



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New City of San Diego Development Code Updates Provide Neighborhood Improvements

COMMUNITY GARDENS, 5G CONNECTIVITY AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES AMONG CITY COUNCIL-APPROVED UPDATES FOR 2021

SAN DIEGO – Today, the San Diego City Council approved a number changes to the [Land Development Code Update](#) in an effort to streamline processes, achieve compliance with state policy and meet the needs of residents who advocate for improvements to their neighborhoods.

Among the [33 code updates](#), which regulate the development and use of properties, community gardens will now be allowed in designated Open Space parks, the process to install 5G fiber optic equipment will be faster and will provide communities more reliable access to internet connectivity, and changes to the code will incentivize developers to build larger child care facilities.

“These code updates are essential to keeping our City in line with land use changes and helping conform to the City’s climate, equity, housing and conservation goals,” said Mike Hansen, the City’s Planning Director. **“Many times, it’s residents who notice changes they would like to see within their communities. We encourage everyone to submit their ideas and be involved in the process.”**

The City makes updates to the Land Development Code yearly and this update includes clarifications, regulatory reform and changes to bring the City in compliance with state law. City staff are now collecting ideas from residents for next year’s Code Update.

Suggestions can be submitted year-round, but ideas for the 2022 Code Update will conclude on March 31, 2022. Residents are encouraged to submit their ideas online by visiting the City Planning Department [webpage](#).

Changes in the 2021 Code Update are contained in two ordinances, the [General Zoning](#) and [Fiber Optic](#), and include:

- **Clarification to Complete Communities Housing Solutions and Mobility Choices initiatives:** Adds additional options for recreational amenities, improved incentives for housing production and makes it easier to utilize the program on sites where there is already development.
- **ADA Parking Within Transit Priority Areas:** Accessible parking and accessible passenger loading zones would be required when no parking spaces are provided on-site.
- **Speakers at Virtual Meetings:** Amended definition makes it easier for those who wish to speak at public hearings.
- **Affordable Housing Downtown:** Amendment will continue to encourage the development of employment uses within the Downtown Employee Overlay Zone, while simultaneously allowing for flexibility to address the City's housing needs. The regulations will ensure the area remains the heart of Downtown's urban core with dense buildings and active street-level commercial activities and adds residences within walking distances of jobs and amenities.
- **Reduced Parking for Home Occupations:** With more people working from home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this amendment reduces the required amount of off-street parking spaces.
- **Apartment Shared Common Spaces:** Allows for new apartment building projects to provide common outdoor spaces in place of private requirements that currently exist, like balconies. An example of a common outdoor space could be a private courtyard in the complex.
- **Size of Public Notices:** Public notices on development sites will be larger so they are more readable and protected from inclement weather.
- **Artisan Food and Beverage Producers in Industrial Zones:** Allows artisan food and beverage producers in industrial zones for consistency with light manufacturing use.
- **Community Gardens:** Allows for the ability to construct and maintain community gardens in designated Open Space park areas with the approval of the City's Parks and Recreation Director or Open Space Division Land Management Staff.
- **Childcare Facilities:** Incentivizes more and larger childcare facilities.
- **Fiber Optic Installation:** Allows internet service providers (ISPs) to quickly make changes due to the rise in data connectivity. With this change, internet reliability and capacity will be upgraded to replace other dated infrastructures throughout the City of San Diego.

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