



CITY OF ESCONDIDO  
PLANNING DIVISION  
201 NORTH BROADWAY  
ESCONDIDO, CA 92025-2798  
760-839-4671

The Escondido Planning Commission will hold a regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers, Escondido City Hall, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California at 7 p.m., Tuesday, February 22, 2022, to discuss and provide feedback on the following:

**2022 General Plan Amendment: Community Protection Chapter (Safety Element) Update and Creation of an Environmental Justice Element - PL22-0010:**

**REQUEST:** Receive report and provide feedback on a draft community outreach and engagement plan for the concurrent work effort to update the City's Community Protection chapter (safety element) and create a new Environmental Justice Element.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The overall project is policy-related and does not involve any construction-related activities. Updates to the City's General Plan, as described below, would occur at a CityWide level, including within the City's sphere of influence.

1) Community Protection Chapter (Safety Element) Update

A safety element is one of nine elements of a general plan required by Government Code section 65302. The update to the Community Protection chapter of the General Plan, which serves as the City of Escondido's Safety Element, is required pursuant to Government Code section 65302(g) and will address topics related to fire hazards, climate adaptation and resiliency strategies, and evacuation routes.

2) Creation of an Environmental Justice Element

This project would overhaul the existing Community Health and Services chapter of the City's General Plan, which is an optional element (i.e., it is not a required element pursuant to Government Code section 65302). The chapter would be re-dedicated to environmental justice policies, goals, and objectives. The creation of an environmental justice element is required pursuant to Government Code section 65302(h) and will include the identification of disadvantaged communities (Gov't Code § 65302(h)(1)) within the City of Escondido, as well as topics including reduction in pollution exposure, the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, physical activity, and civic engagement in the public decision-making process.

This project would utilize the City's Community Health and Services chapter of the General Plan as a basis for the Environmental Justice Element because the Community Health and Services chapter currently addresses certain topics required of an environmental justice element, pursuant to Government Code section 65302(h). Including all policies, goals, and objectives related to environmental justice within one chapter of the City's General Plan will ensure consistency and simplify implementation. Existing topics within the Community Health and Services chapter that are not explicitly required by Government Code section 65302(h) would remain within this revised element.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:** Consideration of this request is categorically exempt from additional environmental review pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15306 (Information Collection), as information and data will be collected to assist with the necessary General Plan element tasks as outlined above. The actual update to the Safety Element and creation of the Environmental Justice Element will be subject to further environmental review in the context of an appropriate environmental review document in compliance with CEQA requirements.

The City of Escondido recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to public services for individuals with disabilities. Please contact the American Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) coordinator at 760-839-4643 with any requests for reasonable accommodations at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. The City of Escondido does not discriminate against persons with handicapped status. All interested persons are invited to attend the meeting.

The Planning Commission agenda with the staff report will be available at the Escondido Planning Division, 201 N. Broadway, the Escondido Public Library, 239 S. Kalmia St. and on the City's website at <http://www.escondido.org/PC-agendas.aspx> after Thursday, February 17, 2022.

**For additional information regarding PL22-0010, please contact Veronica Morones, Senior Planner, at 760-839-4548 or [vmorones@escondido.org](mailto:vmorones@escondido.org), or visit the project webpage at <https://www.escondido.org/2022-general-plan-amendment>**

DATED: February 10, 2022



Adam Finestone, AICP  
Interim Director of Community Development