

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-122

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ESCONDIDO GENERAL PLAN COMMUNITY PROTECTION CHAPTER (SAFETY ELEMENT), THE ADDITION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SECTION TO THE ESCONDIDO GENERAL PLAN COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SERVICES CHAPTER, AND AN ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

WHEREAS, the State of California requires cities and counties adopt a comprehensive long-term General Plan for the social, physical, and economic development of the City; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 65302(g) requires all city and county general plans to include a Safety Element, and further requires that the Safety Element be updated regularly to reflect current conditions and legal requirements; and

WHEREAS, the content of the Safety Element is mandated by the California Government Code, which also requires review by the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and California Geological Survey to determine compliance with State law; and

WHEREAS, the draft Community Protection chapter (Safety Element) was approved by the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on May 13, 2025; and

WHEREAS, California Senate Bill 1000 (2016) (SB 1000), mandates that cities and counties incorporate environmental justice into their general plans, and is triggered when a city or county is adopting or revising two or more elements of its general plan simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, the content of the environmental justice addition to the general plan is mandated by California Government Code Section 65302(h); and

WHEREAS, public participation in the development, adoption, and implementation of the safety element and environmental justice goals and policies is essential to effective health and safety planning and the City did as follows: host workshops for and engage with the community and local organizations, including disadvantaged communities, and comply with Government Code Section 65302(g) and 65302(h); and

WHEREAS, the City of Escondido (“City”) is the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) (“CEQA”) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations § 15000 et seq.), for the updates to the Community Protection chapter (Safety Element) and the addition of an environmental justice chapter to the Community Health and Services chapter, together known as the 2022 General Plan Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 General Plan Amendment is considered a “Project” as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 General Plan Amendment is applicable to the General Plan Area as identified in Exhibit “A”; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2012, the City Council certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2012 General Plan Update (SCH # 20100716054) (“FEIR”) for the 2012 Escondido General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan Update, and Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA, when taking subsequent discretionary actions in furtherance of a project for which an EIR has been certified, the lead agency is required to review any changed

circumstances to determine whether any of the circumstances under Public Resources Code section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines section 15162 require additional environmental review; and

WHEREAS, City staff evaluated the environmental impact of the proposed modifications to the Project in light of the standards for subsequent environmental review outlined in Public Resources Code section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines section 15162; and

WHEREAS, based on this evaluation, staff concluded that the EIR had fully analyzed and mitigated, where feasible, in compliance with CEQA, all potentially significant environmental impacts, if any, that would result from the Project modifications, that the impacts to the environment as a result of the modifications are consistent with and would not create substantial new or increased impacts beyond those that were evaluated in the EIR, and that, therefore, no subsequent EIR or mitigated negative declaration is now required; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the proposed modifications to the Project, and to document staff's evaluation of the environmental impact of said modifications, staff prepared a fourth addendum ("Addendum #4") to the Final EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15164; and

WHEREAS, the Project relies on the previously adopted Addenda (Addenda 1 through 3) to the FEIR; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed the amendments to the Community Protection and Community Services Elements and recommended the City Council approve the changes with minor text modification on July 22, 2025; and

WHEREAS, all evidence of records, the Community Protection and Community Health and Service Element Updates, staff reports, correspondence, and Addendum #4 are on file in the offices of the City of

Escondido Planning Division and the offices of the City Clerk and constitute the record for making the decision to approve the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Division studied the General Plan Amendment, performed necessary investigations, prepared a written report and hereby recommends approval of the 2022 GPA shown in Exhibit "B" and Exhibit "C" as substantiated in Exhibit "D" Findings of Fact, all of which are attached hereto and made a part hereof by this reference as though fully set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, approving the Project would modify the 2012 Community Protection chapter and adopt new text, graphics, and figures as shown in Exhibit "B;" and

WHEREAS, approving the Project would modify the 2012 Community Health and Services chapter and adopt new text, graphics, and figures as shown in Exhibit "C;" and

WHEREAS, prior to adopting or amending a General Plan, Government Code section 65355 requires the legislative body to hold at least one public hearing, notice of which shall be given pursuant to Government Code section 65090 and in accordance with City and State public noticing requirements; and

WHEREAS, City staff provided public notice of the housing element update in accordance with City and State public noticing requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Division scheduled a duly noticed public hearing regarding the Project before the Planning Commission on July 22, 2025, at which interested persons were given the opportunity to appear and present their views with respect to said Project. Following said public hearing, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 2025-07R, recommending that the City Council approve the Project with minor modification; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2025, the City Council of the City of Escondido did hold a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law. At said hearing, this City Council received and considered the reports and recommendations of the Planning Commission and City staff, and gave all persons full opportunity to be heard and to present evidence and testimony respecting said matter. Evidence was submitted to and considered by the City Council, including, without limitation:

- a. Written information including plans, studies, written and graphical information, and other material, submitted as part of the Project; and
- b. Oral testimony from City staff, interested parties, and the public; and
- c. The staff report, dated October 1, 2025, with its attachments as well as City staff's recommendation on the Project, which is incorporated herein as though fully set forth herein; and
- d. Additional information submitted during the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed and considered the information, findings, and conclusions contained in Exhibit "E" Addendum #4, including without limitation the FINAL EIR and supporting documents; and

WHEREAS, an original copy of the 2012 Community Protection Element, 2012 Community Health and Services Element, Addendum #4, and all other related Project materials are on file in the Office of the City Clerk, with a copy of each document submitted to the City Council for its consideration. The City Clerk, whose office is located at 201 North Broadway, Escondido CA 92025, is hereby designated as the custodian of the documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the City

Council's decision is based, which documents and materials shall be available for public inspection and copying in accordance with the provisions of the California Public Records Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Escondido, California, as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true.
2. That through reliance on the previously adopted Addenda to the Final EIR, all requirements of CEQA have been met.
3. That the Project satisfies the requirements of the state Planning and Zoning Law.
4. That the amendment to the General Plan is consistent with the Escondido General Plan because all General Plan Chapters were reviewed as part of the amendment drafting process to ensure consistency.
5. That, after consideration of all evidence presented, and studies and investigations made by the City Council and on its behalf, the City Council makes the substantive Findings of Fact and determinations attached hereto as Exhibit "D" relating to the information that has been considered.
6. That, considering the Findings of Fact and applicable law, the City Council hereby approves the 2022 General Plan Amendment to the Community Protection chapter (Safety Element) and Community Health and Services chapter, attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and Exhibit "C", respectively, and relies on the Addendum #4 to the Final EIR, attached hereto as Exhibit "E" for the purpose of compliance with CEQA.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Escondido at a regular meeting thereof the 1st day of OCTOBER, 2025 by the following vote to wit:

AYE : Councilmembers: FITZGERALD, GARCIA, GARCIA, MARTINEZ, WHITE

NOES : Councilmembers: NONE

ABSENT : Councilmembers: NONE

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:
Dane White
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DANE WHITE, Mayor of the
City of Escondido, California

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Zack Beck
A58535D0BDC1430...
ZACK BECK, City Clerk of the
City of Escondido, California

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