

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Agenda Item No.: H.1  
Date: December 14, 2021

DATE: December 14, 2021

TO: Planning Commissioners

FROM: Veronica Morones, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: General Plan Housing Element, Community Protection Chapter Updates,  
Environmental Justice Element

---

On August 11, 2021, the City Council adopted the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element Update for the 2021-2029 period. City staff received comments from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (“HCD”) on August 10, 2021, requesting additional information and clarification on the document. Staff is working with the City’s consultant, Veronica Tam and Associates, to finalize the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element for certification through HCD.

Government Code section 65302 requires a city to update the safety element of its general plan to address information regarding fire hazards and climate adaptation and resiliency. Government Code section 65302 also requires a city to prepare an environmental justice element upon the concurrent revision of two or more general plan elements (i.e., Housing Element and Safety Element updates).

The Escondido General Plan’s Community Protection Chapter serves as the Safety Element for purposes of meeting statutory requirements contained in Government Code section 65302. Therefore, an update to the City’s Community Protection chapter of the General Plan and creation of a new general plan element to address environmental justice are required pursuant to state law. Concurrent with finalizing the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element for certification through the state, staff will update the Community Protection chapter and add a new general plan element focused on environmental justice. Staff intends to conduct community outreach and engagement for public input on all three documents (i.e., housing element revisions per HCD’s comments, Community Protection chapter updates, and new environmental justice element) concurrently. However, the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element Update would conclude prior to the Community Protection and environmental justice process because it is further along in the update process. Staff anticipates the final housing element document going before City Council by the end of May 2022.

Staff formally kicked off this process in the second half of November 2021. The intent of this agenda item is to inform the Planning Commission of the update process moving forward, and provide an outline of the proposed general plan update schedule, as detailed in Table A below.

# PLANNING COMMISSION

**Table A – Draft Schedule**

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