

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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May 24, 2023

Mike Strong, Director
Community Development Department
City of Escondido
201 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Mike Strong:

RE: City of Escondido's 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Adopted Housing Element

Thank you for submitting the City of Escondido's (City) housing element that was adopted on March 22, 2023 and received for review on March 28, 2023. Pursuant to Government Code section 65585, subdivision (h), the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is reporting the results of its review. In addition, HCD considered comments from Escondido Housing Coalition.

The adopted element was found to be substantially the same as the revised draft element that HCD's December 8, 2022 review determined met statutory requirements. The housing element will comply with State Housing Element Law (Article 10.6 of the Gov. Code) when rezoning is completed (see below) and it is adopted, submitted to and approved by HCD, in accordance with Government Code section 65585.

Pursuant to AB 1398, a jurisdiction that failed to adopt a compliant housing element within one year from the statutory deadline cannot be found in compliance until rezones to make prior identified sites available or accommodate a shortfall of sites pursuant to Government Code sections 65583, subdivision (c)(1)(A) and 65583.2, subdivision (c) are completed. As this year has passed and Programs 1.1 (Sites Inventory and No Net Loss) and Program 1.3 (By-right Approvals on Reuse Sites) have not been completed, the housing element is out of compliance and will remain out of compliance until the rezoning have been completed. Once the City completes the rezone, a copy of the resolution or ordinance should be transmitted to HCD. HCD will review the documentation and issue correspondence identifying the updated status of the City housing element compliance.

Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning. Throughout the housing element process, the City must continue to engage the community, including organizations that represent lower-income and special needs households, by making information regularly

available while considering and incorporating comments where appropriate. Please be aware, any revisions to the element must be posted on the local government's website and to email a link to all individuals and organizations that have previously requested notices relating to the local government's housing element at least seven days before submitting to HCD.

Several federal, state, and regional funding programs consider housing element compliance as an eligibility or ranking criteria. For example, the CalTrans Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sustainable Communities grant; the Strategic Growth Council and HCD's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities programs; and HCD's Permanent Local Housing Allocation consider housing element compliance and/or annual reporting requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65400. With a compliant housing element, the City will meet housing element requirements for these and other funding sources.

For your information, some general plan element updates are triggered by housing element adoption. HCD reminds the City to consider timing provisions and welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance. For information, please see the Technical Advisories issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at: <https://www.opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/guidelines.html>.

HCD appreciates and commends the City for the hard work and commitment to completing this housing element. If you have any questions or need additional technical assistance, please contact Sohab Mehmood, of our staff, at sohab.mehmood@hcd.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul McDougall", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul McDougall
Senior Program Manager