**Are you an Escondido Resident** Yes

**Comments** Please consider the full development of the Transit Center. West Mission/Quince ST. and Spruce St/Quince and W. Fourth. Avenue, for Work Force Housing. Workforce Housing has a history in this area. The current Transit Center was once a Citrus packing Plant., and housing was built for the workforce needs and security of labor for the plant. Now the transit center can be a hub for meeting the great housing insecurity of our neighbors. The former Police Station housing, and projects in the Mercado area support workforce housing. We also need to encourage the development of the Swap Meet on Quince/ Washington as residential projects for permanent housing for low-income and homeless populations. Several small, industrial/commercial employers would also benefit of a labor force, within secure walking distance housing.

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** Yes

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** #13

**Subject** Downtown zoning changes

**Position** In Opposition

**First and Last Name** Ed Gallo

**Are you an Escondido Resident** Yes

**Comments** Had I not served on the Downtown Revitalization Committee when we finalized the Downtown Specific Plan, which has been appropriately amended some years ago, I would not be so concerned with this proposal. Maintaining sales tax generating businesses on Grand Ave should still be the primary goal as there are ample opportunities for other business types and residential above the ground floor. I cringe when I think the recently opened bail bonds business downtown on Grand Avenue aligns with the 'desired community character as stated in the staff report. An appropriate example is the new church at Grand and Juniper which incorporated a retail business on the ground floor facing Grand Ave. Another example is an item on today's agenda on S. Escondido Blvd. The overused term 'live / work' projects works for our iconic downtown. Thank you for your consideration.

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** Yes

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** 14

**Subject** 2021 – 2029 General Plan Housing Element Update (PHG 20-0030)

**Position** No Position

**First and Last Name** Boris Gresely

**Are you an Escondido Resident** No

**Comments** Good Evening Mayor and Councilmembers, My name is Boris Gresely and I'm speaking on behalf of the Carpenters/Contractor Cooperation Committee. We are a non-profit organization committed to the creation of good-paying jobs, fair competition and high-quality construction industry standards. Formed in 1987, we have collaborated with local, state and federal civil and criminal law enforcement agencies to crack down on unlawful business practices that hurt responsible contractors, workers and communities. As the City continues to review and discuss the proposed draft Housing Element, we hope the City recognizes that this document should also plan for a more equitable society and take a more serious look at the issue of wage theft affecting thousands of construction workers, who will be responsible for building the future housing needs of this City. In our day to day, we come across daily examples of worker exploitation and see the emotional and financial toll it takes on them and their families; we see honest law-abiding contractors, trying to play by the rules, to contribute to society and create good jobs, unable to compete for projects against law-breakers; we see workers being paid for a unit of production, usually by the square foot or the number of dwelling units, rather than an hourly rate. This downward cycle threatens the construction industry and has a negative financial impact on us all. A new UC Berkeley study, "The Public Cost of Low-Wage Jobs in California Construction Industry" has noted that a significant number of workers are vulnerable to wage theft, misclassification and incomplete access to health care benefits. As a result, many construction workers and their families are forced to become enrolled in government safety net programs to meet their basic needs, like medical coverage and food stamps. Basically: we are all subsidizing the negative business practices of bad actors. This is lost money that could be spent on education, infrastructure or public safety. As the Housing Element moves forward, we hope that the City Council looks at possible safeguards to make sure workers building future projects are treated fairly with dignity and that the City support responsible contracting practices in order to create good local careers that benefit the community as a whole. Thank you for your time.

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** Yes

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** 14

**Subject** Housing Element Update

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Chris Nava

**Are you an Escondido Resident** Yes

**Comments** Dear Mayor and City Council Members, I am a long-time resident of Escondido and an active member of the NCG who worked on the Climate Action Plan. I write in support of the ECHC recommendations for its Housing Element Update. These recommendations are extremely important in strengthening key housing policies, such as meaningful inclusionary housing and affordable housing provisions. Current data show Escondido's median income is significantly lower than the county average and affordable housing sorely lags in providing for needed affordable units for its residents. It becomes a moral imperative for the city to respond to what is now a crisis for many of our residents. I fully support the amendments submitted by the coalition and urge you to adopt them. Once again, community groups have been asking for the establishment of a housing commission. It is time for the city to respond. Sincerely, Chris Nava

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** Yes

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** 14

**Subject** 2029 General Plan Housing Element Update

**Position** In Opposition

**First and Last Name** Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat

**Are you an Escondido Resident** No

**Comments** The Center for Biological Diversity stands with the Escondido Community Housing Coalition and supports their recommendations for amendments to Escondido Revised Draft Housing Element, outlined in their letter to the board on July 30th, 2021. Specifically, we support the creation of an inclusionary housing ordinance that has a 25%, on-site, deed restricted, affordable housing requirement for all new housing projects. We also support the removal of proposed housing locations within 500 feet of a freeway or routes heavily trafficked by diesel trucks. Finally, we support the removal of proposed housing from locations in Very High Fire Severity Zones and concentrate in area served by transit and other existing infrastructure. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** Yes

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To be read out loud at the Escondido City Council meeting 08-11-21:

Good evening Mayor Mac and city council. My name is Evelyn Langston, President of EMPAC. I'm writing today because of agenda item 14 (general plan housing element update).

Along with the north county chapter of Sierra club, North County NAACP and others I back the newly formed Escondido Community Housing Coalition. We need to remove proposed housing locations from unsafe areas especially in high risk fire zones.

Also I advocate for the urban Greening be a big part of improving housing in Escondido. I was disappointed the council voted 3-2 against such project but not surprised...

So in closing I definitely support a strong sustainable housing policy and that starts with Escondido Community Housing Coalition. I thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Evelyn Langston

President, EMPAC

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

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** 14

**Subject** Escondido Housing Element Update

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Madison Coleman

**Are you an Escondido Resident** No

**Comments** Honorable Mayor and Council members, my name is Madison Coleman, Policy Advocate with Climate Action Campaign a member of the San Diego Green New Deal Alliance. I am also a member of the Escondido Community Housing Coalition (ECHC). Escondido's Housing Element Update is an opportunity for the City to create equitable, inclusive, and sustainable communities, where every resident has access to affordable, safe housing near job and transit centers, which is a key climate solution. The Housing Element must implement key housing policies, such as a robust Inclusionary Housing Program, to ensure adequate affordable housing and housing security in the city. Escondido must stop permitting sprawl development and instead increase affordable housing through urban infill projects. We urge you to implement anti-displacement strategies to protect residents in communities of concern such as collaborating with Community Land Trusts for affordable housing development and other innovative programs. Lastly, as a key equity strategy, the Housing Element must include effective public engagement in communities of concern first that have been most harmed by the climate and housing crises. Thank you for your efforts and time on this important update.

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** No

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** 14

**Subject** Housing Element

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Marie Brown

**Are you an Escondido Resident** No

**Comments** I support the ECHC recommendations for 6th Cycle Housing Element including: 1. Re-Establish an Escondido Housing Commission. 2. Require development of an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. 3. Create a two-tiered approach to inclusionary housing. 4. Remove proposed housing locations from unsafe locations. 5. Remove proposed housing from locations in Very High Fire Severity Zones 6. Urban Greening should be an integral part of improving housing in Escondido. 7. Include actions to ensure access to Rent Forgiveness programs, a Tenant Protection Ordinance, and Rent Registry System. 8. New Home buying programs should set higher performance goals and be expanded to include city-initiated/supported community land trusts. Thank you for considering my views. Marie Brown

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** No

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** 14

**Subject** Housing Element Update

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Pamela Heatherington

**Are you an Escondido Resident** No

**Comments** Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers, Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. The Environmental Center of San Diego supports the local community residents request for an official Housing Commission. Escondido needs a robust Inclusionary Housing Program, to ensure adequate affordable housing and housing security in the city. Escondido must stop permitting sprawl development and instead increase affordable housing through urban infill projects. Workforce housing needs a place in Escondido. As the climate crisis accelerates, urban greening should be an integral part of improving housing in Escondido, which is critical to making cities livable and healthy. Adequate tree canopies are known to lower heat in impacted areas as much as 10 degrees. The Housing Element must include effective public engagement in communities of concern first that have been most harmed by the climate and housing crises. As part of the Green New Deal Alliance, we ask you to consider our requests. Pamela Heatherington Board of Directors Environmental Center of San Diego

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** Yes

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**Council Meeting Date** 8/11/2021

**Agenda #** Off Agenda

**Subject** Red Light Runners

**Position** In Opposition

**First and Last Name** Zachary Schaefer

**Are you an Escondido Resident** Yes

**Comments** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers, I would like to request that something be done about red light runners in our city. My wife and I were hit by a red light runner which resulted in injuries and a total loss of our only family vehicle back in February. I challenge you to observe any given intersection, but especially those that fall within the bounds of City Center Parkway, Mission Avenue, Valley Parkway, and Date Street. I travel within these bounds every day and I have never had a trip where I didn't see at least one red light runner. Most often, the lights are solidly red when the vehicle takes the intersection; in my instance, my green light had been lit for several seconds when I entered the intersection and was hit. We are not dealing with marginal cases but flagrant recklessness and disregard for the safety of our fellow citizens. Can we designate a special enforcement zone or implement the use of traffic cameras at least within these areas? It is only a matter of time before someone is killed if it hasn't happened yet. Thank you for your consideration.

**Would you like your comment read out loud?** Yes

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