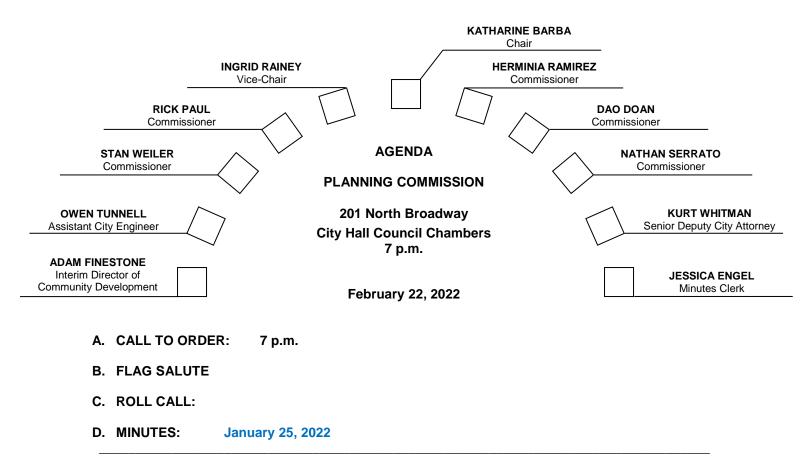
CITY OF ESCONDIDO

Planning Commission and Staff Seating



The Brown Act provides an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Planning Commission on any item of interest to the public before or during the Planning Commission's consideration of the item. If you wish to speak regarding an agenda item, please fill out a speaker's slip and give it to the minutes clerk who will forward it to the chairman.

Electronic Media: Electronic media that members of the public want to be used during any public comment period should be submitted to the Planning Division at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

The electronic media will be subject to a virus scan and must be compatible with the City's existing system. The media must be labeled with the applicable agenda item and the name and contact information of the person presenting the media.

The time used to present any electronic media will be considered as part of the maximum time limit provided to speakers. City staff will queue the electronic information when the applicable speaker is called upon to speak. Materials shown to the Commission during the meeting are part of the public record and will be retained by the City.

The City of Escondido is not responsible for the content of any material presented, and the presentation and content of electronic media shall be subject to the same protocol regarding decorum and presentation as are applicable to live presentations.

If you wish to speak concerning an item not on the agenda, you may do so during the designated time for "Oral Communications." All persons addressing the Planning Commission are asked to state their names for the public record.

Availability of supplemental materials after agenda posting: Any supplemental writings or documents provided to the Planning Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Planning Division located at 201 N. Broadway during normal business hours, or in the Council Chambers while the meeting is in session.

The City of Escondido recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to public services for individuals with disabilities. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at 760-839-4643 with any requests for reasonable accommodation at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

The Planning Division is the coordinating division for the Planning Commission. For information, call 760-839-4671. Planning Commission Agenda February 22, 2022 Page 2

E. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Under state law, all items under Written Communications can have no action, and will be referred to the staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda.

1. Future Neighborhood Meetings

None.

F. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Under state law, all items under Oral Communications can have no action, and may be referred to the staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda.

This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on any item of business within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Please try to limit your testimony to three minutes.

None.

H. CURRENT BUSINESS:

Note: Current Business items are those that under state law and local ordinances do not require either public notice or public hearings. Public comments will be limited to a maximum time of three minutes per person.

1. <u>2022 General Plan Amendment: Community Protection Chapter (Safety Element) Update and</u> <u>Creation of an Environmental Justice Element – PL22-0010:</u>

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.

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.

APPLICANT: City of Escondido

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None

COMMISSION ACTION:

PROJECTED COUNCIL HEARING DATE:

I. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Under state law, all items under Oral Communications can have no action and may be referred to staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda.

This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on any item of business within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

J. PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

K. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

L. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda Item No.: D

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

ACTION MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ESCONDIDO PLANNING COMMISSION

January 25, 2022

The meeting of the Escondido Planning Commission was called to order at 7 p.m. by Vice-Chair Rainey, in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Commissioners present: Dao Doan, Commissioner; Rick Paul, Commissioner; Ingrid Rainey, Vice-Chair; Herminia Ramirez, Commissioner; Nathan Serrato, Commissioner; and Stan Weiler, Commissioner.

Commissioners absent: Katharine Barba, Chair

Staff present: Adam Finestone, Interim Director of Community Development; Kurt Whitman, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Owen Tunnell, Assistant City Engineer; Jay Paul, Senior Planner; Darren Parker, Associate Planner; and Jessica Engel, Minutes Clerk.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Weiler, seconded by Commissioner Doan, to approve the Action Minutes of the January 25, 2022, Planning Commission meeting. Motion carried (5-0). Ayes: Doan, Paul, Ramirez, Serrato and Weiler; Absent: Barba; Abstained: Rainey.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was provided to the Commissioners from the applicant for item G.1 (Via Portofino).

FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. ADM 18-0225 – Via Portofino

REQUEST: A Major Plot Plan for the construction of two, two-story multi-family residential buildings consisting of 15 apartment units. The project includes seven one-bedroom units and eight two-bedroom units. The project also includes a request for a Development Agreement for a reduction in the open space requirement.

PROPERTY SIZE AND LOCATION: A 0.52 acre parcel located at 2690 S. Escondido Blvd. (Assessor's Parcel Number 238-152-16-00)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15332 (In-Fill Development Projects).

APPLICANT: Portofino Holdings I, LLC

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval by the City Council, as conditioned

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed various aspects of the project, including inclusion of City fees, potential use of recycled water, parking issues and the nearby sewer lift station appearance. Commissioner Weiler noted his support for the requested waiver of a public service funding mechanism or CFD.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Randy Jones provided comments on concerns regarding parking in the area of this project.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Paul, seconded by Commissioner Weiler, to approve, Motion carried (6-0). Ayes: Doan, Paul, Rainey, Ramirez, Serrato, and Weiler; Absent: Barba.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. PL 21-0468 (SUB 17-0013) Citrus Avenue Tentative Map

REQUEST: Extension of Time

PROPERTY SIZE AND LOCATION: A 2.87 acre parcel located at 220 S. Citrus Avenue

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15332 (In-Fill Development Projects).

APPLICANT: Kevin Choquette (owner)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Commissioners discussed the extension of time and storm water plans for the project.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Weiler, seconded by Vice-Chair Rainey, to approve, Motion carried (6-0). Ayes: Doan, Paul, Rainey, Ramirez, Serrato and Weiler; Absent: Barba.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Ramirez requested electronic copies of smaller site plans.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Interim Director of Community Development Adam Finestone noted that the regularly scheduled meeting of February 8, 2022 would be cancelled. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled to take place on February 22, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Rainey adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Adam Finestone, Secretary to the Escondido Planning Commission

Jessica Engel, Minutes Clerk



PLANNING COMMISSION



Agenda Item No.: <u>H.1</u> Date: February 22, 2022

PROJECT NUMBER / NAME: 2022 General Plan Amendment

REQUEST: Community Outreach and Engagement Plan for the 2022 General Plan Amendment (Community Protection Chapter Update and New Environmental Justice Element)

LOCATION: CityWide

APPLICANT: City of Escondido

APN / APNS: N/A

GENERAL PLAN / ZONING: N/A

PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE: Veronica Morones, Senior Planner

DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS REQUESTED: General Plan Amendment

PREVIOUS ACTIONS: None

PROJECT PLANNER: Veronica Morones, Senior Planner

CEQA RECOMMENDATION: Exempt (CEQA Guidelines section 15306 – Information Collection)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None

REQUESTED ACTION: Receive report and presentation

CITY COUNCIL HEARING REQUIRED: □ YES ⊠ NO

REPORT APPROVALS:

Adam Finestone, AICP
Interim Director of Community Development

Project Name: 2022 General Plan Amendment Planning Commission Meeting Date: February 22, 2022

A. BACKGROUND:

On December 14, 2021, planning staff provided the Planning Commission with an update on the 6th cycle draft housing element, required update to the Community Protection chapter of the General Plan, and creation of a new environmental justice element, along with a general timeline for this concurrent work effort. An updated timeline is provided Attachment 1 with changes in **bold**.

Staff formally kicked off this concurrent work effort in November 2021. As part of the 2022 General Plan Amendment, which entails an update to the Community Protection chapter and a new Environmental Justice Element, staff has prepared a draft community outreach and engagement plan ("Plan"). The Plan is included on the 2022 GPA webpage, which is accessible via the link below.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The 2022 General Plan Amendment is a policy document and does not involve any constructionrelated 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 Project Name: 2022 General Plan Amendment Planning Commission Meeting Date: February 22, 2022

are not explicitly required by Government Code section 65302(h) would remain within this revised element.

C. FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Aside from dedication of staff time, there is no fiscal impact associated with preparation and implementation of the Plan.

D. 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 Community Protection chapter (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.

E. PUBLIC INPUT:

The goal of the Plan is to solicit public input on the proposed 2022 General Plan Amendment. Staff has already consulted with numerous individuals and community organizations as part of the engagement effort to date. Additional outreach and engagement will occur as described in the attached Plan.

F. <u>CONCLUSION:</u>

Staff is requesting input from the Planning Commission and public on the Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Project Timeline
- 2. Draft Community Outreach and Engagement Plan for the 2022 General Plan Amendment



Attachment 1

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

Draft Schedule

| Phase | Action/Task | Target Date |
|-------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kickoff | November 2021 – January 2022 |
| 2 | Draft community outreach and engagement plan | February 2022 |
| 3 | RFP for environmental review (<i>Community Protection and Environmental Justice only</i>) | March/April 2022 |
| 4 | Community outreach and engagement | Ongoing |
| 5 | Revise Housing Element and submit to HCD | Spring 2022 |
| 6 | Revised Housing Element environmental review | Spring 2022 |
| 7 | Adopt final Housing Element | Late Spring 2022 |
| 8 | Update Community Protection Chapter and draft Environmental Justice Element | Late Spring- Summer 2022 |
| 9 | Environmental review (Community Protection and Environmental Justice only) | Late Summer 2022 |
| 10 | Public review | Late Fall 2022 |
| 11 | Prepare final documents and adopt | Winter 2022/2023 |

Bold text indicates changes to the project schedule from that presented in December, 2021.

ESCONDIDO City of Choice

DRAFT COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

For the 2022 General Plan Amendment:

- Community Protection Chapter (aka Safety Element)
- Environmental Justice Element

FSCONDIDC

entre City Pkwy

Downtown Escondic Source: City of Escondido, 202

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PLAN ORGANIZATION

This Community Outreach and Engagement Plan is organized into the following chapters.

Chapter 1.0: Introduction to this Plan

This chapter explains what the 2022 General Plan Amendment (2022 GPA) is and why the City is conducting outreach and engagement for the 2022 GPA. This chapter also defines "outreach" and "engagement."

Chapter 2.0: Goals

This chapter lists the goals of the community outreach and engagement to be undertaken as a part of this plan. This chapter outlines goals established by the City as the agency carrying out the outreach and engagement; the consulting community at-large and stakeholders who are working to aid in this effort; and specific community residents who may be directly impacted by the 2022 GPA.

Chapter 3.0: Community Snapshot and Equity Assessment

This chapter provides a brief snapshot of the City's demographics and assesses equity based on those demographics. It includes a summary of past outreach efforts undertaken by the City, and identifies strategies for meaningful engagement.

Chapter 4.0: Actions and Strategies for Outreach and Engagement

This chapter outlines actions staff will take to conduct outreach and engage with the community to inform, consult, and empower stakeholders to shape the 2022 GPA. Project milestones are provided to show a general timeframe of when an action/strategy will occur.

Chapter 5.0: Outcome of Community Outreach and Engagement

This chapter catalogs all outreach and engagement conducted throughout the 2022 GPA process. This chapter will be updated quarterly to show upcoming and past events, until the 2022 GPA is complete.

Chapter 6.0: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This chapter provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) encountered during the outreach and engagement process.

Chapter 7.0: References and Resources

This chapter details reference documentation that was used to create this plan and provides resources for those who may be interested in learning more about meaningful outreach and engagement strategies.

Key Terms

General Plan: A general plan is the City's blueprint for meeting the community's long-term vision for the future. A general plan is made up of text describing goals and objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals, as well as a set of maps and diagrams.

Element: The term "element" refers to the topics that California law requires to be covered in a general plan (GC§ 65302).

Amended: Making a change to the general plan. Amendments to the general plan must comply with City of Escondido Zoning Code Article 61, Division 4 – Amendments and Zone Changes (see "General Plan Amendment").

Sphere of Influence:

A planning boundary outside of an agency's legal boundary (such as the city limit line) that designates the agency's probable future boundary and service area.

1. Introduction to this Plan

1.1. What is the 2022 General Plan Amendment (2022 GPA)?

Background

A **general plan** is a city's blueprint for meeting its community's long-term vision for the future. A general plan document is made up of text describing goals and objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals, as well as a set of maps and diagrams. A general plan must talk about certain topics as mandated by State law. Each topic is referred to as an "**element**" within the general plan. In order to change text, maps, and/or diagrams within a city's general plan, the general plan must be **amended**. The City is currently working on amending the general plan through updates to the housing element, safety element, and creation of a new environmental justice element.

A city's <u>housing element</u> assesses current and projected housing needs for all economic segments of the community. In addition, the housing element embodies policies for providing adequate housing and includes action programs for that purpose. By statute, the housing element must be updated every eight years. A city's <u>safety element</u> establishes policies and programs to protect the community from risks associated with seismic, geologic, flood, and wildfire hazards, as well as from other concerns such as drought.

A city's <u>environmental justice</u> element identifies disadvantaged communities within the City and its **sphere of influence**. The environmental justice element outlines policies, objectives, and goals to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include the reduction of pollution exposure (such as air quality, water quality, soils) and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, physical activity, and civic engagement in the decision-making process.

The City is currently working to finalize the 6th cycle update to the housing element, which began in 2020. The tail end of the City's housing element update overlaps with the 2022 GPA. For more information on the 6th cycle housing element, visit:

https://www.escondido.org/hcis

Community Protection Chapter

The City of Escondido is conducting an update to the Safety Element, also known as the Community Protection chapter, of the City's General Plan. The update is required pursuant to Government Code Section ("GC §") 65302(g). In this update, new topic areas must be addressed, including, but not limited to, fire hazards, climate adaptation and resiliency, and evacuation routes. In addition to new topic areas required by the State, the City will update the Community Protection chapter to account for general clean up items such as nominal changes to City department names, and updated references.

The current Community Protection includes the following topics:

- Relationship to Other Elements in the General Plan
- Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Response, and Recovery
- Fire Protection
- Police Services
- Code Enforcement
- Community Safety
- Noise
- Community Protection Goals and Policies

Environmental Justice (EJ) Element

In addition to the Community Protection chapter update, the City is undertaking the creation of an environmental justice element. The EJ element will overhaul the existing Community Health and Services chapter which is an optional element (i.e., it is not a required element pursuant to GC§ 65302).

The City's Community Health and Services chapter of the General Plan will serve as a basis for the EJ element because the Community Health and Services chapter currently addresses certain topics required of an EJ element, such as food access and promotion of physical activity.

This updated chapter will include new environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives, and identify environmental justice communities within the City. 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 GC§ 65302(h) will remain within this revised element. The State refers to environmental justice communities as "disadvantaged communities" and defines them as:

"...an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency Pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a lowincome area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation" (GC§ 65302(h)(4)(A)).

Similar to how state legislation requires a safety element to be updated as a result of a housing element update, the City is responsible for adopting an EJ element upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018 (GC § 65302(h)(2)). In this case, updates to the City's Housing and Safety Elements are currently required and will occur concurrently--triggering the need to create the EJ element.

The update to the Community Protection Chapter and reconfiguring of the Community Health and Services Chapter into a new EJ element are the proposed changes that make up the "2022 General Plan Amendment." For more information on this general process, visit the 2022 GPA webpage:

https://www.escondido.org/2022-generalplan-amendment The State of California defines *environmental justice** as:

"The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies" (GC§ 65040.12(e)).

> The State of California refers to <u>environmental justice communities</u> as "disadvantaged communities" and defines them as:

"...an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency Pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation" (GC§ 65302(h)(4)(A))

*Additional definitions are provided under Chapter 7 - References and Resources.

1.2. Why is the City conducting outreach and engagement?

The purpose of the community outreach and engagement plan is to provide an understandable, transparent, and cohesive strategy for informing, consulting, and empowering the community of Escondido on the **2022 GPA**. The State requires a city to provide opportunities for community involvement when amending and updating a general plan (GC§ 65351). Community involvement entails not only Escondido residents, but also businesses within the City, other public agencies (such as water districts, public utilities, etc.), and community groups and organizations.

It is important to highlight that community members are holders of local knowledge. It is the responsibility of the City to listen, elevate, and make space for community voices in the planning process. Such space can lead to better and more effective planning decisions. Effective community outreach and engagement represents all stakeholders—those who are directly impacted by environmental justice and safety issues, as well as the public at-large; those with adequate resources for engaging, such as time and energy, as well as those who historically are **marginalized** by traditional methods of outreach.

Community Protection

The Community Protection chapter of the General Plan addresses issues such as flood and fire hazards, geological and seismic activity, and hazardous materials. The State mandated update to the City's Community Protection chapter will include new information regarding wildfire hazards, climate resiliency and adaptation, and evacuation routes. Within the boundaries of the City and sphere of influence are moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones (HFHSZ and VHFHSZ). Within these fire hazard severity zones are residential and nonresidential development where people live, work, and exist. Since the 2022 GPA will entail updates to the Community Protection chapter regarding fire hazards, climate resiliency and adaptation, and evacuation routes, community involvement is important to ensure these stakeholders are informed and have space to provide input to the City regarding any policy changes.

Key Terms

2022 General Plan Amendment (2022 GPA):

The concurrent work effort by the Planning Division to update the Community Protection Chapter and reconfiguring of the Community Health and Services Chapter into a new Environmental Justice Element.

Marginalized: Treated as insignificant.

Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones:

California law requires CAL FIRE to identify areas based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail there. These areas, or "zones," are based on factors such as fuel, slope and fire weather. There are three zones, based on increasing fire hazard: medium, high and very high (CAL FIRE, 2022).

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice (EJ) takes place within a complex framework of interrelated issues. One of the most important pieces of environmental justice is the acknowledgment and effort to rectify the disproportionately high and adverse effects on the health and environmental wellbeing on low income communities and communities of color that transpired over the development of modern society. To start this process, identification and outreach to these communities must occur with integrity and concerted effort by those who have historically upheld processes, programs, and policies that play a role in perpetuating such marginalization. Historically, those in power, such as governments and corporations, upheld such inequitable structures. Therefore, it is immensely important for those tasked with creating environmental justice policies, objectives, and goals to acknowledge the marginalization of groups perpetuated by the current systems in place, assert a clear vision for rebuilding community strength and ownership, and work toward engagement that is meaningful and equitable for our environmental justice communities.

1.3. How does this document work?

This document is intended to act as a living document. Instead of a static plan, the City will update the plan quarterly to reflect outreach and engagement efforts that occurred during the quarterly time period (i.e., every 3 months). This provides a single location for community members to access information about the outreach and engagement process, including the plan's progress during implementation. It is important to note that methods and strategies for outreach and engagement will not change, unless it is to add additional methods of outreach and engagement. In other word, this plan will not change to lessen or decrease outreach and engagement for the 2022 GPA process. Instead, changes will entail capturing feedback from the stakeholders and community members, tracking efforts, and providing a summary on what efforts transpired, such as meeting dates, number of people in attendance, etc.

Throughout this plan are *(forthcoming)* text, which show where future text updates will occur.



Transit Center. Source: City of Escondido, 2021

This living document will help City staff and stakeholders understand what methods of outreach and engagement are most effective in our communities, and where improvements can be made for future efforts. Outreach, engagement, and the overall public participation process is always a work in progress that must be continuously improved upon in order to empower our community in the decision-making process.

1.4. Why one outreach and engagement plan for both documents?

Environmental justice as a concept is far reaching, and as a theme, can translate to all elements of a general plan. For example, the Community Protection chapter discusses fire hazards within the City, including wildfires. When fires occur, such as a wildfire, particulate matter from smoke and ash can impact certain communities more than others, such as outdoor workers, unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness, and individuals with underlying health conditions. In this example, these disproportionate impacts from fire are an environmental justice issue. Another example of how the Community Protection chapter and environmental justice overlap pertains to disaster response. Individuals and communities who speak languages other than those emergency messages are relayed in (i.e., English and Spanish) may struggle with timely response in the event of an emergency, such as wildfire evacuations.

Since any update of two general plan elements triggers the creation of an environmental justice element, it is appropriate for the concurrent outreach effort between the Community Protection chapter and EJ element. The City's 6th Cycle Housing Element Update is nearing completion, so this plan is only for the safety and EJ elements.

1.5. What do you mean by "outreach" and "engagement?"

Community engagement transcends outreach, and works to facilitate community agency and power in shaping policy within the City. It is often suggested, but not mandated, and ranges on a spectrum from marginalization of the community members/groups/individuals, to collaboration and deferment of decision to the community. To help visualize this spectrum, Figure 1 on the following page illustrates a spectrum of public participation developed by Rosa Gonzalez of Facilitating Power.

City Definition

For the purposes of the 2022 GPA, the City's definitions of "outreach" and "engagement" are provided below.

- Outreach is the process of communicating, informing, consulting, and involving stakeholders of an action the City intends to carry out, such as the 2022 GPA.
- **Engagement** is the long-term effort to collaborate with and whenever possible, defer to the community.

Stakeholder and Community Definition

Stakeholders and community members will establish their own definitions of "outreach" and "engagement" as part of the public participation process. These definitions will provide insight to City staff on how best to engage and reach our community.

- Outreach (forthcoming)
- Engagement (forthcoming)

1.6. Outreach and Engagement Contact

The 2022 GPA project planner is Veronica Morones. Anyone seeking information on the 2022 GPA should contact:

Veronica Morones, Senior Planner 760-839-4548 *Vmorones@escondido.org*

THE SPECTRUM OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO OWNERSHIP



2

| | ►►►►►► INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN DECISION-MAKING AND SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTATION ►►►►► EQUITY | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| STANCE TOWARDS COMMUNITY | IGNORE | INFORM | CONSULT | INVOLVE | COLLABORATE | DEFER TO |
| 0 | 1 | | | 3 | 4 🔪 🚦 | |
| ІМРАСТ | Marginalization | Preparation or Placation | Limited Voice or Tokenization | Voice | Delegated Power | Community Ownership |
| COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS | Deny access to decision-making processes | Provide the community with relevant information | Gather input from the community | Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process & inform planning | Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in decision-making and the implementation of decisions. | Foster democratic participation and equit through community- driven decision- making; Bridge divide between community & governance |
| MESSAGE TO COMMUNITY | Your voice, needs & interests do not matter | We will keep you informed | We care what you think | You are making us think, (and therefore act) differently about the issue | Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue | It's time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions |
| ACTIVITIES | Closed door meeting Misinformation Systematic Disenfranchisement Voter suppression | Fact sheets Open Houses Presentations Billboards Videos | Public Comment Focus Groups Community Forums Surveys | Community organizing & advocacy Interactive workshops Polling Community forums Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling | MOU's with Community-based organizations Citizen advisory committees Collaborative Data Analysis Co-Design and Co-Implementation of Solutions Collaborative Decision-Making | Community-driven planning and governance Consensus building Participatory action research Participatory budgeting Cooperative models |
| RESOURCE ALLOCATION RATIOS | 100% Systems Admin | 70-90% Systems Admin 10-30% Promotions and Publicity | 60-80% Systems Admin 20-40% Consultation Activities | 50-60% Systems Admin 40-50% Community Involvement | 20-50% Systems Admin 50-70% Community Partners | 80-100% Community partners and community-driver processes ideally generate new value an resources that can be invested in solutions |

►►►►► INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN DECISION-MAKING AND SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTATION ►►►►► EQUITY

Figure 1 – THE SPECTRUM OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO OWNERSHIP

2. Goals

2.1. What are the Goals of this Plan?

The goals of this plan are detailed below and separated into three categories. City staff drafted the first set of goals to provide a base framework for stakeholders to work from. External stakeholders, such as community organizations, other public agencies, and the general public. will establish the second set of goals. Communities most likely impacted by the update to the Community Protection chapter and new environmental justice element, such as EJ communities and those in hazard zones, will define the final set of goals.

City GOALS:

- A. Maintain this community outreach and engagement plan as a living document, to be updated throughout the outreach and engagement process.
- B. Involve and collaborate with the Escondido community and stakeholders to ensure meaningful outreach and engagement occur as a part of the 2022 GPA process.
- C. Provide resources and opportunities to the Escondido community to explore community ownership and community lead efforts in the 2022 GPA process, and in future policy making within the City.
- D. Empower the Escondido community, especially those who live and work in our EJ communities and in hazard zones, to provide local knowledge and expertise in the 2022 GPA process.

- E. Ensure communities historically marginalized in the public outreach and engagement process are provided space to contribute at their discretion.
- F. Eliminate barriers surrounding public engagement, including, but not limited to: language, time of day, and location/mobility. Prioritize the following:
 - Translation services for outreach and engagement activities and materials, at minimum in English and Spanish, with an effort to increase capacity for other languages, such as Tagalog, Mandarin, and Vietnamese.
 - Hold outreach and engagement activities during various times of day, days of the week, and locations throughout the City to ensure adequate opportunities for community members to attend.
 - Provide healthy refreshments at any in-person events.
 - Use both in-person and virtual meetings equally.
 - Conduct a majority of outreach outside of City Hall and within the community at-large.

Community at-large and Stakeholders *GOALS:*

(forthcoming)

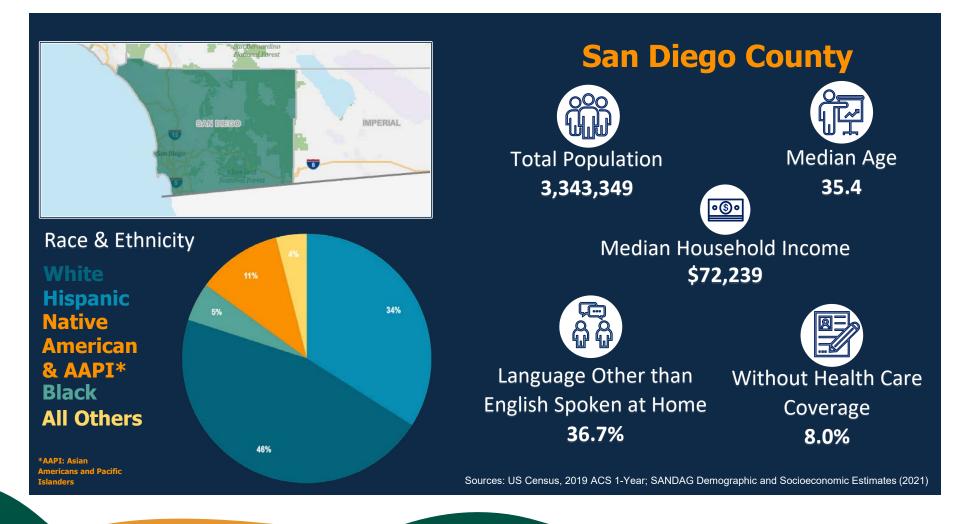
Safety and EJ communities *GOALS:*

(forthcoming)

3. Community Snapshot & Equity Assessment

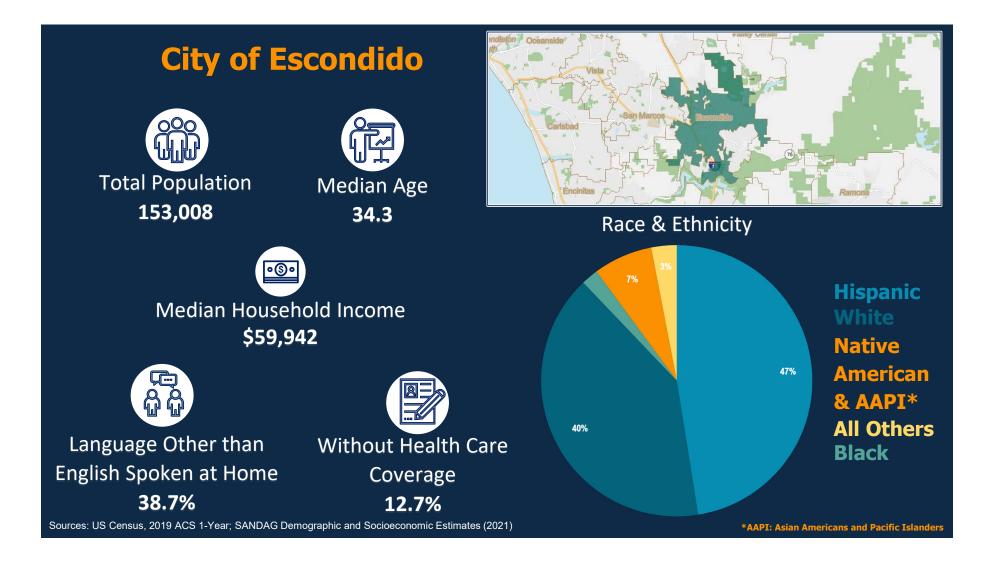
3.1. San Diego County Demographics

San Diego County is located in the southwest corner of California, sharing an international border with Mexico to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The information shown below details the overall county demographic data as a baseline for comparison against the jurisdiction-specific data for the City of Escondido (next page). Data in this section is provided by the San Diego Association of Governments and the US Census Bureau.



3.2. Escondido Demographics

The City of Escondido is located in the north eastern portion of San Diego County, at the intersection of Interstate 15 (I-15) and State Route 78 (SR-78). The information shown below details Escondido's demographic data for comparison to the whole of San Diego County. Data in this section is provided by the San Diego Association of Governments and the US Census Bureau.



3.3. Existing assessment of outreach

Mandated notification and outreach, such as those outlined in federal, state, and local laws, as well as guidance on best practices for outreach provided by the public, private, and non-profit sectors, shapes the current climate of outreach and engagement in community and city planning.

Housing and Community Investment Study Public Participation Plan, June 2020

The Housing and Community Investment Study (HCIS) included a public participation plan (PPP), outlining goals and engagement strategies for outreach. The HCIS PPP acknowledged the need to identify community-supported solutions, and that a broad spectrum of stakeholders warrants varied methods of outreach. One of the goals of the HCIS PPP placed particular emphasis on outreach to typically under-serviced or underrepresented populations in the City, such as Spanish speakers, youth/students, seniors, and disadvantaged community members.

The outreach conducted as a part of the HCIS process included two phases comprised the following activities:

- HCIS specific webpage, with electronic comment form and draft/ final documents posted for access <u>https://www.escondido.org/hcis</u>
- Virtual workshops held in July 2020 and October 2020
 - Direct mailers, electronic e-blasts, and electronic flyers for the workshops in English and Spanish, and specific to residents and businesses
 - Recording of the virtual meetings posted to the webpage
- Article in Coast News, dated July 28, 2020
- Planning Commission and City Council meetings/status updates
- Online Survey in English and Spanish

Outreach conducted under the HCIS PPP included two (2) workshops with a total of 23 attendees and seven (7) public comments, as well as a business survey to 109 business recipients within the proposed East Valley Specific Plan area, with a total of 43 responses.

Community Outreach Plan for the Climate Action Plan Update, June 2018

The 2018 Climate Action Plan (CAP) update included a community outreach plan that defined the goals and principles of engagement, detailed how the public would be involved in the process,

and outlined an outreach program. The outreach program focused on key milestones within the CAP update to trigger outreach and information sharing through specific outreach tools. The outreach tools listed include best practices, such as going out into the community instead of relying on the community to come to city facilities and utilizing existing communication networks; as well as notification lists for disseminating information; press releases; and CEQA notices.

The outreach conducted as a part of the HCIS process spanned approximately five months, and included two phases with the following activities:

CAP specific webpage <u>https://www.escondido.org/climate-</u> <u>action-plan-documents.aspx</u>

- Public workshop held on July 30, 2018
- Six (6) E-Newsletters
- Eight (8) Mobile workshops
- 12 Planning Commission and four (4) City Council meetings/status updates

Outreach conducted under the CAP outreach program touched over 21,000 electronic recipients via email blasts and newsletters to existing email lists maintained by the City, and 251 individuals in person via the mobile workshops, July 30, 2018 workshop, and public meetings. During these efforts, the City obtains a total of 43 informational surveys and 42 CAP specific worksheets.

3.4. Equity Assessment and Community Focus

Based on the data shown under Sections 3.1 and 3.2, Escondido is a highly diverse community. Escondido and greater San Diego County have similar median ages and number of residents that speak a language other than English at home, illustrating that Escondido mirrors some countywide attributes. However, the median household income and percent of those without health care coverage are both lower than the overall countywide area, conveying that Escondido has lower income households who may lack access to employment that includes healthcare benefits (i.e., lower paying jobs). Escondido's population is a majority Hispanic in comparison to any other race or ethnicity, unlike the countywide area. As persons of color comprise the majority of the City's population (60%), coupled with lower median household incomes, an inference can be made that environmental justice issues most likely exist within the community. A higher percentage of people without health care coverage suggests that EJ policies are crucial to ensuring fair treatment.

When framed all together--the demographic data, the definition of EJ, the safety topics in the Community Protection chapter, as well as the past outreach plans conducted by the City--the communities of focus for outreach and engagement will include those historically



underrepresented and underserved by institutions of power, such as:

- lower income communities;
- linguistically isolated communities
- communities of color

Similar to goals found within the HCIS PPP, outreach and engagement must include translated materials for all residents, and interpreters should be used. With a median population age of midthirties, a concerted effort to engage with both youth (under 17) and the senior community (over 65) should occur. Individuals and communities of persons with disabilities and those who may be experiencing homelessness should also be included in this outreach and engagement plan, through local healthcare providers and advocacy groups on homelessness.

City staff will conduct a preliminary spatial analysis as part of the EJ element to determine where potential EJ communities are located within the City. Once this analysis is complete, additional outreach and engagement will occur within these areas to facilitate dialogue based on the results, with the intent to allow the community to finalize the EJ community locations. It is important to acknowledge there may be areas that data mapping does not accurately identify (or identify entirely) that community members may have intimate knowledge of.

Overall, outreach and engagement will occur at the citywide level, as well as pointed efforts to connect with historically marginalized communities in an effort to exceed the two most recent outreach efforts conducted by the City's Planning Division.

4. Actions and Strategies for Outreach and Engagement

In addition to the actions and strategies listed below, staff will attend meetings, and discuss with community members and stakeholders, as requested.

4.1. Standard Public Participation Requirements

State and local laws require, at a minimum, the following public noticing and participation opportunities for the 2022 General Plan Amendment (2022 GPA) process. The methods listed below will occur as a result of the 2022 GPA.

• Public Meetings

The City's Municipal Code, Chapter 33, Article 61, Division 4 requires City Council review of amendments proposed to City policy documents, such as the general plan. Article 61 requires two public hearings for a proposed general plan amendment one before the City's Planning Commission for recommendation to the City Council, and the second for decision by the City Council, consistent with State law.

PROJECT MILESTONE: Quarterly status meetings; public hearings for action on a final document (late 2022)

Newspaper Noticing

The City's Municipal Code, Chapter 33, Article 61, Division 6 requires public noticing of a proposed general plan amendment. For public hearing items such as this, notice must be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the community at least 10 days prior to the scheduled public meeting. Government Code Section 65091(a)(4) requires the newspaper notice be at least a one-eighth page in size.

PROJECT MILESTONE: Prior to all status meetings and major project deliverables; public hearing for action on a final document (late 2022)

CEQA Review

California Public Resources Code, Division 13 details the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statute and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 detail the guidelines for implementation of the CEQA review process. Depending on the scope of CEQA review applicable, certain notice requirements must be enacted by the City. Upon CEQA review for the 2022 GPA, the appropriate notification process associated with the level of environmental review will occur.

PROJECT MILESTONE: Summer 2022

Native American Tribal Consultation

<u>Senate Bill (SB) 18</u> requires local governments to consult with tribes prior to making certain planning decisions and to provide notice to tribes at certain key points in the planning process. SB 18 is required for amendments to a general plan and specific plans. The 2022 GPA involves an amendment to the City's General Plan and so SB 18 consultation and noticing is required. *PROJECT MILESTONE: February 2022* <u>Assembly Bill (AB) 52</u> applies to any project for which a CEQA Notice of Preparation, Notice of Mitigated Negative Declaration or Notice of Negative Declaration is filed. In the event that any of these notices is required pursuant to the required CEQA review, AB 52 noticing and consultation will occur.

PROJECT MILESTONE: With CEQA review (Summer 2022)

4.2. Notification of the 2022 General Plan Update process

These are methods that the City will use to notify residents and other stakeholders of the 2022 GPA process. City staff will use these methods to advertise upcoming public workshops and events throughout the entire process.

- 1. Webpage and social media (i.e., Instagram, Facebook, etc.) (inform)
 - a. 2022 GPA Webpage
 - b. <u>Facebook</u>
 - c. <u>Instagram</u>
 - d. <u>YouTube</u>
 - e. <u>Nextdoor</u> PROJECT MILESTONE: Ongoing
- 2. Electronic notification to:
 - a. Interested Parties Email List (inform)
 - b. Existing City and External Stakeholder Email Lists (inform) PROJECT MILESTONE: Ongoing

3. Mailers (inform)

PROJECT MILESTONE: Upon assessment of adequate budget and completion of preliminary determination of EJ community locations

- 4. Quarterly Planning Commission Status Meetings (consult)
 - a. Newspaper notices, email notification to the 2022 GPA interested parties list, and updates to the City's webpage will occur prior to scheduled meetings. PROJECT MILESTONE: Quarterly
- 5. In-person outreach (inform/consult)
 - a. Engage with a captured audience via partnerships, such as:
 - i. Outreach events at participating EUHSD schools.
 - ii. Tuesday Talks at the Park Avenue Community Center. *PROJECT MILESTONE: Ongoing*
- 6. Event Engagement (inform)
 - a. Attend reoccurring events, such as the Escondido Farmer's Market, to distribute information to those in attendance. *PROJECT MILESTONE: Ongoing*



Kit Carson Park. Source: City of Escondido, 2021

4.3. Involvement and Collaboration on the 2022 General Plan Update Process

Survey

The City will prepare a survey for the 2022 GPA. The goal of the survey will be to gauge a baseline of the community's knowledge of the Community Protection chapter, environmental justice, the City's General Plan, and community outreach and engagement. The survey will be emailed out to the 2022 GPA interested parties list, existing list servs maintained by the City, and be posted on the City's webpage. Results from the survey will allow staff to conduct better collaborative events within the community and provide overall feedback on such topics to help quide future outreach efforts.

PROJECT MILESTONE: Ongoing

Stakeholder Roundtable Discussions

Roundtable discussions are intended to involve organized stakeholders in the outreach and engagement process. During these discussions, City staff will work with organized stakeholders to identify meaningful and successful methods for conducting outreach and engagement in communities most likely to be impacted by the updates to the Community Protection chapter and EJ element. During these roundtable discussions, City staff will provide preliminary mapping analysis of areas within the City that are likely to be identified as EJ communities based on guidance provided by the State, as well as maps of hazard zone areas within the City. Feedback from stakeholder roundtable discussions will be used to hone methods for outreach and engagement, establish additional resources for engagement, and obtain insight and feedback from community stakeholders.

Below is a sample list of entities that will be contacted to attend roundtable opportunities and is *not an exhaustive list*.

- Neighborhood Leadership Groups
- Education COMPACT
- Interfaith Community Services
- Vista Community Clinic (VCC)
- Escondido Creek Conservancy
- Escondido Public Schools Librarians
- Neighborhood Healthcare
- People to the Park
- Faith Leaders
- Native American Tribal Governments
- North County Climate Change Alliance
- North County Food Policy Council
- North County Transit District (NCTD)
- North County Sierra Club Group
- San Diego Housing Federation
- San Diego Air Pollution Control District
- San Diego Food System Alliance
- San Diego Climate Action Network
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

PROJECT MILESTONE: March – April 2022

At-large Community Workshops

Community workshops are intended to provide a space for community members to attend (in person or virtually) to learn about environmental justice and the City's Community Protection Chapter of the General Plan. These workshops will include, but not be limited to, educational and interactive components such as mapping areas of concern, polling issues and topics of concern from community members, and providing question and answer forums for discussion.

PROJECT MILESTONE: May – July 2022

4.4. Collaboration and Deferment to Safety and Environmental Justice Communities

In addition to potential methods and best practices that may come from the Stakeholder Roundtable Discussions, the following outreach and engagement efforts will occur, at minimum. Additional outreach and/or engagement opportunities may arise based on community feedback.

Open Houses within Specific Communities

Open houses within specific communities will present information about the existing conditions identified within the community as they pertain to EJ topics (i.e., pollution exposure, food access, etc.) and updates within the Community Protection chapter (i.e., evacuation routes, etc.). The goal of an open house is to provide potential alternative scenarios for the future, and to answer questions from participants. During an open house, community members may view data and draft maps in a casual environment. City staff will hold open houses during day, evening, and/or weekend hours to accommodate a range of work and family schedules. Open houses may be held at a church, school, community center, local business, or another location that is easy to reach via transit, foot, or bicycle, so that it is accessible for all community members.

PROJECT MILESTONE: After EJ Communities are identified (anticipated Summer 2022), as needed.

Specific Community Focus Groups

The specific community focus groups are meant to engage those living and working within the preliminarily identified EJ communities for their insight, input, and collaboration on the content of the document and location of EJ communities within the City. Focus groups allow community members the space and opportunity to express their views in a candid way, and may include expanding on discussions held at a larger community workshop or meeting. Examples of types of community members who might be interviewed in a specific community focus group include local residents, decision makers, environmental advocates, land owners, developers, business owners, employees, or the education community that are tied geographically to key communities. In order to ensure the process is accessible, transparent, and accountable, focus group members and topics must be carefully considered and a summary of the discussion(s) will be published within this document during quarterly updates.

PROJECT MILESTONE: After EJ Communities are identified (anticipated Summer 2022).

Environmental Justice Community Advisory Group

A dedicated EJ community advisory group, comprised of individuals who live and/or work within identified EJ communities, creates a formal way to consult with community EJ experts during this process to enable better monitoring and implementation of a EJ element. It affirms the importance of EJ issues for the general plan process, as well as to the City. Once an EJ community advisory group is established, continued education on EJ issues would occur for all members. The group would provide a space for community members to convey potential new EJ issues arising within their communities. An EJ community advisory group would not be established until preliminary mapping of EJ communities occurs.

PROJECT MILESTONE: After EJ communities are identified, through implementation.

5. Outcome of Community Outreach and Engagement

This section of the draft plan will be updated quarterly as community outreach and engagement occurs.

November 2021 through January 2022

Below is a list of all meetings City staff attended, beginning November 2021 through January 2022. With exception of the Planning Commission meeting in December 2021, outside stakeholders organized and requested staff's attendance at all meetings listed for discussion on the 2022 General Plan Amendment.

| Date | Group and/or Event | Location | Topics Discussed |
|------------|---|----------------|---|
| 11/29/2021 | Sierra Club North County Group and NAACP | Virtual | 2022 General Plan Amendment process and overview and 6th Cycle Draft Housing Element |
| 12/8/2021 | Escondido Together Safe Leaders | Trinity Church | 2022 General Plan Amendment process and overview; environmental justice; green space/tree cover; affordable housing; outreach efforts |
| 12/13/2021 | Escondido Union High School Dist. | EUHSD Offices | 2022 General Plan Amendment process and overview; coordination for potential events within EUHSD schools |
| 12/14/2021 | Planning Commission (Kickoff Meeting) | City Hall | 2022 General Plan Amendment process and overview and 6th Cycle Draft Housing Element |
| 12/20/2021 | Vista Community Clinic | Virtual | How VCC can support outreach and engagement generally |
| 1/7/2022 | Juan Reynoso (City Resident) | Virtual | Environmental justice and compliance with Senate Bill 1000 |
| 1/18/2022 | Healthy Escondido Coalition Meeting (via Vista Community Clinic) | Virtual | Staff attended and did not present. |
| 1/25/2022 | Escondido Community Housing Coalition | Virtual | 6th Cycle Draft Housing Element Comments |
| 1/27/2022 | San Diego Housing Federation | Virtual | 6th Cycle Draft Housing Element Comments |

February 2022 through April 2022

(forthcoming)

May 2022 through July 2022

(forthcoming)

August 2022 through October 2022

(forthcoming)

November 2022 through December 2022

(forthcoming)

6. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

(forthcoming)

7. References and Resources

- Ascent Environmental. (June 2018). FINAL Community Outreach Plan for the Climate Action Plan Update City of Escondido. Climate Action Plan Documents. <u>https://www.escondido.org/Data/Sites/1/</u> <u>media/PDFs/Planning/ClimateActionPlan/CAPUpdate/</u> <u>EscondidoCAP_CommunityOutreachPlan_FINAL.pdf</u>
- CEJA and Placeworks. (October 2017). SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit Planning for Health Communities. SB 1000 Toolkit: Planning for Health Communities. <u>https://caleja.org/2017/09/sb-1000-</u> toolkit-release/
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- Gonzalez, R. (n.d.). The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership. <u>https://www.facilitatingpower.com/spectrum_of</u> <u>community_engagement_to_ownership</u>

- Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). (n.d.). Chapter 3: Community Engagement and Outreach. General Plan Guidelines and Technical Advisories. <u>https://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR_C3_final.pdf</u>
- Office of the State Fire Marshal. (2022). Fire Hazard Severity Zones. <u>https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-prevention-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-prevention-engineering/fire-hazard-severity-zones/</u>
- SANDAG. (2020). Escondido [DataSurfer]. Retrieved from <u>https://</u> <u>datasurfer.sandag.org/dataoverview</u>
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). Escondido city, California. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=1600000US0622804
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019). San Diego County, California. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0500000US06073

Additional definitions of environmental justice:

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA): <u>https://calepa.ca.gov/envjustice/</u>
- US EPA: <u>https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-</u> <u>environmental-justice</u>
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice: https://detroitenvironmentaljustice.org/what-isenvironmental-justice/

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https://www.escondido.org/2022-general-plan-amendment