



# Council Meeting Agenda

**FEBRUARY 3, 2021  
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**5:00 P.M. Closed Session; 6:00 P.M. Regular Session  
201 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025**

|                                   |                                                         |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| MAYOR                             | <b>Paul McNamara</b>                                    |
| DEPUTY MAYOR                      | <b>Michael Morasco</b>                                  |
| COUNCIL MEMBERS                   | <b>Consuelo Martinez<br/>Tina Inscoe<br/>Joe Garcia</b> |
| CITY MANAGER                      | <b>Jeffrey Epp</b>                                      |
| CITY CLERK                        | <b>Zack Beck</b>                                        |
| CITY ATTORNEY                     | <b>Michael McGuinness</b>                               |
| DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | <b>Mike Strong</b>                                      |
| DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES  | <b>Julie Procopio</b>                                   |

## **COVID-19 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders, including N-25-20 and N-29-20: Certain Brown Act requirements for the holding of a public meeting have been temporarily suspended and members of the Escondido City Council and staff will participate in this meeting via teleconference. In the interest of reducing the spread of COVID-19, members of the public are encouraged to submit their agenda and non-agenda comments online at the following link: <https://www.escondido.org/agenda-position.aspx>. Council Chambers will be closed.

Public Comment: To submit comments in writing, please do so at the following link: <https://www.escondido.org/agenda-position.aspx>. If you would like to have the comment read out loud at the meeting (not to exceed three minutes), please write "Read Out Loud" in the subject line.

Depending on the volume and/or similarity of public comments, and pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure, the Mayor or Presiding Councilmember may limit the number of comments to be read and/or limit the amount of time each comment may be read. It is in the interests of members of the public who desire that their statement be read out loud to be mindful of this potential limitation when drafting their comment. The entirety of all comments received from the public will be made a part of the record of the meeting.

The meeting will be available for viewing via public television on Cox Communications Channel 19 (Escondido only). The meeting will also be live streamed online at the following link: <https://www.escondido.org/meeting-broadcasts.aspx>

In the event a quorum of the City Council loses electrical power or suffers an internet connection outage not corrected within 15 minutes, the meeting will be adjourned. Any items noticed as public hearings will be continued to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council. Any other agenda items the Council has not taken action on will be placed on a future agenda.

### **ELECTRONIC MEDIA:**

Electronic media which members of the public wish to be used during any public comment period should be submitted to the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the Council meeting at which it is to be shown.

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 name of the speaker, the comment period during which the media is to be played and contact information for the person presenting the media.

The time necessary to present any electronic media is considered part of the maximum time limit provided to speakers. City staff will queue the electronic information when the public member is called upon to speak. Materials shown to the Council during the meeting are part of the public record and may be retained by the Clerk.

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 responsibilities regarding decorum and presentation as are applicable to live presentations.



# Council Meeting Agenda

**February 3, 2021**  
**5:00 p.m. Meeting**  
Mitchell Room  
**Escondido City Council**

## CALL TO ORDER

**ROLL CALL:** Garcia, Inscoc, Martinez, Morasco, McNamara

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to speaking during particular agenda items, the public may address the Council on any item which is not on the agenda provided the item is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council. State law prohibits the Council from discussing or taking action on such items, but the matter may be referred to the City Manager/staff or scheduled on a subsequent agenda. (Please refer to the back page of the agenda for instructions.) Speakers are limited to only one opportunity to address the Council under Oral Communications.

## CLOSED SESSION: (COUNCIL/RRB)

- I. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code §54956.8)**
  - a. **Property:** 272 E. Via Rancho Pkwy, APN: 2710301400, 2710301600  
**City Negotiator:** Jeffrey Epp, City Manager, or designee  
**Negotiating Parties:** Transform SR Holdings, LLC. or affiliates  
**Under Negotiation:** Price and Terms of Lease
  
- II. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(2))**
  - a. Significant exposure to litigation (unknown number of potential cases)

## ADJOURNMENT



# Council Meeting Agenda

**February 3, 2021  
6:00 P.M. Meeting**

## **Escondido City Council**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **MOMENT OF REFLECTION:**

*City Council agendas allow an opportunity for a moment of silence and reflection at the beginning of the evening meeting. The City does not participate in the selection of speakers for this portion of the agenda, and does not endorse or sanction any remarks made by individuals during this time. If you wish to be recognized during this portion of the agenda, please notify the City Clerk in advance.*

#### **FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL:** Garcia, Inscoc, Martinez, Morasco, McNamara

#### **CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The public may address the Council on any item that is not on the agenda and that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. State law prohibits the Council from discussing or taking action on such items, but the matter may be referred to the City Manager/staff or scheduled on a subsequent agenda. (Please refer to the back page of the agenda for instructions.) NOTE: Depending on the number of requests, comments may be reduced to less than 3 minutes per speaker and limited to a total of 15 minutes. Any remaining speakers will be heard during Oral Communications at the end of the meeting.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Items on the Consent Calendar are not discussed individually and are approved in a single motion. However, Council members always have the option to have an item considered separately, either on their own request or at the request of staff or a member of the public.

#### **1. [AFFIDAVITS OF PUBLICATION, MAILING AND POSTING \(COUNCIL/RRB\)](#)**

2. **APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTER (Council)**

Request the City Council approve the City Council and Housing Successor Agency warrant numbers:

- 349454 – 349621 dated January 20, 2021

Staff Recommendation: **Approval (Finance Department: Christina Holmes)**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Special Meeting of December 9, 2020**

**CONSENT RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES (COUNCIL/RRB)**

The following Resolutions and Ordinances were heard and acted upon by the City Council/RRB at a previous City Council/Mobilehome Rent Review meeting. (The title of Ordinances listed on the Consent Calendar are deemed to have been read and further reading waived.)

4. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITYWIDE ZONING MAP TO CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE 1.14-ACRE PROJECT SITE FROM M-1 to CG AT 900 W. MISSION AVENUE -**

Approved on January 13, 2021 with a vote of 5/0

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01 (Second Reading and Adoption)

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

5. **REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENT PRACTICES AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS -**

Request the City Council department reports and give direction to staff regarding the City's current practices adopted pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding public participation in City Council meetings during the COVID stay at home orders.

Staff Recommendation: **None (City Attorney's Office: Michael McGuinness)**

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUEST -**

Request the City Council receive and file the second quarter financial report and approve a budget adjustment to amend the fiscal year 2020/21 operating budget.

Staff Recommendation: **Approval (Finance Department: Christina Holmes)**

## WORKSHOP

### 7. **ORGANICS RECYCLING PROGRAM WORKSHOP -**

Request the City Council receive and file a presentation outlining plans – in cooperation with Escondido Disposal – to expand the City’s green waste recycling program to include food waste. Information will be presented on SB 1383, which is the law requiring jurisdictions to reduce organic waste by 75%. Escondido Disposal’s Anaerobic Digester Facility is nearing completion and projected to be accepting materials on February 1, 2021.

Staff Recommendation: **Receive and File (Utilities Department: Christopher McKinney)**

## FUTURE AGENDA

### 8. **FUTURE AGENDA -**

The purpose of this item is to identify issues presently known to staff or which members of the City Council wish to place on an upcoming City Council agenda. Council comment on these future agenda items is limited by California Government Code Section 54954.2 to clarifying questions, brief announcements, or requests for factual information in connection with an item when it is discussed.

Staff Recommendation: **None (City Clerk's Office: Zack Beck)**

## COUNCIL MEMBERS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS

## CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT

The most current information from the City Manager regarding Economic Development, Capital Improvement Projects, Public Safety and Community Development. This report is also available on the City’s website, [www.escondido.org](http://www.escondido.org).

- **WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT -**

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The public may address the Council on any item that is not on the agenda and that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. State law prohibits the Council from discussing or taking action on such items, but the matter may be referred to the City Manager/staff or scheduled on a subsequent agenda. Speakers are limited to only one opportunity to address the Council under Oral Communications.

## ADJOURNMENT

**UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Day</b> | <b>Time</b>      | <b>Meeting Type</b>          | <b>Location</b>  |
|-------------|------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| February 10 | Wednesday  | 5:00 & 6:00 p.m. | Regular Meeting              | Council Chambers |
| February 17 | -          | -                | No Meeting (President's Day) | -                |
| February 24 | -          | -                | No Meeting                   | -                |
| March 3     | Wednesday  | -                | State of the City            | -                |

## TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

The public may address the City Council on any agenda item. Please complete a Speaker's form and give it to the City Clerk. Submission of Speaker forms prior to the discussion of an item is highly encouraged. Comments are generally limited to 3 minutes.

If you wish to speak concerning an item not on the agenda, you may do so under "Oral Communications." Please complete a Speaker's form as noted above.

Nomination forms for Community Awards are available at the Escondido City Clerk's Office or at <http://www.escondido.org/city-clerks-office.aspx>

Handouts for the City Council should be given to the City Clerk. To address the Council, use the podium in the center of the Chambers, STATE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD and speak directly into the microphone.

### AGENDA, STAFF REPORTS AND BACK-UP MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE:

- Online at <http://www.escondido.org/meeting-agendas.aspx>
- In the City Clerk's Office at City Hall
- Placed in the Council Chambers (See: City Clerk/Minutes Clerk) immediately before and during the Council meeting.

**AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS AFTER AGENDA POSTING:** Any supplemental writings or documents provided to the City Council regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office located at 201 N. Broadway during normal business hours, or in the Council Chambers while the meeting is in session.

### LIVE BROADCAST

Council meetings are broadcast live on Cox Cable Channel 19 and U-verse Channel 99 – Escondido Gov TV. They can also be viewed the following Sunday and Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. on those same channels. The Council meetings are also available live via the Internet by accessing the City's website at [www.escondido.org](http://www.escondido.org), and clicking the "Live Streaming –City Council Meeting now in progress" button on the home page.

**Please turn off all cellular phones and pagers while the meeting is in session.**

**The City Council is scheduled to meet the first four Wednesdays  
of the month at 5:00 in Closed Session and 6:00 in Open Session.  
(Verify schedule with City Clerk's Office)**

**Members of the Council also sit as the Successor Agency to the Community Development  
Commission, Escondido Joint Powers Financing Authority,  
and the Mobilehome Rent Review Board.**

**CITY HALL HOURS OF OPERATION  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



*If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact our ADA Coordinator at 839-4643. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.*

*Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired – please see the City Clerk.*





Consent Item No. 1

February 3, 2021

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**A F F I D A V I T S**

**O F**

**I T E M**

**P O S T I N G**



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

**Consent Item No. 2**

**February 3, 2021**

**File No. 0400-40**

SUBJECT: Approval of Warrants

DEPARTMENT: Finance Department

RECOMMENDATION:

Request approval for City Council and Housing Successor Agency warrant numbers 349454 – 349621 dated January 20, 2021.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The total amount of the warrants for the period of January 14 – January 20, 2021, is \$ 9,366,939.96.

BACKGROUND:

The Escondido Municipal Code Section 10-49 states that warrants or checks may be issued and paid prior to audit by the City Council, provided the warrants or checks are certified and approved by the Director of Finance as conforming to the current budget. These warrants or checks must then be ratified and approved by the City Council at the next regular Council meeting.

**December 9, 2020  
6:00 P.M.  
Special Meeting Minutes**

**Escondido City Council**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Escondido City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on December 9, 2020 via video conference and in the City Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor McNamara presiding.

**MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

Zack Beck, City Clerk led the Moment of Reflection

**FLAG SALUTE**

Michael McGuinness, City Attorney, led the Flag Salute

**ATTENDANCE**

The following members were present: Councilmember Olga Diaz, Councilmember-Elect Joe Garcia, Councilmember-Elect Tina Inscoc, Deputy Mayor Consuelo Martinez, Councilmember Michael Morasco, and Mayor Paul McNamara. Quorum present.

Also present were: Jeffrey Epp, City Manager; Michael McGuinness, City Attorney; and Zack Beck, City Clerk.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Delores McQuiston – Expressed gratitude to Councilmember Diaz for her service on the City Council.

North County Sierra Club – Presented a Resolution of Appreciation for Councilmember Diaz.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Items on the Consent Calendar are not discussed individually and are approved in a single motion. However, Council members always have the option to have an item considered separately, either on their own request or at the request of staff or a member of the public.

**1. CERTIFICATION OF NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS -**

Request the City Council approve certifying the November 3, 2020, City of Escondido General and Special Election and declaring results.

Staff Recommendation: **Approval (City Clerk's Office: Zack Beck)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-153

**MOTION:** Moved by Councilmember Diaz and seconded by Deputy Mayor Martinez to approve certifying the November 3, 2020, City of Escondido General and Special Election and declaring results. Approved unanimously.

## OUTGOING OFFICIAL

### 2. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE –

- Olga Diaz, Councilmember

## INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

### 3. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE: City Clerk, Zack Beck -

- Tina Inscoe, Councilmember – District Two
- Joe Garcia, Councilmember – District Three
- Mike Morasco, Councilmember – District Four
- Douglas Shultz, City Treasurer

### 4. COMMENTS FROM NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS –

## CURRENT BUSINESS

### 5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR –

Request the City Council approve appointing Councilmember Michael Morasco to serve as Deputy Mayor in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-28.

Staff Recommendation: **Approval (City Clerk's Office: Zack Beck)**

**MOTION:** Moved by Deputy Mayor Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Garcia to approve appointing Councilmember Michael Morasco to serve as Deputy Mayor in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-28. Approved unanimously.

## ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McNamara adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITYWIDE ZONING MAP TO CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE 1.14-ACRE PROJECT SITE FROM M-1 to CG AT 900 W. MISSION AVENUE

CASE NO.: PHG 19-0049

The City Council of the City of Escondido, California, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Council makes the following findings:

a) Golcheh Group, LLC ("Applicant"), filed a land use development application, Planning Case No. PHG19-0049 ("Application") constituting a request for an amendment to the General Plan from Light Industrial (LI) to General Commercial (GC), a Zone Change from Light Industrial (M-1) to General Commercial (CG) zoning, and a Conditional Use Permit for the development of a convenience store and gasoline station that includes the sale of alcoholic beverages ("Project"). The approximately 1.14-acre Project site generally is located on the northwestern corner of W. Mission Avenue and Rock Springs Road, addressed at 900 W. Mission Avenue (APNs 228-220-13-00 and 228-220-43-00), and more particularly described and depicted in Exhibit "A," and incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein ("Property"); and

b) The Application was submitted to, and processed by, the Planning Division of the Community Development Department as Planning Case No. PHG 19-0049 and seeks approval of a Zone Change; and

c) Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 et.

A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS  
ORDINANCE IS ON FILE IN THE  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK FOR  
YOUR REVIEW.

# CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

**Current Business Item No. 5**

**February 3, 2021**

**File No. 0610-90**

SUBJECT: Report on Public Comment Practices at City Council Meetings

DEPARTMENTS: City Attorney's Office

RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that the City Council consider and give direction to staff regarding the City of Escondido's ("City") current practices adopted pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding public participation in City Council meetings during the COVID stay at home orders.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

If the City Council were to give direction to adopt a new public comment practice, the costs associated with that new system, including technology and personnel costs, will need to be studied.

PREVIOUS ACTION:

On January 13, 2021, Councilmember Garcia requested a future agenda item to discuss the City's practices regarding public participation in council meetings.

BACKGROUND:

The Ralph M. Brown Act.

California's sunshine law, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code sections 54950-54963) (the "Brown Act"), is intended to provide public access to local government agencies. In order to achieve this objective, local government bodies subject to the Brown Act must provide public notice of their meetings, post agendas of the subjects to be discussed at those meetings, and provide public access to those meetings (unless exempted).

The Brown Act requires all regular meetings of a legislative body to be open and public. Government Code section 54954.3(a) provides in relevant part:

Every agenda for regular meetings shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public, before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item, that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

Government Code section 54954.3(b)(1) provides in relevant part:

*The legislative body of a local agency may adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that the intent of subdivision (a) is carried out, including, but not limited to, regulations limiting the total amount of time allocated for public testimony on particular issues and for each individual speaker. (Emphasis added.)*

The Brown Act mandates two types of public comment periods for its meetings. The first is a general audience comment period, often referred to as “oral communications,” which is the part of the meeting where the public can comment on any non-agenda item of interest that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency. The legislative body cannot take action on items at the time they are raised during oral communications but may briefly respond to the statement (e.g. “thank you for your remarks”); ask for clarification; provide the necessary reference to staff or other resources for factual information and possible follow up; request staff to report back to the legislative body at a later meeting; and/or direct staff to place a matter of business on the future agenda.

The second type of public comment period is the opportunity for public comment pertaining to items on the agenda. The Brown Act requires the legislative body to allow these specific comment periods on agenda items to occur prior to or during the City Council's consideration of that item.

As to both oral communications and agenda public comments, the Brown Act specifically provides local agencies the authority to “adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that the intent [of the Act] is carried out.” Government Code section 54954.3(b)(1). Such regulations may include, but are not limited to, a limitation on the length of time a speaker may speak on a matter and matters relating to the conduct of the meeting including measures to address disruptive conduct and irrelevant speech. In all such circumstances, the agency’s rules must be reasonable.

Under the Brown Act (pre-COVID), “teleconferencing” (i.e., any electronic audio or video connection of members in different locations) may be used to conduct meetings whereby members of the legislative body may be counted towards a quorum and participate fully in the meeting from remote locations. Generally, teleconferencing meetings may be conducted when the agenda has been posted at the teleconference location; there is public access to the teleconference location; a majority of the councilmembers are physically located in the agency’s jurisdictional boundary; there is public opportunity to speak at each teleconference location; and, all votes are taken by roll call. Government Code section 54953.

#### COVID Pandemic and Gov. Newsom’s Executive Orders.

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Newsom issued his Proclamation of a State of Emergency finding that the provisions of the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8565-8574) (“CESA”) have been met arising out of the COVID-19 outbreak. Thereafter, on March 12, 2020, Gov. Newsom issued Executive Order (EO) N-25-20 wherein, among many items, the

Governor suspended several Brown Act requirements for the holding of public meetings via teleconferencing. For example, local agencies did not need to make all teleconferencing locations accessible to the public, they did not need to post agendas at teleconferencing locations or require at least one councilmember to be present at the location specified in the meeting. These changes were designed to encourage councilmembers to comply with the state and local stay at home orders and participate in meetings via remote access.

On March 17, 2020, the Governor withdrew and superseded certain provisions of EO N-25-20. In EO N-29-20, the Governor provided that a local agency is “authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically *or otherwise electronically* to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body...” (Emphasis added). The Governor again suspended many of the teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act relating to location notices, public accessibility, physical presence of council members at the meeting location and certain quorum requirements. EO N-29-20 provides specifically that:

A local legislative body or state body that holds meetings via teleconferencing and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically consistent with the notice and accessibility requirements set forth below, shall have satisfied any requirement that the body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment. Such a body need not make available any physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment.

The Order’s accessibility and notice requirements referenced in EO N-29-20 include the allowance for procedures to swiftly resolve requests for accommodations from individuals with disabilities, advertisement as to the means by which the public may observe and offer public comment, follow the Brown Act’s requirements for giving timely advance notice of the time of the meeting and posting of the agenda and give notice of the means by which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment. The City complies with all such accessibility and notice requirements.

Neither the Governor’s Office nor the state legislature have published laws, orders, rules, new EOs and/or regulations interpreting the above provisions to *require* that a local agency establish a real time call-in or video-conferencing capability for the general public. No court has published an opinion that the EOs relating to Brown Act require real-time video-conferencing or call-in capability. Nor has the California Attorney General addressed this issue.

Further, at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the City declared a Local Emergency and the City Manager, in his role as the Director of Emergency Services during a Local Emergency, is given substantial responsibility for the provision of City services and use of City resources. Escondido Municipal Code, Ch. 7, section 7-6. Moreover, state law, including CESA, provides to the chief executive of a local agency emergency powers to control and direct the City’s emergency response and use of resources to handle the emergency. Government Code section 8550(a). The Director’s and City Council’s Local Emergency Proclamations are still in effect. Mr. Epp has determined that the



existing method of receiving, reading and filing public comments is an authorized, reasonable and efficient means of complying with the Brown Act, as suspended and modified by the EOs, during the pendency of the Local Emergency.

#### Current City Council Meeting Practice.

Throughout the period of, and consistent with, the state and county COVID stay at home orders, the City has closed the City Council chambers to the public. The City Council meetings are live streamed on the City's webpage at <https://www.escondido.org/meeting-broadcasts.aspx> and are available for viewing on public television on Cox Communications Channel 19 in Escondido. The public is (and has always been) able to view archived meetings on the City's website.

As it relates to addressing the needs for public comment under the Brown Act as suspended and modified by the EOs, the City adopted the practice of having the City Clerk read public comments aloud for both oral communications and agenda items during the City Council meetings. The City Clerk also circulates to the City Councilmembers before the meeting the actual written email comments received, except for those that are received after the meeting begins, which are also read aloud during the meeting. In all cases, the Clerk reads the public comments verbatim received on agenda and non-agenda items at the meeting for up to the (pre-existing) three minute speaking time. Thereafter, the Clerk's Office makes all public comments a part of the public record.

The Clerk's, Attorney's and Manager's Offices have received very few complaints or negative feedback from the public on the method the City has chosen to conduct its meetings during this unprecedented time. Staff would submit that the lack of controversy is because it is a relatively easy method for the public to take their time to draft and edit their comment, submit it at a time of their choosing right up until the time of the meeting, and avoid technology concerns which some people may find confusing or intimidating. Those watching the meetings also are not forced to endure delays caused by technology problems, poor quality telephone or computer transmissions, and related issues which detract from the content of the comment.

The City Clerk's Office studied the level of public comment participation in City Council meetings before and after the adoption of the current email comment system. As of January 13, 2021, there have been twenty-one council meetings since the adoption of the revised public comment practice caused by the closure of the City Council chambers to the public. In looking at the number of public comments submitted for the same number of meetings before and after the change in practice, the Clerk determined that there were **206** comments submitted between May 8, 2019 and March 4, 2020, compared to **771** comments submitted between March 25, 2020 and January 13, 2021. This data demonstrates that the public knows how to use the system and is taking advantage of its benefits.

#### Public Comment Practices in San Diego County.

The City Clerk's Office also studied how other local public agencies are handling public comment for their jurisdictions. Of the seventeen cities surveyed in San Diego County, eight do not provide verbal

or call-in comments from the public. (Chula Vista, El Cajon, Escondido, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, San Marcos, and Solana Beach). Of those cities that do provide for call-in comments, some require pre-registration (Carlsbad, Coronado, Del Mar, Encinitas, Oceanside, and Santee) and some have deadlines for submittal before the start of the meeting.

### Conclusion.

The City's public comment practices comply with the Brown Act as suspended and modified by Governor Newsom's Executive Orders. While some cities may choose to allow for public comment in different ways, the City is allowed to adopt a reasonable method under the operative EO to allow members of the public to address the council by video-conferencing, telephonically or "otherwise electronically." Indeed, the failure of the EOs to specify a particular method to handle public comment indicates that the state believed that local agencies should have some discretion in how best to serve their own constituents.

Here, the Clerk's Office accepts public comments electronically through the email system and then distributes those written public comments to allow the councilmembers to read them before the meeting. The Clerk thereafter publicly reads the comments verbatim for up to three minutes at the meeting including those received after the start of the meeting. The public comments are then permanently filed as part of the minutes of the meeting.

Thus, the public is allowed to directly communicate to the councilmembers by the distribution of email comments and the Clerk's verbatim recitation of the comment. These acts not only satisfy California law but lend to the potential for *greater* public participation by removing barriers to people who prefer not to, or may be unable to, publicly speak at the time of the meeting. The extraordinary increase in the number of public comments submitted after the adoption of the new system demonstrates that the public is making good use of the current system to communicate with the City Council. Additionally, the advance distribution of the written comments gives the council an extended opportunity to fully consider the comments as part of their decision-making process. Further, the practice treats all speakers equally by giving everyone the same opportunity to have their comment read and heard; no advantages are given to those speakers who have access to better technology or disadvantages to those speakers with less confidence in video or phone conferencing technology. Finally, the practice eliminates meeting delays caused by bad or interrupted communication issues with the public which may also result in a speaker being unable to address the council at all.

If the council wants to move to a more real-time or call-in communication method of public participation during meetings, it may direct staff to further explore those options.

APPROVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED ELECTRONICALLY BY:

*Michael R. McGuinness*, City Attorney

01/27/21 4:40 p.m.

## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

**Current Business Item No. 6**

**February 3, 2021**

**File No. 0430-80**

SUBJECT: Financial Report for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2020 and Budget Adjustment Request

DEPARTMENT: Finance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that the City Council receive and file the Second Quarter Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2020/21 (Attachment 1) and adopt a Budget Adjustment (Attachment 2).

FISCAL ANALYSIS: See Below

PREVIOUS ACTION:

On September 23, 2020, the City Council received the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Financial Status Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and approved the use of General Fund surplus of \$3,050,770 to fund specific department funding requests totaling \$301,230 and to transfer \$2,749,540 to the Section 115 Irrevocable Pension Trust.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council Budget and Financial Policies require that the City of Escondido ("City") present quarterly financial reports each fiscal year. The purpose of this report is to provide City Council and the public a financial update of selected funds of the City. This report provides the City Council with the analysis of unaudited revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2020/21 in comparison to Fiscal Year 2019/20 for the General Fund, the Reidy Creek Municipal Golf Course Fund, and the Water and Wastewater Funds. The financial highlights for each of these funds are summarized below.

### **General Fund**

The Fiscal Year 2020/21 operating budget process began in December 2019 with a review and update of the General Fund long-term financial plan which projected a \$6 million operating budget deficit. To address the structural budget gap, Departments were required to submit their Fiscal Year 2020/21 General Fund operating budgets with a 3% reduction; however, because department budgets were projected to grow on average by about 5%, actual department budget reductions were around 8%. Cuts to staff and services were made including reducing the maintenance of City parks and eliminating community outreach programs involving crime prevention and youth engagement. This is in addition to ongoing cost saving measures that include reducing staff, deferring infrastructure maintenance, and investing in technology to reduce ongoing costs and outsourcing services.

The proposed budget reductions were sufficient to close the budget gap; however, due to the restrictions of COVID-19, the revenues that support the City's core services experienced a sharp and sudden decline and projected operating revenue was reduced by 5% or about \$5.5 million dollars from the prior fiscal year. As a result, even after the budget reductions submitted by Departments, the budget relies on \$4 million of one-time funds from the Redevelopment Loan payment to the City. Such funds would have normally been placed in the Section 115 Irrevocable Pension Trust pursuant to prior City Council policy direction for use of one-time funds. Due to the available one-time funds, the adopted Fiscal Year 2020/21 General Fund Operating Budget was a balanced budget without the use of reserves.

The economic impact from the pandemic continues; however, Escondido is fortunate to have a comprehensive mix of businesses and a diverse job base and is not heavily dependent on one of the hardest-hit sectors, such as hospitality and travel reliant businesses, for the majority of General Fund revenue. Due to this, operating revenue has exceeded the amount that was estimated to be received through the second quarter of this fiscal year by about \$1.7 million. The amount of actual sales tax revenue received has also increased by \$1.9 million compared to the prior year's receipts. Sales tax, property tax, and revenues from current development, which include building permits, planning fees, building department fees, and engineering fees have all increased from the prior year. General Fund expenditures are tracking as expected at 47% percent of the budget through the first six months of the fiscal year.

#### Update on Future Year Budget Deficits

Prior to the economic impacts of COVID-19, the General Fund long-term financial plan projected annual deficits growing to \$13 million by Fiscal Year 2023/24 and continuing over the next 15 years. The City's Multi-Year Financial Plan adopted in the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Operating Budget accounted for the anticipated economic impacts of the pandemic and forecasts that the City is facing a budget deficit of \$8 million in Fiscal Year 2021/22.

The City's sales tax revenue is expected to be impacted most significantly by the pandemic, estimated to decline by 3% in Fiscal Year 2020/21, with revenue returning to previous levels after three years. Due to the positive sales tax results received this quarter, the City's sales tax consultants have amended their forecast projecting that sales tax revenue may return to previous levels by Fiscal Year 2021/22. By comparison, the 2008 Recession was from December of 2007 to June of 2009, 19 months, but it took just under 6 years for revenue to return to previous levels. The updated forecast model assumes that a safe and effective vaccine will be widely available to the public by this summer and modified Stay-At-Home orders will stay in effect until September 2021.

The amended sales tax forecast will have a positive impact on the projected deficit for the upcoming operating budget cycle; however, the structural budget gap remains as the City's General Fund revenue continues to fail to keep pace when matched with the growing costs of municipal services and maintaining facilities.

### **Reidy Creek Municipal Golf Course Fund**

Overall revenues for the Reidy Creek Golf Course are up 82% compared to the prior year. Disc golf continues to be a popular activity for both practice and hosting professional tournaments. The increased usage of the Course has increased operating expenses by about 30% which includes repairs of aging equipment; however, if revenues continue through the remainder of the fiscal year, the Reidy Creek Golf Course Fund is projected to end the fiscal year with about \$2,000 of net income without using the budgeted transfer from the General Fund.

### **Water Fund**

The Water Fund net operating income through the second quarter 2020/21 is \$11.0 million or an increase of \$312,000 over the prior year. This increase is due to increased operating revenue of \$3.3 million and increased operating expenses of about \$3.0 million compared to the prior year due to increased purchased water costs and the timing of operating expenses.

### **Wastewater Fund**

The Wastewater Fund net operating income through second quarter 2020/21 is \$5.4 million or a decrease of \$264,000 compared to the prior year. This decrease is mainly due to an \$800,000 increase in operating expenditures due to the timing of operating expenses.

### **Recommended Budget Adjustments:**

The recommended amendments to the General Fund operating budget have no effect on the General Fund Reserves as all the adjustments have identified funding sources. Other recommended budget adjustments are for the reallocation of capital improvement projects and the funding sources are identified.

- Approve an increase to the Fire Department operating budget of \$1,025,520 and an increase to the Fleet Services budget of \$52,000. This increase is covered by Fire Assistance Reimbursements received from the California Office of Emergency Services which reimburses the City for the time and resources of the staff deployed to assist other State agencies with responses to fires and other incidents. This adjustment will be used to cover Fire Department strike team costs, safety equipment, Fleet Services vehicle maintenance, and other capital outlay.
- Confirm the City's acceptance of the FY2020/21 California Office of Traffic Safety ("OTS") Selective Traffic Enforcement Program ("STEP") Grant in the amount of \$515,000. The Police Department will use grant funds to pay for salary and benefits for one full-time DUI traffic

enforcement officer, traffic safety supplies, DUI checkpoints, saturation patrols, and traffic safety enforcement details.

- Reallocate \$200,000 in Gas Tax funds to build four Welcome to Escondido monument signs. The installation of a new sign or the replacement of an old sign with one of superior design such as increased size, illumination, or overhead installations is an eligible use of Gas Tax funds. The signs will be placed along the heaviest travelled streets to notify residents that they have entered Escondido.
- Reallocate Public Facilities Funds of \$53,500 for the purchase and implementation of an interface update to the public safety Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Due to the existing and anticipated increase in residential and nonresidential development and growth in population in the City, technology changes with the City's service partners, San Diego County Emergency Medical Services and County Sheriffs, are necessary to accommodate the increased service demands. The purchase of an additional CAD module called InterfacePoint will make possible the necessary new connections needed and a corollary enhancement of the existing connections to services that exist today, PulsePoint and ReddiNet. Moreover, the purchase of InterfacePoint will make other connections to new services both possible and cost efficient while allowing for future growth. This includes an immediate vital new connection between our CAD and the San Diego County Emergency Medical Services patient care report/data collection/records incident records management system program (ImageTrend) and the new Police Department records management system (NICHE). These two new connections must be established in 2021.
- Approve the use of \$40,000 from available Fund Balance in the Central Services Internal Service Fund Balance for improvements and technology upgrades to the City's phone system. In Fiscal Year 2018, City Council approved funding a capital project that consolidated the three existing, separate phone systems onto a single comprehensive collaboration platform to support staff with a more efficient and cost-effective way of providing City services – the two most important factors when implementing a technology improvement. The project came in under budget, resulted in offering options that didn't exist before, and at a significant year-over-year cost savings. Technology continues to improve and the pandemic has brought accelerated development of technology in certain sectors like the collaboration platforms and has also driven the cost down. A great example of this is the growth in technology in video conferencing which is part of a collaboration platform. After having conducted extensive research, the Information Systems team is seeking approval to use the remaining CIP balance of \$47,701.06 designated for the previous phone project in conjunction with a budget adjustment from the Central Services Fund balance in the amount of \$40,000 providing the total amount of \$87,701.06 needed for this project. Approval to fund this project will have no impact to the General fund while allowing us to lower ongoing operating and management costs. Beyond the cost savings, this project aligns with our goals to bring efficiencies and

effectiveness through the use of the new technology for staff to interact internally and with the public as we provide services to the City.

APPROVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED ELECTRONICALLY BY:

*Christina Holmes*, Director of Finance

01/27/21 4:40 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Attachment 1 – Second Quarter Financial Status Report FY 2020/2021
2. Budget Adjustment



Fiscal Year 2020/21 Second Quarter  
Financial Report

## OVERVIEW

This report summarizes the City's financial position for the fiscal year through the second quarter ending December 31, 2020 for the General Fund, Water and Wastewater Funds, and the Reidy Creek Municipal Golf Course. The purpose of the report is to provide City Council, City Management, and the Escondido community an update on the City's fiscal status based on the most recent financial information available. The revenue projections and budget information include adjustments for encumbrances, carryovers, and any other supplemental appropriations approved by the City Council as of December 31, 2020.

This report is for internal use only. The figures presented here are unaudited and have not been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting principles (GAAP).

## GENERAL FUND

The General Fund Fiscal Year 2020/21 operating budget was adopted as a balanced budget without the use of reserves but relied on one-time revenues of \$4.0 million from the Redevelopment Loan payment to the City. As a result of COVID-19, projected operating revenue was reduced by 5% or about \$5.5 million dollars from the prior fiscal year. Cost saving measure were implemented including reductions in staff and services, resulting in a net increase of 1% to the total operating expense budget from the prior fiscal year.

At the end of the second quarter, General Fund revenues are at 35% of the amended budget, while expenditures are at 47%. Actual revenues are higher than projected by about \$3.3 million primarily due to increases in Sales Tax, Property Tax, and revenues from development projects received through the second quarter of the fiscal year. Expenditures are in line with budgeted activity and projected amounts. The Projected Results as of December 31, 2020 shown below are based on past history of the timing of revenues collected and expenditure activity.

**General Fund  
Comparison of Projected Budget to Actuals**

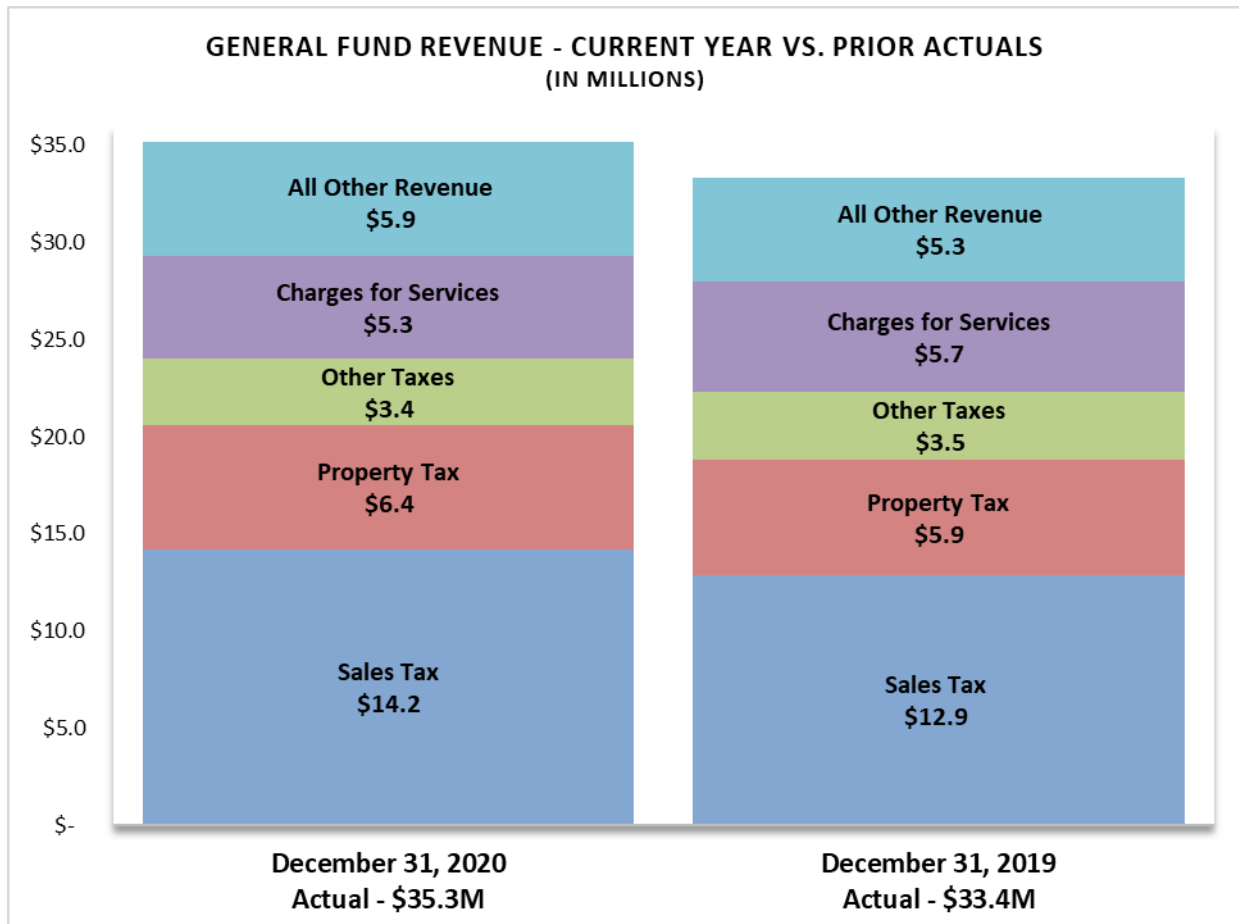
|                                  | FY2020/21<br>AMENDED BUDGET | PROJECTED<br>RESULTS<br>DECEMBER 31, 2020 | ACTUAL<br>RESULTS<br>DECEMBER 31, 2020 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Total Operating Revenue          | \$102,017,820               | \$33,576,875                              | \$35,300,880                           |
| Total Operating Expenditures     | (107,596,800)               | (50,570,495)                              | (50,395,390)                           |
| Operating Transfers              | 1,581,630                   | 1,581,630                                 | 1,581,630                              |
| One-Time Revenue (Budgeted)      | 3,997,350                   | 3,997,350                                 | 3,997,350                              |
| <b>Total (Uses) over Sources</b> | <b>\$-</b>                  |                                           |                                        |



**GENERAL FUND REVENUE**

|                                | <b>FISCAL YEAR<br/>2020/21<br/>AMENDED<br/>BUDGET</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2020<br/>ACTUAL<br/>REVENUE</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2019<br/>ACTUAL<br/>REVENUE</b> | <b>PRIOR YEAR VS<br/>CURRENT YEAR<br/>VARIANCE<br/>OVER/(UNDER)</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sales Tax</b>               | \$35,991,300                                          | \$14,208,940                                       | \$12,912,750                                       | \$1,296,190                                                         |
| <b>Property Tax</b>            | 30,022,000                                            | 6,350,110                                          | 5,867,660                                          | 482,450                                                             |
| <b>Other Taxes</b>             | 13,504,800                                            | 3,433,140                                          | 3,540,480                                          | (107,340)                                                           |
| <b>Charges for Services</b>    | 11,852,020                                            | 5,341,340                                          | 5,731,940                                          | (390,600)                                                           |
| <b>Intergovernmental</b>       | 3,487,000                                             | 2,592,420                                          | 2,317,550                                          | 274,870                                                             |
| <b>Fines and Forfeitures</b>   | 1,226,000                                             | 422,770                                            | 522,500                                            | (99,730)                                                            |
| <b>Permits and Licenses</b>    | 1,083,020                                             | 986,000                                            | 492,010                                            | 493,990                                                             |
| <b>Rental Income</b>           | 4,083,000                                             | 1,822,700                                          | 1,771,570                                          | 51,130                                                              |
| <b>Other Revenue</b>           | 830,200                                               | 143,460                                            | 200,430                                            | (56,970)                                                            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b> | <b>\$102,079,340</b>                                  | <b>\$35,300,880</b>                                | <b>\$33,363,860</b>                                | <b>\$1,943,990</b>                                                  |

Sales tax is the largest General Fund revenue source at 35% of total revenue followed by property tax, other taxes, and charges for services. The chart below shows the major categories of revenue that have been collected through December 31, 2020 compared to the revenue collected in the prior year through December 31, 2019.



## Sales Tax

The Sales Tax revenue projected in the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Operating Budget is \$36 million, a decrease of \$3 million or 7.5% over the FY2019/20 amended sales tax forecast. The decrease was mainly due to projected declines in sales tax receipts from transportation and general retail offset by increases in projected revenue from online sales received through the County Pool.

Sales tax revenues distributed to the City as of December 2020 represent sales that occurred between July and October 2020 and increased by \$1.3 million or 10% from the prior year.

The largest sales tax segment, 33% of total sales tax revenue, is Transportation, which includes new and used auto sales, auto repair shops, and service stations. Revenue decreased by 7% compared to the prior year primarily due to decreases from service stations as the price as well as the demand for fuel decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, as projected, revenue from General Retail declined by \$1.0 million or about 18% compared to the prior year primarily due to decreases in receipts from apparel and department stores. Food Products and Business to Business receipts also declined from the prior year by about 5% due to the restrictions and closures in place as a result of the pandemic.

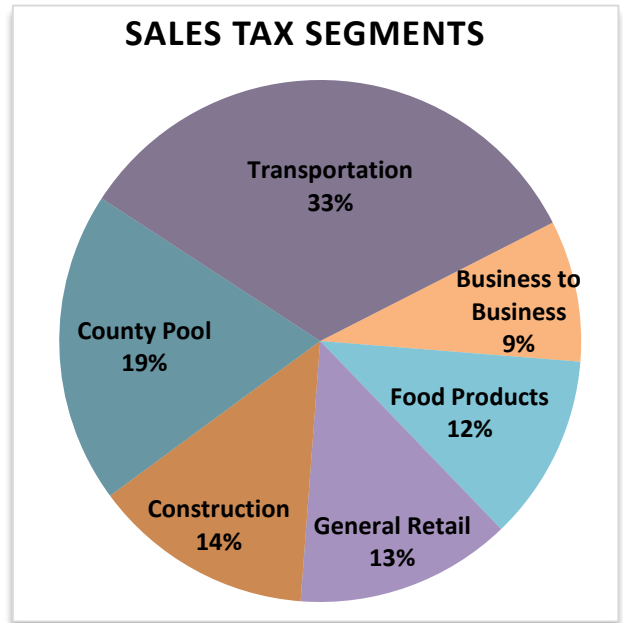
Historically, General Retail has been the second largest sales tax segment for the City; however, as a result of the Wayfair decision and an increase in online sales, revenue received from the County Pool makes up 19% of the sales tax revenue received this fiscal year. In April 2019, California Governor Newsom signed AB 147 which provided State guidelines for the implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in South Dakota v. Wayfair, which addressed how sales tax is collected and remitted from online sales. Under AB 147, California extended sales and use taxes to out-of-state retailers engaged in business in California and requires those retailers to collect and remit sales tax. This includes any retailer that has total combined sales of property for delivery in California that exceed \$500,000 in the preceding 12 months. Online sales taxes are distributed to the City through the San Diego County pool and the City receives a percentage share proportionate to the City's annual sales tax receipts. The Wayfair decision came at an opportune time as the COVID-19 restrictions have pushed consumers from brick and mortar stores to online sales resulting in an increase of \$1.7 million compared to the prior fiscal year and is providing the City with a new, large amount of taxable sales not received in prior years.

The Construction sales tax segment accounts for revenue generated from building materials, including both wholesale and general retail, increased from the prior year by about 9% as homeowners completed housing projects during the stay-at-home orders. Construction and development activity have also increased throughout the City during the fiscal year.

The Construction sales tax segment accounts for revenue generated from building materials, including both wholesale and general retail, increased from the prior year by about 9% as homeowners completed housing projects during the stay-at-home orders. Construction and development activity have also increased throughout the City during the fiscal year.

## Property Tax

Property Tax revenue is up \$482,450 or about 8.0% compared to this time in the prior year. The largest portions of property tax revenue are distributed by the County in December and April each year. The FY2020/21 Operating Budget projected property tax growth of 2% due to an increase in overall assessed values of properties in Escondido and the City is on target to reach this amount.



**Other Taxes**

Other Taxes include franchise fee revenues, transient occupancy tax, and business license revenue and combined have decreased by \$107,340 compared to the prior year.

The City collects franchise fee revenues from San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), cable companies conducting business within City limits, and Escondido Disposal Incorporated (EDI). Revenues received from franchise agreements increased by \$222,000 from the prior fiscal year primarily due to the fees collected from EDI.

Transient Occupancy Tax, also known as hotel tax, accounts for 2% of General Fund operating revenues, or about \$1.7 million. Revenue has decreased by \$330,000 compared to the prior year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many hotels have remained closed or partially closed during the first six months of the fiscal year.

All entities doing business in the City are required to have a valid business license. For Escondido-based businesses, the business license tax is calculated based on annual gross receipts; business license revenue from the 2020 calendar year is based off of 2019 gross receipts. For businesses operating within the City and based outside of the City, the business license tax is calculated as a flat rate known as a “wheel tax”. There are currently 10,444 licensed businesses operating in the City, 127 more than the prior year. Business license revenues have decreased by about \$95,000 from the previous fiscal year through December, however, the revenue is on track to meet the budgeted amount of \$1.8 million for the current fiscal year.

**Charges for Services**

Due to the public health orders, City recreation facilities and services have been restricted or closed. The inability to hold recreation programs has resulted in refunds of fees collected for classes and programs already scheduled as well as the loss of recreation program revenue of approximately \$435,000 compared to the prior year.

The decrease in recreation program revenues were offset by increases in charges for development related services, which include engineering and planning fees. Development related fees are paid by developers to cover the cost of reviewing and monitoring development activities, such as plan checks and inspections, and have increased by about \$342,000 compared to the prior year.

**Intergovernmental**

Intergovernmental revenue includes the Rincon fire services agreement, state mandated cost claims, and various grants, and increased \$274,870 compared to the prior year primarily due to the timing of various grant reimbursements.

**Permits and Licenses**

Revenue generated from permits and licenses has increased by \$494,000 from the prior year primarily due to building permits. The increase in building permit revenue is due to increases in the number of new residential permits and commercial/industrial permitting to date.

**Investment, Rental Income, and Other Revenues**

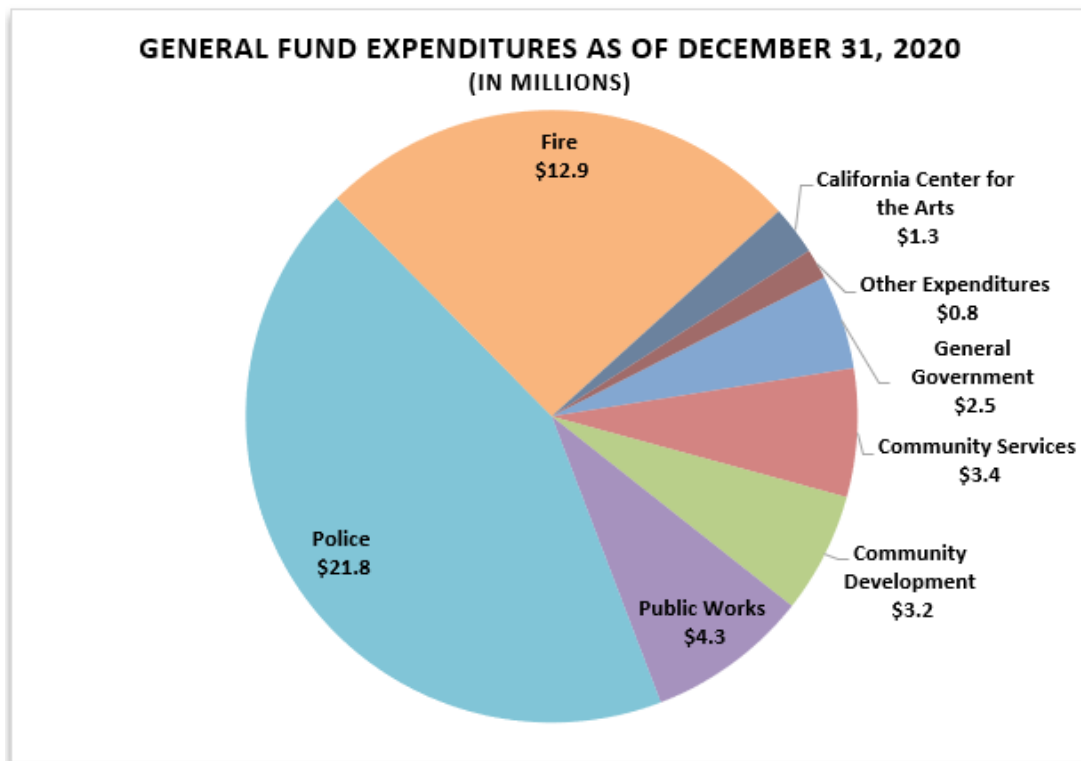
Investment and Other Revenue includes rental income, interest earned from investing activities, and other miscellaneous receipts. This category of revenue is down slightly compared to the prior year primarily due to the timing of miscellaneous receipts.

**GENERAL FUND OPERATING EXPENDITURES**

The following table includes cumulative second quarter expenditure comparisons for General Fund departments for FY2020/21.

|                                                         | <b>FISCAL YEAR<br/>2020/21<br/>AMENDED<br/>BUDGET</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2020<br/>ACTUAL<br/>EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2019<br/>ACTUAL<br/>EXPENDITURES</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>General Government &amp; Administrative Services</b> | \$5,915,550                                           | \$2,541,340                                             | \$2,429,190                                             |
| <b>Community Services</b>                               | 8,779,470                                             | 3,397,010                                               | 3,609,500                                               |
| <b>Community Development</b>                            | 7,217,280                                             | 3,170,240                                               | 3,118,430                                               |
| <b>Public Works</b>                                     | 10,100,860                                            | 4,318,760                                               | 4,516,330                                               |
| <b>Police</b>                                           | 45,639,580                                            | 21,799,180                                              | 21,017,010                                              |
| <b>Fire</b>                                             | 25,798,360                                            | 12,916,070                                              | 12,390,970                                              |
| <b>California Center for the Arts</b>                   | 2,443,000                                             | 1,334,433                                               | 1,603,170                                               |
| <b>Other Expenditures</b>                               | 1,995,630                                             | 750,300                                                 | 536,350                                                 |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>                     | <b>\$107,889,730</b>                                  | <b>\$50,227,330</b>                                     | <b>\$49,220,950</b>                                     |

General Fund expenditures are tracking as expected at 47% percent of the budget through the first six months of the fiscal year. The General Fund total expenditures are up 2% compared to the prior fiscal year or about \$1.0 million. The FY2020/21 General Fund Operating Budget increased by approximately \$1,037,980 or 1% compared to the FY 2019/20 revised Operating Budget and the General Fund departments are on track to meet this target.



**GENERAL FUND RESERVES**

In December 2015, City Council adopted a Fund Balance Policy and established a General Fund target Reserve balance of 25 percent of General Fund operating revenues in order to maintain adequate levels of fund balance based on a risk-based analysis, mitigate current and future risks, adequately provide for cash flow requirements, and to fund one-time unanticipated expenditure requirements.

Budgeted General Fund operating revenue in Fiscal Year 2020/21 is \$102,079,340 and 25% of this amount is \$25,519,835. The current General Fund Reserve balance is \$17,392,319, or 17% of budgeted operating revenue.

**Section 115 Irrevocable Pension Trust Fund**

In February 2018, City Council authorized the establishment of a Section 115 Irrevocable Pension Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is used to set aside and hold money to meet future pension liabilities and can be used to provide economic relief during recessionary cycles and/or rate increases that are significantly above anticipated projected employee rate increases. Funds placed in this Trust can also be used to offset the City's "normal" CalPERS costs, such that if funds are necessary for other purposes, a certain amount of flexibility is present. Another benefit is that funds held in the Trust can be invested in the same manner as funds in a typical pension fund rather than as part of the City's General Fund, which means a potentially higher rate of return.

When the Pension Trust Fund was established, a funding policy for contributions to the Fund was recommended and included the four years of annual Successor agency Redevelopment Loan Repayments of \$14 million that began in Fiscal Year 2018/19, future proceeds from the sale of City Property belonging to the General Fund, and a portion of General Fund surplus at the end of each fiscal year, if one exists.

As of December 31, 2020, the Section 115 Pension Trust Fund has a balance of \$14,752,540 which includes City contributions of \$12,855,585 plus investment earnings net of expenses of \$1,896,955. The 3-month rate of return of the investment portfolio is 6.10% and the 1-year rate of return is 10.62%.

The following table provides a summary of the activity since the establishment of the fund.

| <b>Section 115 Pension Trust Fund</b>                 |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Initial Deposit                                       | \$1,984,000         |
| FY2017/18 General Fund Operating Results              | 1,000,000           |
| Successor Agency Advance Repayment - FY2018/19 Budget | 3,716,185           |
| Successor Agency Advance Repayment - FY2019/20 Budget | 2,657,860           |
| FY2018/19 General Fund Operating Results              | 748,000             |
| FY2019/20 General Fund Operating Results              | 2,749,540           |
| Investment Earnings, net of expenses                  | 1,896,955           |
| <b>Balance as of December 31, 2020</b>                | <b>\$14,752,540</b> |

**REIDY CREEK GOLF COURSE FUND**

With everything going on in today's world, golf seems to have found its silver lining. Reidy Creek Golf Course overall revenues are up 82% compared to the prior year. Disc Golf revenues continue to exceeded expectations, coming in at 28% more than budgeted. The course has become an official host to professional disc golf tournaments which also leads to a number of practice rounds.

In August 2020 work was completed on the tunnel to prevent the recurring issue of water entering and causing flooding. Lighting has also been replaced for cart access, improving the overall experience and safety for golfers.

Operating expenditures were up 30% from the prior year. The added activity at the course has led to an increase in expenses, but most of the increase is due to repairs of aging equipment. A majority of the equipment that is being used at the course is original and the repair costs continue to escalate.

If the activity continues through the remainder of the fiscal year, the Reidy Creek Golf Course Fund is projected to end the fiscal year with about \$2,000 of net income without using the budgeted transfer from the General Fund.

|                                         | <b>FISCAL YEAR<br/>2020/21<br/>BUDGET</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2020<br/>ACTUAL</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2019<br/>ACTUAL</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Total Revenues                          | \$620,780                                 | \$483,980                              | \$266,431                              |
| Total Expenditures                      | (697,190)                                 | (457,350)                              | (350,282)                              |
| <b>Net Operating Deficit</b>            | <b>(76,410)</b>                           | <b>26,630</b>                          | <b>(83,851)</b>                        |
| Budgeted Transfer from the General Fund | 76,410                                    | 76,410                                 | 95,890                                 |
| Additional Funding Approved at Yearend  | -                                         | -                                      | 38,025                                 |
| <b>Total Sources over (Uses)</b>        | <b>\$0</b>                                | <b>\$103,040</b>                       | <b>\$50,064</b>                        |

**WATER FUND**

Net operating income through December 2020 was \$11 million, an increase of \$311,962 or 3% from prior year. Operating revenue increased by about \$3.3 million or 10% compared to the prior year, due to an increase in water usage. Operating expenses increased by about \$3 million or 13% compared to the prior year. Because of the increase in overall water usage, the amount of purchased water also increased by about \$2.8 million.

|                                  | <b>FISCAL YEAR<br/>2020/21<br/>BUDGET</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2020<br/>ACTUAL</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2019<br/>ACTUAL</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Operating Revenues               | \$63,475,000                              | \$37,204,118                           | \$33,918,813                           |
| Operating Expenses               | (55,944,030)                              | (26,138,253)                           | (23,164,910)                           |
| <b>Operating Income</b>          | <b>\$7,530,970</b>                        | <b>\$11,065,865</b>                    | <b>\$10,753,903</b>                    |
| Non-Operating Revenue (Expenses) | (1,439,120)                               | 1,022,149                              | 492,712                                |
| Debt Service Payments            | (1,952,560)                               | (1,823,839)                            | (1,358,991)                            |
| <b>Total Sources over Uses</b>   | <b>\$4,139,290</b>                        | <b>\$10,264,175</b>                    | <b>\$9,887,624</b>                     |

**WASTEWATER FUND**

Net operating income through December 2020 was \$5.4 million, a decrease of \$264,414 or 5% from prior year. Operating revenue increased by \$537,646 or 3% compared to the prior year due to an increase in sewer service charges. Operating expenditures increased by \$802,060 or 7% primarily due to an additional pay period that was posted in December 2020 compared to the prior fiscal year due to the timing of the holidays.

|                                  | <b>FISCAL YEAR<br/>2020/21<br/>BUDGET</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2020<br/>ACTUAL</b> | <b>DECEMBER 31<br/>2019<br/>ACTUAL</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Operating Revenues               | \$39,900,000                              | \$17,577,285                           | \$17,039,639                           |
| Operating Expenses               | (27,595,230)                              | (12,106,087)                           | (11,304,027)                           |
| <b>Operating Income</b>          | <b>\$12,304,770</b>                       | <b>\$5,471,198</b>                     | <b>\$5,735,612</b>                     |
| Non-Operating Revenue (Expenses) | (1,630,770)                               | (258,313)                              | (864,803)                              |
| Debt Service Payments            | (3,918,070)                               | (2,016,536)                            | (1,800,710)                            |
| <b>Total Sources over Uses</b>   | <b>\$6,755,930</b>                        | <b>\$3,196,349</b>                     | <b>\$3,070,099</b>                     |

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

This summary report is based on detailed information generated by the City's finance department. If you have any questions or would like additional information on this report, please contact the Finance department at (760) 839-4676 or visit [www.escondido.org](http://www.escondido.org)



**CITY OF ESCONDIDO**  
**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUEST**

Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: Finance \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Project/Budget Manager: Christina Holmes 4620  
Name ExtensionCouncil Date (if applicable): 02/03/2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
(attach copy of staff report)**For Finance Use Only**

Log # \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Year \_\_\_\_\_

 Budget Balances  
 General Fund Accts  
 Revenue  
 Interfund Transfers  
 Fund Balance

| Project/Account Description                            | Account Number              | Amount of Increase | Amount of Decrease |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fire Assistance Reimbursement                          | 4256-001-000                | \$1,077,520        |                    |
| Overtime                                               | 5020-001-600                | 1,000,000          |                    |
| Supplies                                               | 5101-001-600                | 5,900              |                    |
| Safety Equipment                                       | 5105-001-600                | 100                |                    |
| Gas                                                    | 5111-001-600                | 3,620              |                    |
| Misc. Motive                                           | 5118-001-600                | 7,200              |                    |
| Training & Meetings                                    | 5160-001-600                | 8,700              |                    |
| Transfers Out                                          | 5999-001-000                | 52,000             |                    |
| Transfers In                                           | 4999-653-000                | 52,000             |                    |
| Motive Equipment                                       | 5208-653-715                | 52,000             |                    |
| Federal Grant Revenue                                  | 4128-451-New Project Number | 515,000            |                    |
| Police Grants                                          | 451- New Project Number     | 515,000            |                    |
| Neighborhood Projects – Gas Tax Funds                  | 108-647808                  |                    | 200,000            |
| Welcome Signs – Gas Tax Funds                          | 108-New Project Number      | 200,000            |                    |
| Public Works Yard Relocation – Public Facilities Funds | 243-556501                  |                    | 53,500             |
| InterfacePoint CAD                                     | 243-New Project Number      | 53,500             |                    |
| Central Services Fund Balance                          | 654-3050                    |                    | 40,000             |
| Transfer Out                                           | 654-5999                    | 40,000             |                    |
| Telephone System Upgrade                               | 229-126801                  | 40,000             |                    |
|                                                        |                             |                    |                    |



| Project/Account Description | Account Number | Amount of Increase | Amount of Decrease |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Transfer In                 | 229-4999       | 40,000             |                    |
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Explanation of Request:

Mid-Year Budget Adjustment to amend the FY2020/21 operating budget.

All budget adjustments have a funding source.

**APPROVALS**

|                 |                                                     |              |      |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|
|                 | DocuSigned by:<br><i>Christina Holmes</i> 1/26/2021 |              |      |
| Department Head | <small>60C8588A9B1247C...</small><br>Date           | City Manager | Date |
| Finance         | <small>F22DD68BFC2B4F3...</small><br>Date           | City Clerk   | Date |

Distribution (after approval): Original: Finance

## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

**Workshop Item No. 7**

**February 3, 2021**

**File No. 1340-02**

SUBJECT: Organics Recycling Program Workshop

DEPARTMENT: Utilities Department, Wastewater Division, Recycling and Waste Reduction

RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that the City Council receive and file a presentation outlining Escondido Disposal's Inc.'s (EDI) expansion of the City of Escondido ("City")'s green waste recycling program to include food waste. Information on SB 1383, the law requiring jurisdictions to reduce organic waste by 75%, will also be presented at the workshop. EDI's Anaerobic Digester Facility ("AD Facility") began accepting materials on February 1, 2021.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

On November 28, 2018, Utilities' Recycling and Waste Reduction staff first presented Organics Recycling Program information to the City Council.

On November 20, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-142, approving an amendment of the rates and fees charged under the Waste and Recycling Franchise Agreement between the City and EDCO Refuse Services, Inc. ("EDI"). This amendment included future Organics Recycling Program rate increases.

On October 28, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-130, approving Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Disposal Organics and Recycling Rates to take effect once the AD Facility construction was operational.

BACKGROUND:

Following the adoption of Resolution 2020-130, EDI launched an extensive public education campaign outlining state mandates requiring organics recycling, as well as the plans to meet the new requirements. Those plans include establishing an edible food recovery program, community outreach, and providing organics collection to residents and businesses. EDI's public outreach also provides detailed information regarding how to recycle organics and what materials are accepted. The AD Facility has been designed to process organic waste, to capture and convert methane gas to usable natural gas, and to produce material which can be used as fertilizer. The first two digesters at the AD Facility are already operational, with two more digesters planned and under construction. Residential services began on February

Organics Recycling Program Workshop  
February 3, 2021  
Page 2

1, 2021. More detailed background and operating information will be presented at the workshop.

APPROVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED ELECTRONICALLY BY:

*Christopher McKinney*, Deputy City Manager/Director of Utilities

01/27/21 6:21 p.m.

## FUTURE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Updated January 28, 2021

*AGENDA ITEMS AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.  
CHECK WITH THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT (760) 839-4617*

**February 10, 2021**  
**6:00 p.m.**

### CONSENT CALENDAR

**Fourth Quarter 2020 Treasurer's Report**  
(D. Shultz)

*In accordance with the City's Investment Policy, the City Treasurer is required to submit an investment report to the City Council for review on a quarterly basis. The report will include the type of investment, issuer, date of maturity, par value, book value, and market value for each security held by the City.*

**Via Robles Apartments**  
(M. Strong)

*In 2003, City Council authorized affordable housing funds for the development of new affordable housing, Via Robles Apartments, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of Orange Place Apartments. The developer has requested the City subordinate these affordable housing loans to a new loan which will allow the developer to take advantage of historic low rates and perform exterior rehabilitation.*

**Acceptance of \$25,000 Grant for Water Bottle Filling Stations**  
(J. Axelrod)

*This grant will allow the City to purchase and install approximately 7 water bottle filling stations that will replace existing antiquated water fountains in our busiest parks and facilities. The new systems will be more sanitary and environmentally friendly.*

**Notice of Completion for the Spruce Street Channel Improvement Project and Escondido Transit Center Active Transportation Connections Project**  
(J. Procopio)

*The Spruce Project improved the flow of water through the existing concrete channel, storm drain pipe, and earthen channel from Spruce Street and Third Avenue (near Mission Pools) to the connection with Escondido Creek with the goal of reducing flooding and channel maintenance and improving vector control within the system. The ETC ATC Project was funded by a SANDAG Smart Growth Incentive Program Grant and constructed a new pedestrian bridge at West Valley Parkway (spanning the Spruce Channel) and installed bike lanes on West Valley Parkway and Quince Street adjacent to the Escondido Transit Center. Staff recommends acceptance of all improvements with the exception of channel planting north of Valley Parkway and requests Council permission to accept remaining planting improvements that will be completed after the rainy season.*

**Amend Engineering and Traffic Surveys (Speed Surveys) on Via Rancho Parkway and Washington Avenue**  
(J. Procopio)

*Staff recommends approval of two (2) speed surveys to post a speed limit of 45 mph on Via Rancho Parkway between Bear Valley Parkway and the I-15 FWY and a speed limit of 35 mph on Washington Avenue between Hale Avenue and Mission Avenue. On Via Rancho Parkway, the recommended speed limit is based on the 85th*

percentile speed of 45 mph. On Washington Avenue the recommended speed limit is based on the 85th percentile speed of 35 mph. The Transportation and Community Safety Commission voted to recommend approval of these speed limits at their January 14, 2021 meeting.

**Consulting Services Amendment for the Citracado Parkway Improvement Project**

(J. Procopio)

*Staff recommends approval of a consultant contract amendment to incorporate constructability comments provided by the Construction Manager and to revise the plans and specifications based on SDG&E, Cox and AT&T revised utility relocation designs. The project is currently under review by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) whose approval is anticipated by April 2021. SDG&E expects to receive the steel transmission poles in May for their installation in June 2021. The project construction is expected to begin by late this summer.*

**Cost Sharing with the Vista Irrigation District ("VID") for the Cost of Treatment of Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Henshaw**

(C. McKinney)

*It is requested that the City Council adopt Resolution 2021-26 agreeing to share 50% of the cost of treatment of harmful algal blooms in Lake Henshaw, with Escondido's share of the cost not to exceed \$220,000. Treatment of algae in Lake Henshaw will protect water quality in this important source of local water supply for the City of Escondido.*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

**County Wide Next Generation Regional Interoperability Program (NGRCIP) Computer Aided Dispatch to Computer Aided Dispatch**

(R. Vogt)

*Request City Council to authorize the Fire Chief to sign the San Diego County Next Generation Regional Interoperability Program (NGRCIP) agreement to cost share the annual maintenance fees for the technology to support computer aided dispatch communication (CAD TO CAD). RCIP allows the five major regional emergency dispatch computer systems to seamlessly communicate needs and requests. Nearly 8,000 aid requests per year are processed through RCIP to automatically request and dispatch units to emergencies across all jurisdictions in the county. This ensures that the closest appropriate resource is sent where it is needed as quickly as possible. Due to grant funding for the project, Escondido's apportioned share for RCIP maintenance in the amount of \$20,000 will begin in FY 2022-23.*

**Climate Action Plan Update Workshop**

(M. Strong)

*The Climate Action Plan Update ("CAP Update") consists of a comprehensive update to the 2013 CAP. The purpose of this meeting is to collect high level feedback from the Council and direct staff to return for a formal public hearing.*

**Building Permit Plan Check Services Contract Award**

(M. Strong)

*The City contracts out building permit plan check services. The current contract with EsGil has expired and extends provisionally on a month to month basis. This agenda item is intended to authorize a formal extension, or to enter into a new contract through a competitive procurement process.*

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**February 17, 2021 NO MEETING (President's Day)**

# Weekly Activity Report



January 28, 2021

## COVID-19 UPDATES



### Regional Stay Home Order Lifted

The State of CA has lifted the Regional Stay Home Order. San Diego County is now in Tier 1, or Purple Tier, of the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

Please continue to practice social distancing and wear a facial covering. For a full list of what has changed, visit [www.coronavirus-sd.com](http://www.coronavirus-sd.com)

For Escondido business resources visit:

<https://www.escondido.org/business>

For more information about Escondido's response to COVID-19 visit: <https://www.escondido.org/covid-19>

### San Diego County returns to Purple Tier

#### Restaurants

– open outdoors

#### Bars, breweries serving food

– open outdoors

#### Hair salons, barbershops, nail salons

– open indoors

#### Museums, zoos, aquariums

– open outdoors



[www.coronavirus-sd.com/reopening](http://www.coronavirus-sd.com/reopening)

### Escondido AD Facility is First in Southern California

On November 28, 2018, the Recycling and Waste Reduction Division first presented the Organics Recycling Program information to the Escondido City Council.

In addition to outlining state mandates requiring organics recycling, it included plans from the City's franchised waste hauler, [Escondido Disposal](http://Escondido Disposal), to build an anaerobic digestion facility in Escondido. While construction is not complete, the two green tubes are prepared to receive residential green waste beginning February 1, 2021.



If you live in Escondido, you can now put food waste in the green cart with your yard waste. To learn more about the state-of-the-art facility or how to dispose of food waste, please visit the EDI website:

<https://www.escondidodisposal.com/residential-waste-services/curbside-pickup/organic-recycling/>

## Library Board of Trustees – Volunteer Needed

The City is seeking a volunteer to apply to serve on the Escondido Public Library Board of Trustees.

For information on qualifications and an application form click [here](#).

The deadline to apply is February 26, 2021.

Information is also available at:

<https://www.escondido.org/boards-commissions>



## Escondido Public Library Reopening

The Library will reopen for limited in-person services on Monday, February 1, 2021.

Library hours will be 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Holds can be picked up on the self-service shelves during Library open hours. Additionally, curbside pickup service for holds will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. For information on how curbside pickup works, visit [www.escondidolibrary.org/curbside](http://www.escondidolibrary.org/curbside). At this time, the Friends Book Shop, Literacy Learning Center and Pioneer Room remain closed. Donations are not being accepted at this time.

Patrons will be able to browse the stacks and check out books, audio books, and DVDs. Time in the library will be limited to two hours maximum each day in order to adhere to the limited 20% capacity guidelines. All in-person programs have been suspended, but many regular programs such as book clubs and storytimes are being held online. Visit [www.escondidolibrary.org/digital](http://www.escondidolibrary.org/digital) for a full schedule of virtual events.

## Roller Skating at the Escondido Sports Center

The Community Services Department is excited to introduce Roller Skating at the Escondido Sports Center in Kit Carson Park! Bring your skates and your family for a fun and safe outdoor recreational opportunity. Under the current public health order, sessions are limited to 12 people in order maintain social distancing at all times. Please come with your skates (required) and safety equipment (optional) as we do not have any rentals. Whether you are an expert or a first timer, there's plenty of space to practice while grooving to some music. Sessions will be held weekly each Friday and Saturday from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the Escondido Sports Center hockey rinks starting February 5, 2021 until further notice. The cost is \$5 for the 2-hour session and **masks are required at all times**. Reservations are strongly encouraged and will

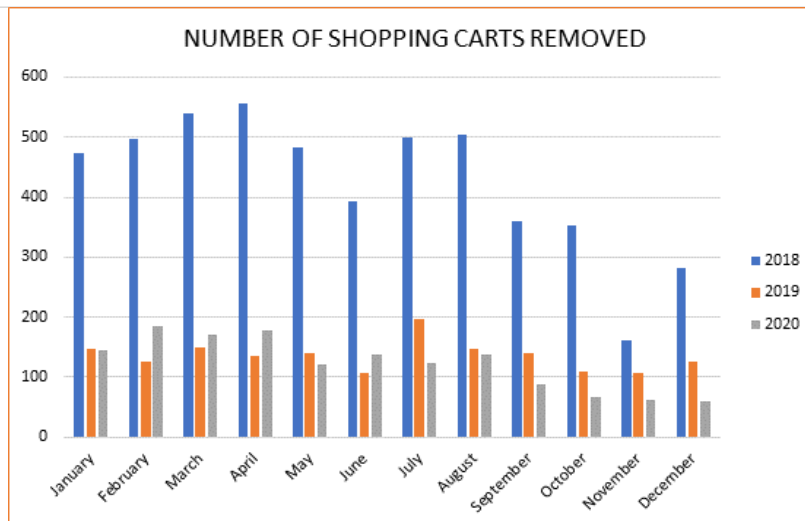
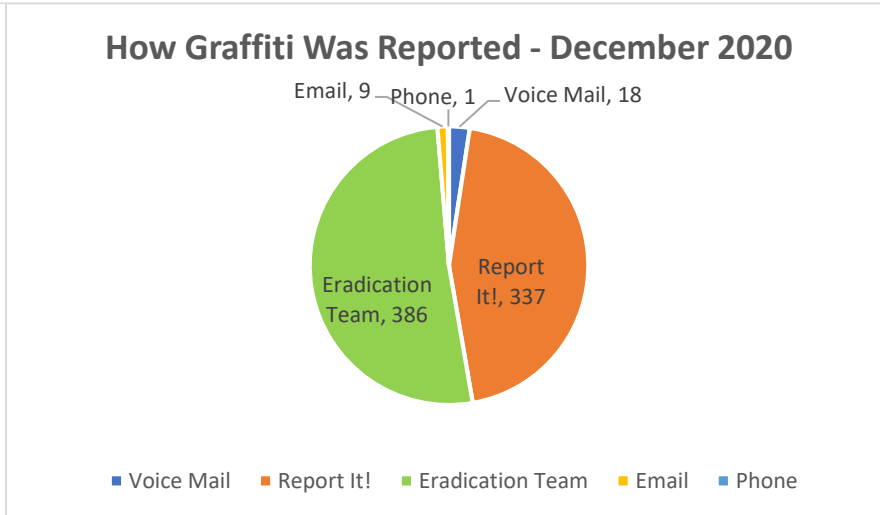
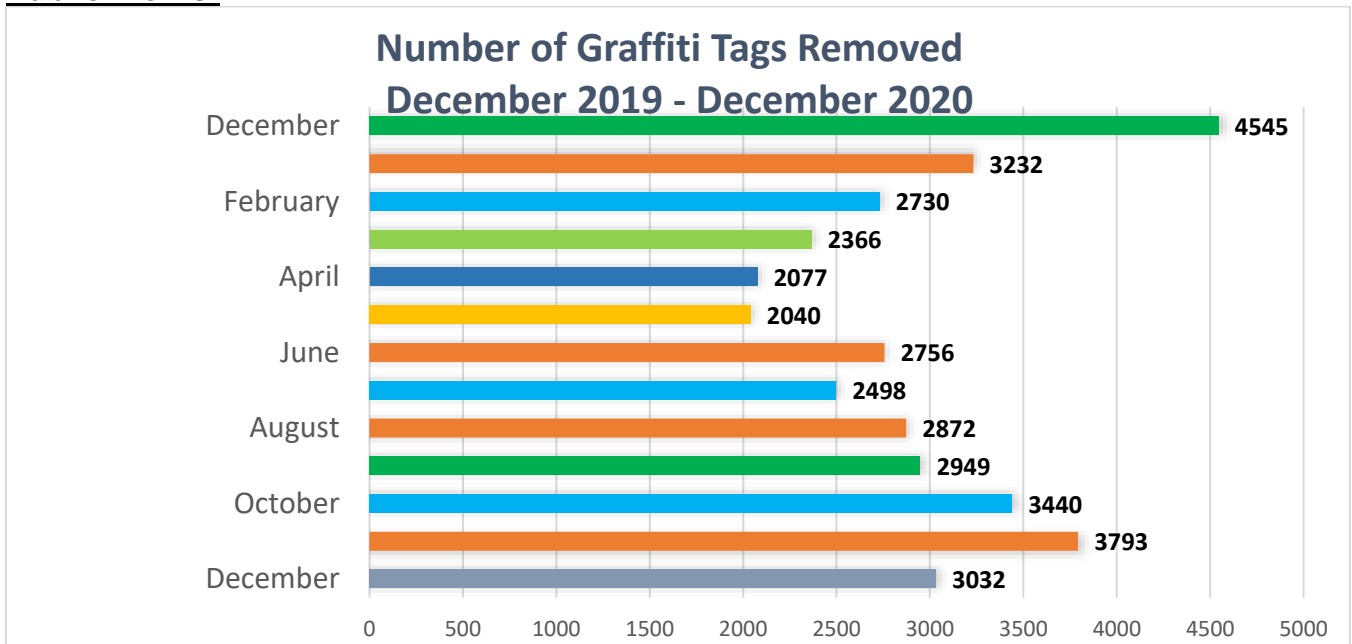


open each Monday at 3:00 p.m. for the following week, to make reservations, please call (760) 839-5426. More information at:

[www.Recreation.Escondido.org](http://www.Recreation.Escondido.org)

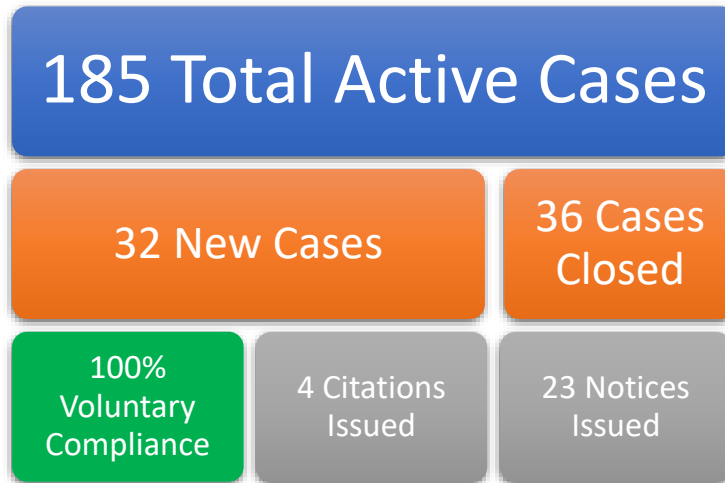
## BY THE NUMBERS

### Public Works:



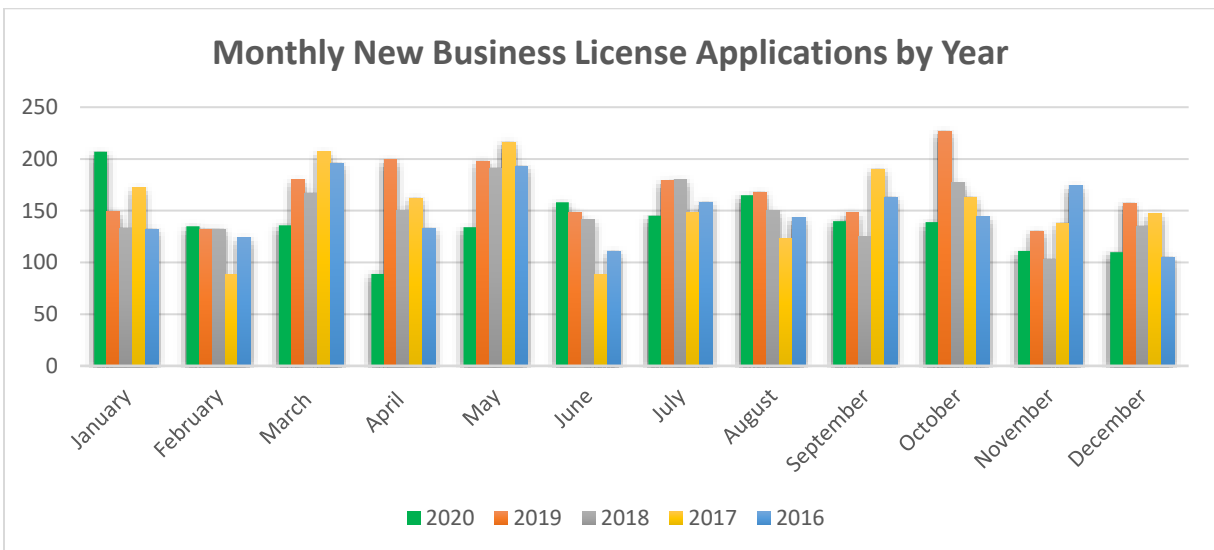


**Code Enforcement:**



|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Total Code Cases (Year To Date) | 114 |
|---------------------------------|-----|

**Business Licenses:**



**Graffiti Restitution:**

| Collected Past Week | Collected Year to Date |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| \$80                | \$253.96               |

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING

### Building Permits and Inspections:

1. This week the counter staff conducted in person meetings with 95 applicants and were able to process 90 applications and issue 83 permits.
2. The total permit valuation for the week was \$3,357,251.00.
3. This week there were 258 building inspections completed.

### Development and Capital Projects Update:

Curious what's happening with development projects around the city? See below for milestone activities that have happened since last week. Skip to the bottom of this section for a list of projects that are in progress but do not have an update this week. To learn about previous applications for residential and commercial development permits, please visit the [Development Project Information Archive](#) page or contact the [Planning Division](#).

#### County of San Diego Projects:

1. The County of San Diego ("County") has been processing a land use application for a new recycling facility, just north of the City of Escondido. The project site is located west of Interstate 15 (I-15) along Mesa Rock Road. The project, called "North County Environmental Resources," includes a 12,000-square-foot steel building, a 100,000-gallon water tank, and a recycling facility for wood, construction debris, and concrete and asphalt. The City of Escondido ("City") previously submitted comments to County staff on October 14, 2019 expressing some concerns about the project, its operation, and its potential impact on the environment. A second letter was sent on June 24, 2020. Despite project opposition, the City was notified that the County approved the project on November 3, 2020, which started the 10-day appeal period. The City filed an appeal of that decision to the County of San Diego Planning and Development Services Department on November 12, 2020. This last week City staff was notified the City of Escondido appeal will be considered by the County of San Diego Planning Commission on February 5, 2021.

#### Commercial / Office / Industrial:

1. 7-Eleven Gas and Convenience Store – (Developer: Golcheh Group) 900 W. Mission Ave. – A proposal to relocate a 7-Eleven from the northeastern corner of Mission/Rock Springs to the northwestern corner and add a gas station. The request includes a new 4,000 square foot convenience store with eight (8) fuel dispenser pumps that can accommodate up to sixteen (16) vehicles. The Planning Commission reviewed the application on December 16, 2020 and voted to recommend approval to the City Council. The City Council approved the project on January 13, 2021. City staff is working with the applicant to bring in grading, landscaping, street improvement, and building permits.
2. Carvana – (Developer: Jo Ryan, Carvana) 559 N. Hale Avenue – An approved vending machine car dealership. The project consists of an approximately 5,800 square feet, eight-(8) tier glass and steel tower structure up to 75 feet in height. Demolition of the old

Talone's Meat Market has started. It is anticipated that building permits will be issued next week. After it is completed, site improvements will be made to implement the project.

3. Raising Cane's Restaurant – (Developer: Ada Fermin, PM Design Group) 1280 W. Valley Parkway – An approved demolition of vacant, former Coco's restaurant building and construction of new 3,744 square foot drive-through restaurant for Raising Cane's. The applicant is looking to pull demolition permits and will likely be able to do so within the next couple of weeks.
4. Burros and Fries - (MPA Architects) 1107 E. Valley Parkway – An approved 5,224 square foot commercial building, with associated landscaping and parking. The building includes a 1,850 square foot drive-through restaurant (Burros and Fries) and 3,374 square feet of additional retail space. The contractor has started to complete the off-site curb gutter and new turn lane on Valley Parkway.

#### Housing:

5. Canterbury Gardens Apartment Project (Developer: Kensington Canterbury Gardens, LLC) - A Plot Plan application was submitted on January 26, 2021, for the development of an apartment project at 2402 South Escondido Boulevard (the site of the Canterbury Gardens retail store). The project proposes to demolish the existing structures on the site, and construct 44 townhome-style, market-rate rental units. Units will range in size from 1,028 to 1,254 square feet, will be three stories in height, and will have two to three bedrooms. Each unit will have a private two-car garage, and 11 guest parking spaces will be provided. An amenity area with barbeque and outdoor seating will also be included. City staff is currently conducting a review of the application.
6. Del Prado (Developer: Kerry Garza, Touchstone Communities) – An approved 113-unit townhome-style Planned Development located at the southwestern corner of Brotherton Road and the Centre City Parkway frontage road. A pre-construction meeting for grading is scheduled this week.
7. Oak Creek (Builder: KB Homes) – this is an approved residential project for 65 single-family residential lots on approximately 44 acres at Felicita Road and Hamilton Lane. KB Homes has started the road widening improvements for the section of Hamilton Rd between Felicita and Miller along with a section of Hamilton east of Miller. The scope of work will include new sidewalk, curb and gutter along with road widening improvements. Work will be completed in two phases. KB Homes has started the road widening improvements for the section of Hamilton Rd between Felicita and Miller along with a section of Hamilton east of Miller. Last week the contractor completed the rough grading, placed concrete for the new curb and gutter and paved one half of Hamilton Road. Phase I of the asphalt placement is complete. Phase II will focus the south side of Hamilton. Concrete is scheduled to be placed next week, with paving to follow. Hamilton will be restricted to a single lane east bound travel with west bound traffic detoured. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-February. Message boards have been placed notifying residents of the road work, closure and detours.
8. Henry Ranch (Builder: Joe Martin, Trumark Homes) - An approved development of 97 single-family residential homes on 74.35 acres at the eastern terminus of Lincoln Avenue.

The developer, Trumark, has nearly completed onsite water, storm drain and sewer utilities and is working on pedestrian ramps and sidewalks. The contractor has completed the video detection camera installation at the intersection of El Norte and Lincoln Avenue. The contractor is now focusing on new home construction.

9. Jack's Creek TR 951 and SUB 17-0026 – (Developer New Pointe Development). A 12-lot, single-family residential subdivision on 3.31 acres. The site is located at the westerly terminus of Jack's Creek Road, north of El Norte Parkway, addressed as 640 Oakwood Creek Glen, formally 2888 E. Washington Avenue. The contractor has completed the grading for 11 of the 12 new home pads. Framing has started for six of the homes.
10. Palomar Heights (Developer: Ninia Hammond, Integral Communities) – Demolition and redevelopment of the old Palomar Hospital site with 510 multi-family units with 10,000 square feet of commercial. The project was reviewed and approved by the City Council on January 27, 2021. A project webpage containing draft documents and plans can be accessed at the following link:  
<https://www.escondido.org/palomarheights.aspx>
11. The Villages at Escondido Country Club (Builder: Lennar Homes) 380 residences located on the former golf course off of Country Club Lane, north of El Norte Parkway. In Village I, Lennar has opened the model homes to the public and there is a lot of vertical construction. Many of the homes built are now under contract.



The Plot Plan for the new commercial center was approved on January 5, 2021 and the builder is finalizing the landscape plans. New construction at the commercial center, branded "Basecamp," should commence in the next couple of weeks. All Plot Plan approvals have been provided for the three neighborhood parks, and when developed, the parks will be open to the public. Curb and gutter was placed last week on the east side of Country Club, east of the traffic circle to Lorraine Place. In Village II, final clearing and grubbing, along with rough grading has been completed. The contractor is working with the Vista Irrigation District to complete the realignment of their water main that crosses the project site. In Village III, rough grading is nearing completion and the contractor is installing the storm drain, private water, and sewer lines.

## City Projects or Other Capital Improvement Projects:

12. SDG&E 16" Gas Main Replacement – In January 2019, the CPUC's Safety Enforcement Division approved SDG&E's test or replace plan for Line 1600, a 16-inch natural gas transmission pipeline which was not strength tested in 1949 when it was constructed. This next phase of PSEP projects will include 19 separate projects that will take place in the cities of San Diego, Escondido and Poway, as well as the County of San Diego. As part of these projects, approximately 37 miles of existing pipe in more populated areas will be replaced and approximately 13 miles of existing pipe in less populated areas will be strength tested. Approximately 5.4 miles of replacement and 2.7 miles of strength testing is expected to occur in Escondido from 2020-2024. Phase 1 is complete. SDG&E is looking to initiate Phase 2. Construction is scheduled to conclude in July 2021. Potholing for the new gas main has started in the County section of the project along Bear Valley Parkway.
13. Spruce Street/Transit Center Pedestrian Bridge Project – The contractor, Palm Engineering, has completed two of the three channel reaches with planting remaining in one reach. The project has entered the final punch list phase for completion and is scheduled to be presented to the City Council on February 10, 2021, for a Partial Notice of Completion for areas 2 and 3.
14. Storm Drain Pipe Lining and Rehabilitation Project Phase II - This project was awarded at the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 City Council meeting. The work consists of construction including: storm drain cleaning, inspection, CCTV, repairing and grouting of voids, point repairs, grouting of existing flow line, cured in place piping lining, storm drain structure floor repairs, post CCTV and inspection, overall rehabilitation of existing corrugated metal pipe storm drain systems. The pre-construction meeting for this project has been held. The Notice to Proceed was issued for work to commence on January 25, 2021. Work started this week.
15. Multi Neighborhood Street Light L.E.D. retrofit Project Phase II - This project generally consists of the removal of approximately 725 non-LED street light fixtures and safety light fixtures, and the replacement with specified LED street light fixtures and LED safety light fixtures at various locations within the City of Escondido. A pre-construction meeting take place in the upcoming weeks.
16. Creek Trail Crossing - At the January 14, 2021 Transportation & Community Safety Commission meeting, the final design for the Creek Trail Crossings project that improves all seven Creek Trail intersections between Juniper and Citrus was approved. Improvements include a signal at Midway and rapid flashing beacons with bulb-outs, where the roadway width permits, at other locations. The project also fills in sidewalk gaps along Citrus and Midway. Final plans will be reviewed by the granting agency in February construction funding will be programmed by the California Transportation Commission in May with construction to begin by late summer.
17. School and Traffic Safety Projects - Each year the Traffic Commission prioritizes and funds traffic safety projects focused on improving pedestrian and vehicle safety. Projects

are nominated by each School District, COMPACT, residents and staff. This year four priority projects were completed, including crosswalk improvements at Oak Hill and Citrus, crosswalk improvements on Lincoln Avenue near Pioneer Elementary, pedestrian countdown timers at five intersections and an Audible Pedestrian Signal at El Norte and Centre City Parkway that serves the sight impaired.

### **Ongoing Projects - No Updates This Week:**

Projects that do not have any changes or updates this week will be listed here to indicate that they're still in progress. When an update occurs, the project will appear above in the Development and Capital Projects section.

#### Commercial / Office / Industrial:

18. Mercedes Benz Expansion – (Developer: Jody Stout, Integrity Design and Construction) 1101 W. 9th Avenue – A Master and Precise Plan modification to demo the existing dealership showroom and construct a new showroom, office, parts storage and service building.
19. ERTC/Palomar Health Parking Structure (Developer: McCarthur Construction). An application request was received on October 21, 2020 to build 1,906 parking spaces at the new hospital campus. The proposed parking garage is six stories.

#### Housing:

20. Villa Portofino – (Developer: Chris Post, ATC Design Group) 15 apartment units in a three-story building with parking garage at 2690 S. Escondido Blvd.
21. Hacienda De Vega Redevelopment – (Developer: Tony Cassolato) An approved proposed residential condominium development consisting of 42 three-story attached townhomes on 1.75 acres.
22. Harvest Hills, formerly called Safari Highlands Ranch (Developer: Jeb Hall, Concordia Homes) - 550 residential subdivision, east of Rancho San Pasqual. A project webpage containing draft documents and plans can be accessed at the following link:  
<https://www.escondido.org/safari-highlands-ranch-specific-plan.aspx>
23. North Avenue Estates (Developer: Casey Johnson) – This is an approved residential project for 34 lots at North Avenue/Conway Drive.
24. Sager Ranch/Daley Ranch Resort Specific Plan (Developer: J. Whalen Associates, Inc., Sager Ranch Partners) - 203 housing units and 225-room resort hotel on 1,783-acres, just north and east of Daley Ranch. A project webpage containing draft documents and plans can be accessed at the following link:  
<https://www.escondido.org/daley-ranch-resort-specific-plan.aspx>
25. Pradera (Developer: Moses Kim, Lennar Homes) – This approved project consists of a 70-unit single-family development located at the northeastern corner of Ash Street and Lehner Avenue.

26. Casa Mercado Apartments (Developer: Paul Mayer, Pemcor) – A four-story, 120-unit apartment complex on 2.31 acres on Second Avenue and Pine Street.
27. Fig Apartments (Developer Claude Marengo) – A 15-unit, three-story, multi-family residential apartment complex consisting of three stories on 0.59 acres.
28. Reed Road Assisted Living Facility (2525 Reed LLC) – A new residential care facility is proposed on a 4.2-acre site on 2525 Reed Road.
29. Iwashita Apartments (Developer: Iwashita Development) – A seven-story, mixed-use project at 322 S. Escondido Boulevard for 172 units.
30. Interfaith Recuperative Care Facility/Hotel – (Developer: Interfaith) 555 North Center City Parkway – Conversion of the existing lodging facility (America’s Best Value Inn) and construction of new residential care facility designed to provide quality emergency housing, services, and supervision to at-risk individuals, homeless, etc. The application proposes to conduct this service, and be permitted, as a hotel.
31. Apollo Residential Care (NOAA Group) – An approved Conditional Use Permit for an assisted living and memory care facility, with 78 units accommodating 99 beds at 3141 East Valley Parkway.
32. East Valley Parkway Apartments (Developer: John Wurster) – A 50-unit mixed use affordable apartment complex consisting of four stories situated on a 21,000 square foot vacant parcel in the historic District of the Downtown.
33. Habitat for Humanity 10-Unit Condominium Development (Developer: San Diego Habitat for Humanity) – An approved residential project involving 10 condominium units at 245 E. El Norte Parkway. All units will be for sale to low-income households.
34. Nutmeg Condo General Plan Amendment (Developer: Jim Simmons, CCI) – An approved 137 townhome condo unit project, located on both sides of Nutmeg between I-15 and Centre City Parkway.
35. Membrane-Filtration Reverse Osmosis Facility/MFRO (Developer: City of Escondido Utilities Department) 901 W. Washington.
36. Lake Wohlford Replacement Dam – the project involves a new dam downstream (west) of the existing dam and partial deconstruction of the existing dam. The replacement dam would feature an outlet tower that is integrated into the dam’s upstream face; the top of the existing outlet tower would be demolished, and the bottom of the existing outlet tower and the outlet pipe would be filled with sand and abandoned in place. The project would entail improvement and extension of an existing unpaved access road located west of the Lake Wohlford Marina, extending it to the right (north) abutment of the replacement dam.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

On January 19, a security guard from 640 N. Centre City Pkwy called the police to report a parked car with a broken window. Police arrived and located a gun on the floor inside the gray Honda sedan. Officers observed a bullet hole in the front passenger door that appeared to have come from inside the vehicle. No one associated with the vehicle was located and no injuries were reported. The loaded handgun and the vehicle were seized as evidence in the ongoing investigation.

On January 21, an officer attempted to stop a car for a vehicle code violation. The driver didn't stop and instead led officers on a chase throughout the city that lasted about 5 minutes. The driver eventually drove into oncoming traffic on Centre City Pkwy near 9<sup>th</sup> Ave and abandoned his car. He fled on foot, but was quickly located hiding near a tree and arrested. Officers located a handgun inside the car along with an intoxicated passenger who stayed with the car. The driver was arrested on multiple charges involved with evading arrest and possession of a handgun.

On January 23, an Escondido Police officer was driving his patrol car back to the city on Hwy 78 near Twin Oaks Valley Rd when something caught his eye. Much to his surprise, a car tire was careening down the freeway headed straight for him. He was unable to move out of the path of the tire because of cars next to him. The tire struck his patrol car causing significant damage to the roof. He later learned that a woman driving her car on the opposite side of the freeway had just left the repair shop. Apparently, they failed to properly bolt the tire back on to her car and it flew off and bounced over to the other side of the freeway before striking the patrol car. Fortunately, the officer survived the encounter with only complaints of soreness.



### **Community Tools:**

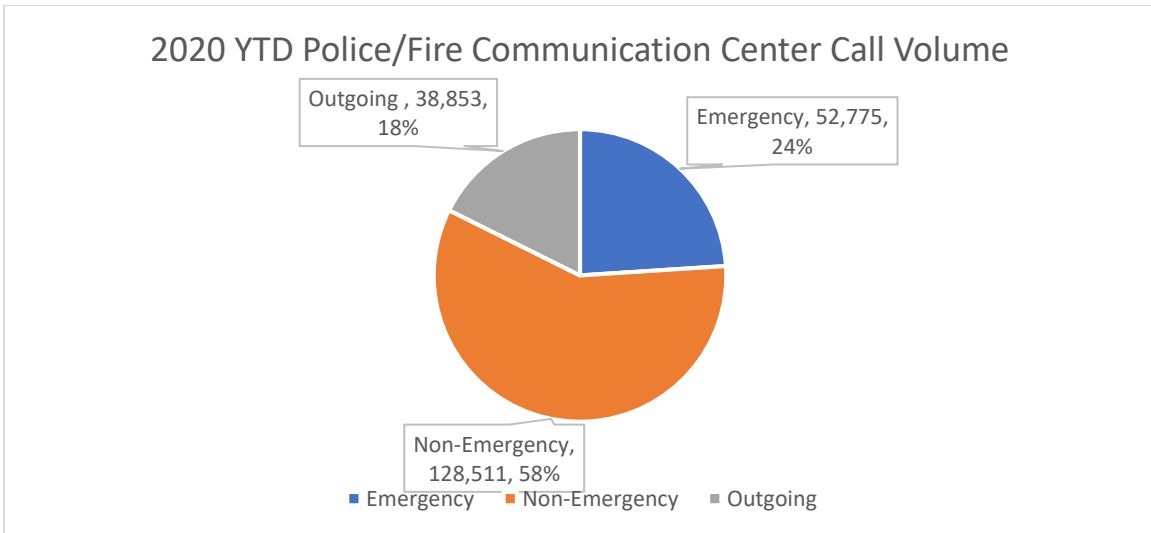
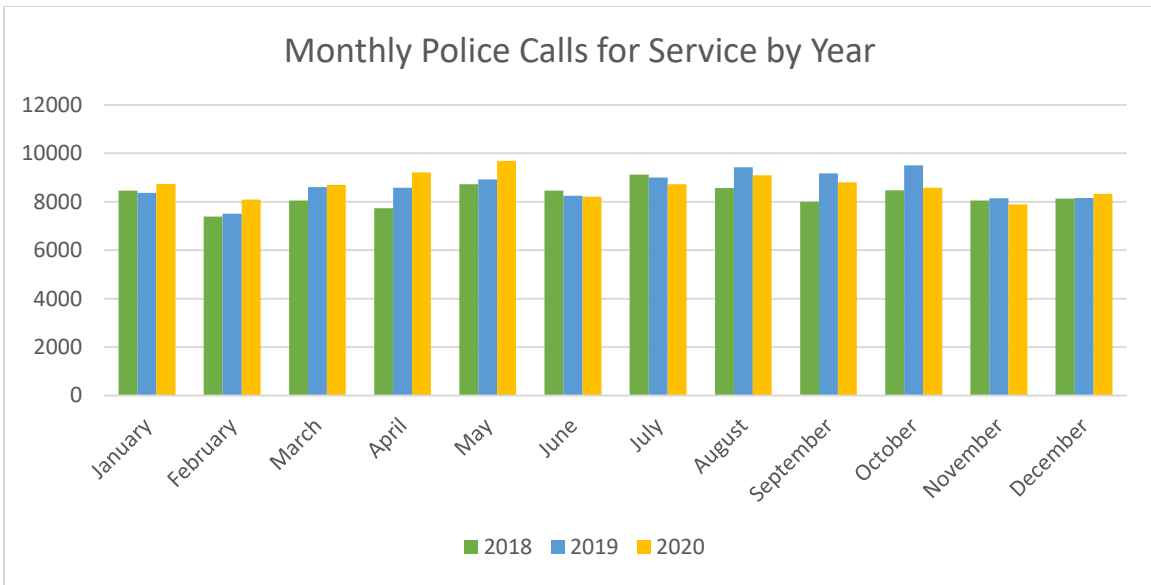
- [www.arjjs.org](http://www.arjjs.org) For crime data/mapping, Megan's Law info, etc.
- [www.myneighborhoodupdate.net](http://www.myneighborhoodupdate.net) Search for Escondido, CA to see radio call information.

### **Events:**

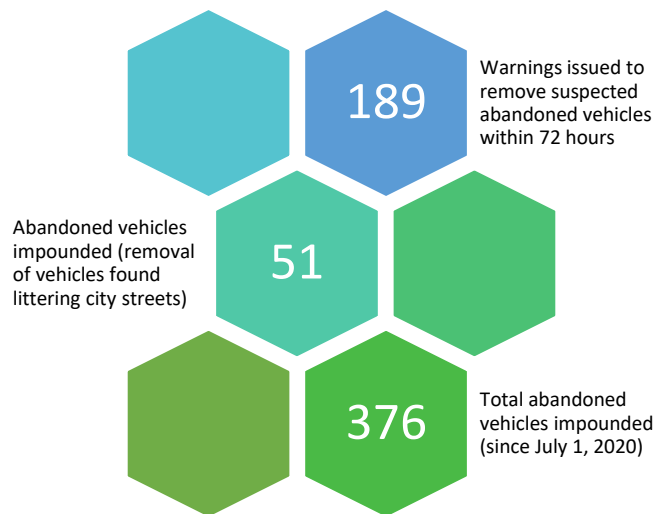
On January 22, officers from San Diego PD joined our officers for a traffic enforcement detail in Escondido. The goal of the detail was to focus on distracted drivers, which is a major factor in traffic accidents. Funding for this detail was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). The following results were generated from the detail:

- 86 Traffic Stops
- 61 Total citations issued
- 26 Citations for Primary Collision Factor violations (speed, improper turn, etc.)
- 18 Citations for using cell phones not in "hands free" mode
- 11 Citations for texting while driving
- 6 Citations for other vehicle code violations





### December Abandoned Vehicle Data



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

On Friday January 22 at 5:32 p.m. the Fire Department was dispatched to a residential structure fire on Verla Lane. A smoldering fire was found in the structural support members in the walls around a “zero clearance” fire place (also known as a pre-fabricated or manufactured fire place). The fire was quickly contained and overhauled. Due to the winter season and cold weather, it is not uncommon for problems like this to arise when zero clearance fireplaces are heavily used to burn wood. These types of fireplaces are better suited for natural gas kits or Duraflame type logs.

Escondido Fire has been a part of Operation Collaboration since it began at the start of 2021. At the request and direction of San Diego County Health and Human Services (HHSA), twenty-three fire departments and two private ambulance companies have worked together to provide vaccinators and support staff for fixed Points of Distribution (PODs) and mobile vaccination clinics at long term care facilities (LTCs). Operation Collaboration involves all areas of the county except San Diego City and a handful of surrounding cities. The fixed PODs are tasked with providing both the first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine to medical first responders. The mobile PODs are tasked with providing first and second doses to residents and staff at LTCs, which is a much slower process because the vaccination team must visit the clients at the facilities where they live. County HHSA is utilizing Operation Collaboration along with private vaccine providers such as CVS to amplify the speed of vaccination delivery to the vulnerable populations at the LTCs.

Deputy Fire Chief John Tenger is assigned on a two-week assignment providing management and oversight for the Northeast Division area including the PODs operating in Escondido, San Marcos, Vista and Valley Center. Captain Steve Nugent is also on a two-week assignment with an eight-person mobile POD providing vaccinations at LTCs. Trained personnel from all departments in Operation Collaboration will rotate onto vaccination team assignments as this process is estimated to take several months, including second doses.



As of January 24, 2021, Operation Collaboration has provided 1,691 vaccinations to first responders and 2,258 to LTC residents and staff.

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