



STAFF REPORT

DATE: July 09, 2024

PL24-0082 – 2023 General Plan Annual Progress Report

PROJECT NUMBER / NAME: PL24-0082 - 2023 General Plan Annual Progress Report

REQUEST: The Planning Commission receive and file the 2023 calendar year General Plan Annual Progress Report.

PROPERTY SIZE AND LOCATION: CityWide

APPLICANT: City of Escondido, Development Services Department

GENERAL PLAN / ZONING: N/A

PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE: Pricila Roldan, Associate Planner

DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS REQUESTED: N/A

PREVIOUS ACTIONS: The Planning Commission received and filed the 2022 General Plan Annual Progress Report on April 11, 2023.

The Planning Commission received and filed the 2023 Housing Element Annual Progress Report on April 9, 2024.

CEQA RECOMMENDATION: Not a “Project” under CEQA pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15378(b)(5).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file

REQUESTED ACTION: None

CITY COUNCIL MEETING REQUIRED: ☒ YES ☐ NO

REPORT APPROVALS: ☐ Dare DeLano, Senior Deputy City Attorney

☒ Veronica Morones, City Planner



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BACKGROUND

The General Plan is the City's blueprint for the future of development. It serves as a guiding document for how the City of Escondido will grow and meet the future needs of its residents by establishing a vision, along with goals, policies, and programs to enact the community vision. The Escondido City Council adopted a comprehensive update to the General Plan on December 12, 2012. Since the update, City decision-makers continue to implement the General Plan.

Government Code sections 65400 and 65700 mandates cities and counties submit annual reports on their general plan, including progress on its implementation, by April 1st of each year to various state agencies. The annual report gives state agencies the opportunity to identify statewide trends in land use decision-making and how local planning and development activities relate to statewide planning goals and policies. There is no required format for reporting on the General Plan other than identifying progress made for all General Plans chapters within the last calendar year, with exception of the Housing Element. Housing Elements are subject to their own required form as supplied by the State Department of Housing and Community Development, which the Planning Commission and City Council received and filed earlier this year. The General Plan annual progress report ("General Plan APR") covers implementation actions and progress made for each of the General Plan's 10 chapters.

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Receive and file the 2023 General Plan APR, documenting the City's progress on implementing the General Plan for the 2023 calendar year.

SUPPLEMENTAL DETAILS OF REQUEST

The General Plan APR provides a qualitative evaluation on the implementation of the General Plan, which includes, but is not limited to, topics such as transportation, housing, community and civic engagement, safety, and conservation. The annual progress report facilitates reflection by decision-makers, staff, and the public and sparks questions like: are the City's General Plan programs effective; and, should City leadership elevate any priorities? Deliberation from decision-makers provides City leadership with an opportunity to determine areas of improvement for future years.

State law governing general plans requires staff provide City Council with the annual progress report by April 1st of each year. However, due to staffing capacity and resource issues, the item was not completed and ready for review until June of 2024. There are no repercussions outlined in the statute for submitting the General Plan APR late, therefore staff are continuing to move forward by presenting to Planning Commission and subsequently to City Council.

PROJECT ANALYSIS

The matrix below summarizes each element, their objective, and notable implementation actions that took place during the 2023 calendar year:

**Note: The matrix below contains links that provide additional resources and information. Readers are encouraged to review and learn more.*



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General Plan Chapter	Objective	Notable Implementation Actions (2023 Calendar Year)
Land Use and Community Form	Determine where residential, employment, commercial, recreational, open space activities would occur within the City in order to create balanced communities	City issued building permits for 420 units for the Palomar Heights mixed-use development, increasing the City's progress in achieving our regional housing need allocation (RHNA).
Mobility and Infrastructure	Evaluate public utilities and the transportation network including local streets, bike lanes, sidewalks, water and sewer to improve public infrastructure	Staff kicked off the Comprehensive Active Transportation Strategy (CATS), which will inform an update to Mobility and Infrastructure chapter. The engineering department collected public input in person and virtually. Online community feedback can be viewed on Social Pinpoint.
Housing	Identify goals, policies, and programs that will help meet the City's future housing needs	Per State law, Housing Elements must be updated every eight years and certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The City received certification of the Housing Element by the State in December of 2023.
Community Health and Services	Improve access to healthy foods, parks, recreation, and civic engagement	In 2023, the City promoted public health and welfare by organizing various recreation programs including soccer, softball, hockey tournaments, and childcare services.
Community Protection	Address emergency response including police services, fire, among other hazards	The Fire Department operated with an average response time of 7-minutes and 34-seconds, four seconds off of the General Plan's Quality of Life Standard of 7-minutes and 30-seconds. The Police Department (PD) maintained 2.5 million dollars' worth of grants funding PD programs and positions.
Resource and Conservation	Conserve Escondido's natural and scenic resources by protecting resources like agriculture, energy, and water quality	Engineering achieved 90% design for the Kit Karson Park bridge project, bringing it one step closer to completion.
Growth Management	Balance the timing between infrastructure improvements and population growth to improve public services	City Council set the citywide CFD levy to \$0.00, and subsequently rescinded the citywide CFD.



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Economic Prosperity	Promote the long- term vitality of Escondido’s local economy	City Council adopted the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) on June 7, 2023 highlighting strengths and areas of economic improvement for the City.
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More information on the General Plan’s elements and implementation actions can be found in the 2023 General Plan APR report, found under Attachment 1.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

There are no direct fiscal impacts associated with this progress report.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The General Plan Annual Progress Report is a reporting document and does not create or alter policy. The content is provided for informational purposes only and is not considered a “Project” under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), CEQA guidelines section 15378(b)(5). This informational item provides a means to monitor the success of implementing the General Plan and review what was implemented during the 12-month reporting period. All counties and cities in the state are required to submit the annual report pursuant to Government Code section 65400.

PUBLIC INPUT

City staff received no public comment as of the publishing date of this report.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023 General Plan Annual Progress Report