



City Council Meeting
Public Comments
November 20, 2024

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email lsackfield@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 11/20/2024

Item # Oral communication

Subject Public comments

Position No Position

First and Last Name Leila Sackfield

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Public Comment for Escondido City Council Meeting

Good evening, Mayor, Councilmembers, and members of the public,

I would like to take a moment to celebrate the efforts of the Measure I committee and the collective work that led to its passage. This is not just a victory for the committee or its supporters—it is a victory for the entire Escondido community. It is a testament to the power of community engagement and what we can achieve when we come together with a shared vision for the future.

With Measure I's success, the momentum is here. We urge the City Council to seize this opportunity and capitalize on the trust and energy created by this moment. One of the most critical steps in doing so is ensuring that the oversight committee is empowered to serve as a true partner to the Council. Together, we can envision a more vibrant, healthy, and inclusive Escondido for all residents.

Those of us who supported Measure I did so because we understood the kinds of assets and services that were at risk of being cut. Many in the community worked tirelessly to ensure that this measure could provide the revenue needed to protect and sustain the vital elements that make Escondido the city we love—such as the California Center for the Arts, the senior center, public library and essential public safety resources.

But this measure is about more than saving what we have; it's about building something better. Let us envision together a safe, thriving Escondido where arts and culture are defining features of our identity, where we are known throughout the region for compassionately caring for our elderly and marginalized residents, where our neighborhoods are safe and welcoming, and where innovative economic development becomes the hallmark of our city.

This vision can only be realized through true collaboration, transparency, and a shared commitment to putting Escondido's future first. Measure I provides us with the much needed resources. Now it's up to all of us—City Council, a carefully selected oversight committee, and the community at large—to ensure that these resources are used effectively and equitably to achieve our collective goals.

Let's make this the beginning of a new chapter for Escondido, where the promise of Measure I is fulfilled in ways that will benefit generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leila Sackfield

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email fcarbajal@peaceangerlove.org

Council Meeting Date November 20, 2024

Item # n/a

Subject Victim-Centered Rights to Restorative Justice

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Francisco Carbajal

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Re the question, are you an Escondido Resident? I'm a home owner in Escondido, but my parent's live there. I grew up in Escondido and still have many family members living there.

My name is Francisco Carbajal, founder of Peace Anger Love and California Restorative Justice Policy Coalition member. I'm here to share some important information about restorative justice diversion programs, which, as you know, have gained more traction in recent years as an effective approach to addressing crime and its impacts on victims and communities.

As mentioned to this Council last year, the bipartisan Assembly Bill 60 was signed into law on January 1st of this year, marking a significant step forward in providing victims with greater rights and options in the justice system. This legislation specifically grants all victims the right to access restorative justice diversion at the time of an arrest, which can create a more supportive and healing process for those affected by crime. The California Restorative Justice Policy Coalition and local nonprofit partners will be reaching out to multiple communities to ensure they are aware of this new law.

As we look ahead, it's noteworthy that, in early 2025, this provision will be formally included in Marsy's (victims') Card and Resources document. This inclusion is vital, as it ensures that victims are made aware of their rights and the available avenues for restorative justice. It empowers them to make informed choices about how they wish to proceed following an incident.

Moreover, I want to emphasize the importance of law enforcement agencies in this process. By now, the Escondido Police Department should have established multiple memorandums of understanding and agreements with various official nonprofit-run diversion programs. These collaborations are essential for creating pathways that allow cases to be adequately diverted from the traditional criminal justice system.

Restorative justice diversion not only aims to address the needs of victims but also encourages accountability from offenders in a way that promotes rehabilitation. It's proven to decrease re-offending dramatically. Through these programs, we can work toward continuing to build a safer Escondido community while recognizing the humanity of all individuals involved in the justice process. It's an exciting time for restorative justice, and I look forward to seeing how these changes positively impact

Escondido in the near future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at fcarbajal@peaceangerlove.org or via phone at 858-663-8617. Thank you!

24 OCT 22 PM 12:38:15
ESCONDIDO_CITY_CLERK

TO: **City of Escondido**
Office of the City Clerk
201 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

FROM: CHRISTINE TRAN

Saturday October 12, 2024

City of Escondido
Office of the City Clerk

To Whom It May Concern:

I received the letter from **ESCONDIDO DISPOSAL, INC.** on Saturday October 12, 2024. I am **protesting AGAINST** this Annual Residential Solid Waste Rate **Increase**.

I am a senior citizen and I don't think it's fair at all to have this increase for a period of 5 years.

I am Christine Tran, the property owner of my home. I have been living in Escondido for well over 30 years. My address is listed below:

1042 N. Ash Street
Escondido, CA 92027

Sincerely,



Christine Tran

24 OCT 29 PM 9:45:10
ESCONDIDO CITY CLERK

TO: **City of Escondido**
Office of the City Clerk
201 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

FROM: FRANCISCO SANCHEZ

Saturday October 12, 2024

City of Escondido
Office of the City Clerk

To Whom It May Concern:

I received the letter from **ESCONDIDO DISPOSAL, INC.** I am protesting **AGAINST** this Annual Residential Solid Waste Rate Increase.

I am a senior citizen and I don't think it's fair at all to have this increase for a period of 5 years.

I am Francisco Sanchez, the property owner of my home. I have been living in Escondido for 19 years. My address is listed below:

2048 Alexander Drive
Escondido, CA 92025

Sincerely,

Francisco Sanchez
Francisco Sanchez

Written Protest against Escondido Annual Residential Solid Waste Rate Increase

To: City of Escondido- Office of the City Clerk

My name is Minh Cao Vu, my address is 126 N Rose St, Escondido, CA 92027. I am writing this letter together with other Escondido residents to protest against the city proposed Residential Solid Waste Rate increase.

I don't think increasing the rate is a good idea because we have been in a very terrible economic situation already. Lots of people lose job, the unemployment rate of August 2024 is 5% which is higher than last year 2023 at 4.4%. Gas price is climbing again, it increased \$1.78 per gallons in September this year. California is already famous for the highest gas price in the country. Moreover, groceries also crazily increased, food price is going up 28% in 5 years. As you already knew egg prices peaked at almost \$6.00 per dozen in the beginning of this year. People are becoming vegetarians because they go shopping for just vegetable and bread! Furthermore, the inflation rate is high 2.4% at the end of September 2024, nobody can afford buying a house. We just barely make ends meet with very humble income nowadays. According to Escondido city CPI calculations, you want to increase \$1.19 monthly. At first sight, it looks nothing, but it would turn out $\$1.19 \times 12 = \14.28 increase per year.

In conclusion, increasing the rate is not necessary and only causing frustration to the people. I hope that Escondido city would not do that. Please carefully consider to the interest of all residents in our beautiful city of Escondido. We would be really appreciated this!

Sincerely,

11/01/2024



Minh Vu

Resources:

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2024/09/20/san-diego-jobless-rate-hits-5-is-that-good-or-bad/>

<https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/nation/california/2024/09/16/why-are-gas-prices-going-up-in-california-2024/75248862007/>

<https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/finance/price-of-food>

https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/#google_vignette

Steven Sivitz / Marilyn Vaughn
1405 Valle Grande
Escondido, CA 92025
sivitz1949@gmail.com

October 14, 2024

City of Escondido
Office of the City Clerk
201 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

RE: Public Hearing; Annual Residential Solid Waste Rate Increase

Dear City Council,

My wife, Marilyn Vaughn, I and are commenting on the possible solid waste rate increase. We have lived in Escondido for over 30 years with residential waste removal service by Escondido Disposal (EDCO). We applaud the City's steps to have waste disposal be more environmentally friendly, such as accepting food waste with vegetation waste.

EDCO's service has been reliable and efficient. We are disappointed that they have ~~reduced the volume of the landfill and recyclable containers several years ago. This was~~ apparent when we needed container replacements. During the same period, the monthly residential fee has regularly increased. We are getting less for more money.

Any increase in residential fees needs to be justified by a third party carefully auditing increases in EDCO operating expenses. If it is deemed necessary to increase fees, the maximum calculation **should not** be administered. Both the City and EDCO must accept a lower monthly amount in the franchise fee and base rate, respectively.

EDCO has a locked-in customer base. Residential waste removal is a necessity with no reasonable alternative to the City's specified contractor. Making it more expensive encourages residents to find alternatives, which usually have a detrimental impact on neighborhoods, open space, or commercial facilities.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully,



Steven Sivitz



Marilyn Vaughn

24 OCT 28 PM 1:14:34
ESCONDIDO CITY CLERK

City Council,

Residential Solid waste increases, I STRONGLY OPPOSE any residential solid waste increases and FUTURE increases. As many will say, including myself, it is very expensive to live in Escondido.

We need to stop the increases and find ways to budget the current money from rates paid by customers.

Sincerely,



Danny Greene

Email: dsearch50@yahoo.com.

City of Escondido,
Parcel 224-850-12-0
Zellmer Family Trust
-25-781

OCT 24 AM 10:39:10
ESCONDIDO CITY CLERK

I am writing you in protest of the residential solid waste rate increase and automatic pass-through adjustments for 5 years.

The current US inflation rate is 2.5% and Social Security just released a COLA of 2.5%, which is lower than the past few years.

The COLA for Social Security recipients is only 2.5%. Then medicare part B & D will increase, lowering the COLA.

My work has not given me a COL (cost of living) increase in years.

Therefore giving the Contractor and the city franchise fee a 4% raise is unreasonable. It is essentially a pay cut for me.

If the government only recognizes a 2.5% inflation rate, why is my city government charging 4% inflation. I understand the needs for increases, but keep it the same. (2.5%)

Dorothy K. Zellmer

City of Escondido,

10-14-20

24 OCT 21 PM 03:51:56
ESCONDIDO_CTY_CLERK

Parcel 231-160-22-00

I am writing you in protest of the residential solid waste rate increase and automatic pass-through adjustments for 5 years.

The current US inflation rate is 2.5% and Social Security just released a COLA of 2.5%, which is lower than the past few years.

The COLA for Social Security recipients is only 2.5%. Then medicare part B & D will increase, lowering the COLA.

My work has not given me a COL (cost of living) increase in years.

Therefore giving the Contractor and the city franchise fee a 4% raise is unreasonable. It is essentially a pay cut for me.

If the government only recognizes a 2.5% inflation rate, why is my city government charging 4% inflation. I understand the needs for increases, but keep it the same. (2.5%)!

Thank-you
Barbara McCann



November 14th, 2024

Regarding project at CCP / Mission - PL24-0057, PL22-0396, PL22-0397, PL22-0398, PL24-0198

To City of Escondido – City Councilmembers,

In collaboration with city staff, our team has developed a comprehensive plan that is now ready for council approval following a unanimous recommendation from the Planning Commission on October 7th. This project includes nationally recognized tenants, with leases executed with Starbucks and Chipotle, and significant offsite improvements that will enhance safety and provide meaningful benefits to the community.

As we previously discussed, the project encountered delays when the initial tenants withdrew due to high offsite costs, leading to additional out-of-pocket expenses and revenue loss for our investors. This necessitated a complete reset of the tenant mix. We are now pleased to move forward with a revised plan and are grateful for the partnership with city staff in reaching this stage.

This development is projected to generate approximately \$130,000 annually in direct fiscal benefits to the City of Escondido through increased sales tax, property tax, and TOT tax. Our planned offsite improvements, with an investment between \$1.5 million and \$1.9 million based on recent GC bids, will significantly enhance safety, traffic flow, and aesthetics along CCP and Mission. These offsite enhancements represent a substantial portion of our project budget and demonstrate our commitment to supporting community improvements.

Given the scale of these contributions, we respectfully request fee relief for this project. Despite the fee credits for the existing building, city fees remain above \$400,000 not including fees contributed from the aborted project. Specifically, we seek additional waivers for the \$179,000 traffic impact fee and the \$43,500 access rights fee for CCP, as we believe the significant benefits provided by our offsite investments merit this consideration.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration. We look forward to your feedback on the project and the positive impact it will bring to the City of Escondido.

Best regards,
Nilesh Patel

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nilesh Patel", written over a horizontal line.

Managing Member, 503 W Mission LLC

Project delivers multiple tangible benefits to City of Escondido

**\$1.5M -
\$1.9M**

Invested in offsites to create an **aesthetically pleasing gateway** into Escondido

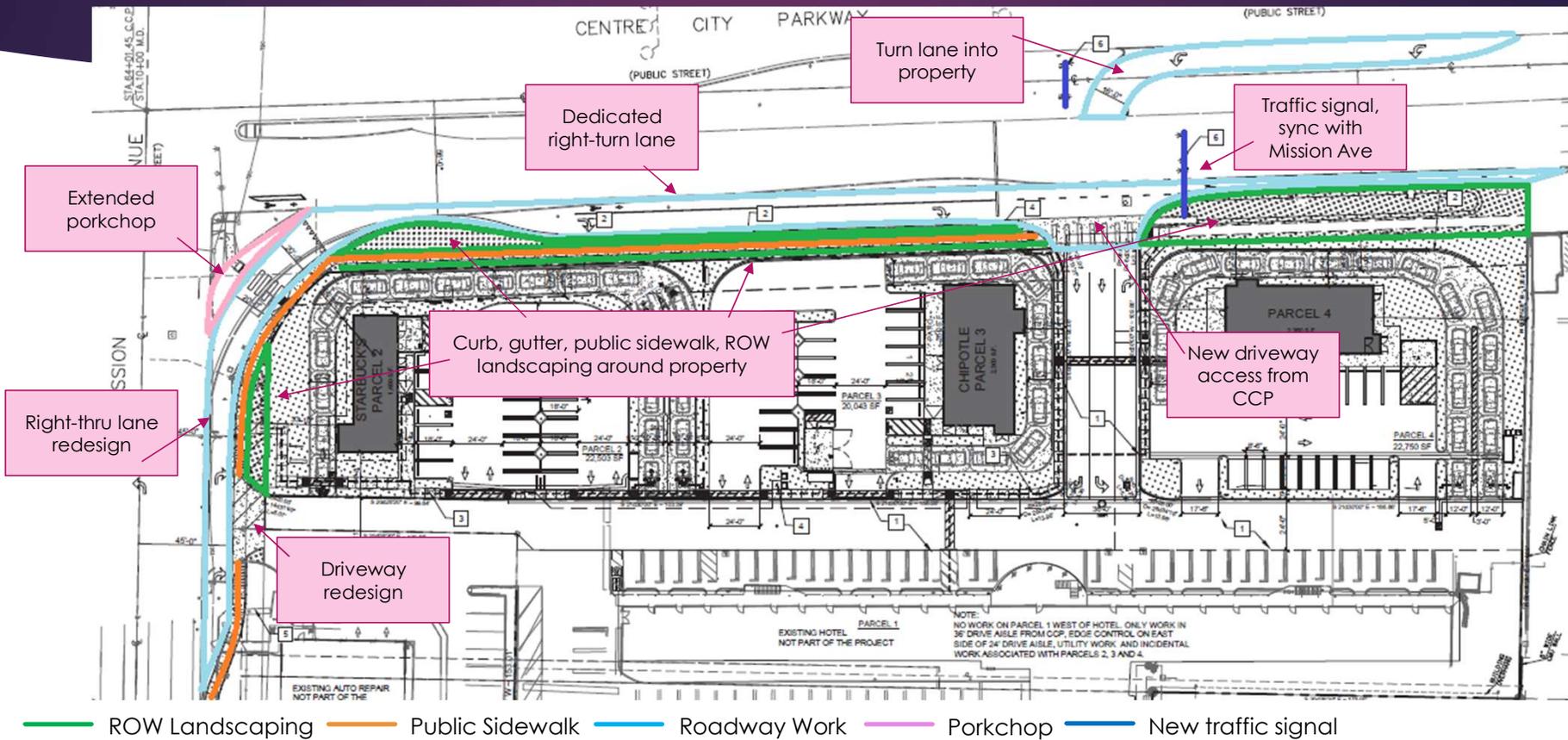
~\$1.5M

Estimated **cumulative direct fiscal tax** revenue for Escondido over 10 years

50+

Full and part time **permanent jobs created**²

Investing ~\$1.4M - \$1.9M (per GC bid) for offsites to improve safety and traffic for Escondido



Estimated \$130K+ annual fiscal direct benefit to City of Escondido

Est. direct fiscal benefit for City of Escondido



~\$1.5M +

Estimated cumulative tax revenue for Escondido over 10 years

Requesting waiver of \$43.5K access right fee and ~\$180K traffic impact fee

City of Escondido Est Fees (after credit given for existing building)	Total (\$)
Traffic Impact	\$179,541
Access Rights to CCP	\$43,500
Plan check & building permit	\$121,421
Water connection & Public Facility	\$61,330
Other	\$5,804
Grand Total	\$411,596

Requested Fee Waivers:

1. Traffic Impact Fees - \$179,541

Rationale: Our offsite improvements, including the inclusion of a new traffic signal to promote safety and improve offsite traffic

2. Center City Access fee - \$43,500

Rationale: Same fee used for project across the street; however, the scope of that project differ significantly from our own.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email jasona@cleantechsandiego.org

Council Meeting Date November 20, 2024

Item # 18

Subject EXTENSION OF INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE PROHIBITING NEW COMMERCIAL BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Jason Anderson

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Dear Mayor White and Councilmembers:

On behalf of Cleantech San Diego, please accept this letter regarding the proposed extension of the ordinance prohibiting battery energy storage systems (BESS) projects in the City of Escondido.

As background, Cleantech San Diego is a member-based business organization founded 17 years ago to position the San Diego region as a leader in the cleantech economy. We represent the renewable energy industry, a critical sector that employs close to 42,000 people in our region and has a \$9.9 billion impact on our regional economy.

Battery storage projects are not only critical for keeping the electric grid operating reliably for our communities and businesses, but they are also essential to achieving our goals of 100 percent renewable energy. They provide a necessary energy resource to ensure our region does not face blackouts during extreme weather conditions such as heat waves.

The San Diego region has always been a leader in renewable energy generation and as a result, was an early adopter of battery storage. As the battery storage industry has evolved and technology has advanced, so have the types of projects and ways in which they are designed and constructed. Battery storage projects today are built with the latest in technology and safety with highly advanced emergency monitoring and protocols in place to ensure they pose little risk to surrounding areas. In addition, the BESS industry follows a robust set of established national codes and safety standards to guide planning, developing, and operating each energy storage project.

As you consider the proposed extension, it is our hope that you will take into account the many economic, workforce, and sustainability benefits of BESS projects in our region. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Jason Anderson

President and CEO, Cleantech San Diego

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email cara@publichouseconsulting.net

Council Meeting Date November 20, 2024

Item # Item 18. EXTENSION OF INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE PROHIBITING NEW COMMERCIAL BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CITY OF ESC

Subject Oppose BESS Moratorium

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Scott Murtishaw

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

November 19, 2024

Mayor & City Council Members

City of Escondido

201 North Broadway

Escondido, CA 92025

RE: Item 18. EXTENSION OF INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE PROHIBITING NEW COMMERCIAL BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO

Dear Mayor White and City Council Members:

On behalf of the California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA), I write to oppose the extension of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) moratorium in the City of Escondido.

CESA is a 501(c)(6) membership-based advocacy group committed to advancing the role of energy storage in the electric power sector. We strive to advance a more affordable, efficient, reliable, safe, and sustainable electric power system for all Californians. CESA supports safety measures for BESS to protect public safety. However, CESA strongly opposes a moratorium on battery energy storage system (BESS) projects. There are several reasons deployment of BESS should not be delayed.

Energy storage is essential for maintaining a reliable grid.

BESS is a crucial piece of the energy mix for California and local jurisdictions to meet their electric reliability and decarbonization goals. The thousands of megawatts (MW) of energy storage deployed since 2020 have played a critical role in preventing grid emergencies, despite the intensity of the recent heat wave. However, much more energy storage is needed. Thousands of additional MW of BESS will be necessary in the next few years to meet load growth from electric vehicles and data centers at the same time we must retire the state's remaining nuclear and once through-cooling gas-fired power plants.

Energy storage plays a key role in meeting state and local environmental goals.

As the City implements its climate action plan, we believe BESS will play a critical role to helping the city achieve its climate and energy goals, including the electrification of the transportation sector and the necessary associated infrastructure. Additionally, the Governor's Office estimates the state will need 52,000 MW of energy storage by 2045 to accomplish our greenhouse gas mitigation goals. Attaining these goals, which will help mitigate the negative impact of fires, droughts, and floods due to climate change, depends on the aggressive deployment of BESS to store renewable energy for use when customers need it.

BESS is safe.

California has deployed over 10,000 megawatts (MW) of energy storage, including 175 utility-scale facilities and over 150,000 customer-sited systems. Although a few incidents of overheating or thermal runaway have occurred in California since 2021, no one has been harmed, including first responders or members of the public. No air monitoring conducted near

the BESS facilities during overheating or runaway incidents has found any level of air emissions of concern to public health. Regarding the most recent safety incident in San Diego County, Escondido Fire Dept. Division Chief Batson stated "There were no readings of toxic fumes even real close to where the fire was – even as close as five feet." Furthermore, after more thorough water and air quality testing by San Diego County HAZMAT and Haley and Aldrich, Inc., data showed that "all readings taken were well below acceptable exposure limits and considered expected readings during a routine structure fire." These findings are consistent with air monitoring results of incidents in California and elsewhere.

CESA supports the development of emergency response plans, as established by Senate Bill 38 (Chapters 377, 2023). This law requires BESS owners and operators to work with local jurisdictions to develop comprehensive safety plans. Additionally, the California Public Utilities Commission is expected to finalize rules for a BESS inspection program by the end of this year. Together, these requirements ensure that BESS facilities adhere to the highest safety standards and that adequate safety protocols are in place. CESA supports reasonable development standards for BESS, and respectfully urges you to direct staff to use publicly available regulations and models from other jurisdictions to develop BESS standards. We stand ready to be a technical resource and to continue to work with your staff to provide additional information and resources.

We respectfully urge you to reject an extension of the moratorium on BESS facilities and work collaboratively with developers and the community to site this critical infrastructure, ensuring that adequate safety requirements are incorporated as part of the permitting process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at scott@storagealliance.org.

Sincerely,

Scott Murtishaw

Executive Director, CESA



November 18, 2024

The Honorable Dane White
Mayor, City of Escondido
201 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

RE: NOVEMBER 20, 2024 ESCONDIDO CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEM 18 - EXTENSION OF INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE PROHIBITING NEW COMMERCIAL BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CITY OF ESCONDIDO

Dear Mayor White,

We are writing on behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) of San Diego to provide comments regarding the proposal to extend the interim urgency ordinance prohibiting new battery energy storage systems (BESS) within the City of Escondido. The item is scheduled to appear as Item 18 on the November 20, 2024 Escondido City Council Meeting Agenda. We appreciate your dedication to our communities and to ensuring the safety of BESS facilities.

NECA San Diego is the trade association for union electrical contractors and is the leading provider of highly skilled and trained electrical apprentices in San Diego and Imperial Counties. As a construction industry stakeholder dedicated to the safety of our workers and community, we are writing to share our concerns regarding the absence of safety standards pertaining to qualified workers on BESS facilities in the City of Escondido. As you consider future BESS safety regulations, we are requesting the inclusion of minimum workforce standards for BESS as follows: **Require that all future installation, maintenance, modification, commissioning and decommissioning of BESS facilities with an energy capacity greater than 80kWh be performed by C-10 licensed contractors.** We also request that a NECA representative be given the opportunity to participate in any future industry stakeholder meetings on BESS regulations.

The voice of the nearly \$300 billion national electrical construction industry, NECA is comprised of more than 70,000 electrical contracting firms employing over 650,000 electrical workers. Our Chapter proudly represents the best electrical contractors in the industry who bring power, light, and communication technology to buildings and communities throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties. We provide industry-leading education, advocacy and member support to our electrical contractors and manage and fund the Electrical Training Institute (ETI) in partnership with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 569.

ETI supports nearly 900 apprentices, representing approximately 75% of all electrical and sound technician apprentices in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Our contractors, employees, and electricians are the future of our region's electrical contracting industry. The instruction provided at ETI covers every aspect of electrical work essential to cultivating the highly skilled electrical apprentices needed to support our region. Our apprentices receive rigorous training in electrical theory, practical skills, and safety standards, preparing them to meet the demands of the modern electrical trade. This includes a

specific certification for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) installation and maintenance, known as ESAMTAC (Energy Storage and Microgrid Training and Certification), an industry-leading national training and certification program developed through a partnership between NECA, IBEW, Penn State and others.

C-10 Electrical Contractors

The requirement that C-10 licensed contractors perform work on BESS is necessary to ensure the work is being done by the most qualified individuals. California Code of Regulations (Title 16, Division 8, Article 3. Classifications) defines the work scope of a C-10 certified electrical contractor as follows:

An electrical contractor places, installs, erects or connects any electrical wires, fixtures, appliances, apparatus, raceways, conduits, solar photovoltaic cells or any part thereof, which generate, transmit, transform or utilize electrical energy in any form or for any purpose.

The C-10 licensed contractor requirement will not only ensure the expertise of the contractors, but also of every individual performing electrical work on site. As stated by the Department of Industrial Relations related to the Electrical Certification Program:

Existing law requires that persons performing work as electrician under a C-10 licensed contractor be certified pursuant to certification standards established by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement. "Electricians" is defined as all persons who engage in the connection of electrical devices for electrical contractors licensed pursuant to Section 7058 of the Business and Profession Code, specifically, contractors classified as electrical contractors in the Contractors State License Board Rules and Regulations [Labor Code § 108 (c)].¹

Without the C-10 license requirement, our communities will remain at risk of having work on BESS projects performed by unqualified workers, including those who would otherwise be prohibited from performing electrical work. Given the increased complexity and level of danger posed by large BESS facilities, establishing a minimum standard of requiring a C-10 license contractor is a necessary next step to protecting our communities.

Thank you again for your work to enhance the safety of BESS facilities. We stand ready to assist your efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Maxson at rmaxson@necasandiego.org or (202) 689-5563.

Sincerely,



Andy Berg
Executive Director



Ryan Maxson
Assistant Executive Director

¹ Electrician Certification Program. (2024). Retrieved from State of California Department of Industrial Relations: <https://www.dir.ca.gov>