# FISCAL YEAR REPORT



# **2023 CITY COUNCIL**

**TONY KRANZ** 

Mayor

**ALLISON BLACKWELL** 

District 1

**KELLIE SHAY HINZE** 

District 2

**JOY LYNDES** 

Deputy Mayor, District 3

**BRUCE EHLERS** 

District 4

**PAMELA ANTIL** 

City Manager

The Encinitas City Council typically meets on the second, third and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.



505 South Vulcan Avenue | Encinitas, CA 92024 760.633.2600 | encinitasca.gov

# **CITY HALL HOURS**

Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Every other Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. City Hall, Public Works, and San Dieguito Water District offices are closed every other Friday.

Development Services Counter Hours: Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Every other Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Connect with the City of Encinitas on social media:















# **HELLO, ENCINITAS!**

Another year has gone by, and it is time to reflect on the City's accomplishments from the past fiscal year. The City of Encinitas has, once again, proven its resiliency and steadfast determination, during the winter storm season. I am proud of how our community and staff came together and were able to lift each other up in a time of unprecedented weather in the region.

This report will highlight each of the department's achievements and illustrate how they continue to work tirelessly for the community. I appreciate everything they do to make Encinitas the best it can be. Along with the City Council's leadership and community input, we work to protect and safeguard our residents, balance our budget, and be a responsible environmental steward.

During the past year, we made great strides towards our climate action plan goals, which included publishing our fifth comprehensive



Climate Action Plan (CAP) Annual Monitoring Report. This report includes notable City actions and data tracked through 2022. Of the twenty measures in the CAP, fourteen have been completed, five are in progress, and one is awaiting resources.

Another one of our priorities strives for safe and more efficient infrastructure that connects the community for all modes of transportation. Significant mobility enhancements were completed in the 2022-23 fiscal year, including the El Portal Rail Undercrossing, Trail 95, and Leucadia Streetscape Phase I and Segment B/C Mobility Striping segments, to name a few.

Another major accomplishment was the City's website redesign. Our team worked hard to improve the website and highlight our online services, including two new hubs for request submissions and data access. Both hubs have

been tremendously successful in helping the community locate valuable information and submit requests in one centralized place. In fact, 95% of the permit applications submitted this year were done online. This achievement was no small task, and I am excited to see what enhancements will be added to the website in the coming year.

Seeing everything we accomplished fills me with appreciation for our City Council and staff. Their hard work resulted in the achievement of our annual goals and continues to move the needle forward in Encinitas.

Sincerely,

Pamela Antil City Manager, City of Encinitas

# BY THE NUMBERS

AMOUNT DESCRIPTION

New electric bikeshare charging docks

New electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall









AMOUNT DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT DESCRIPTION

Calls responded to by the Sheriff's Department

\$\frac{1}{5}\$ Earned in sales tax

People found housing through HOPE program

Paid towards unfunded pension liability

Number of calls for service answered with PERT units

Incidents responded to by the Fire Department

Marine Safety calls for service

Hours of training completed for Fire Department personnel AMOUNT DESCRIPTION

Miles of resurfaced streets

Potholes filled within 24 hours

Repaired Streetlights

75,725 Trees maintainted

Community parks maintained

Attempted cyber brea blocked by the City's firewall

Attempted cyber breaches

Increase in online HUB service requests

myEncinitas videos streamed







Tons of silt or vegetation removed from City permitted

Cubic yards of debris removed from storm drains

Miles of underground stormwater pipelines

Miles of sewer pipelines maintained

Miles of water mains maintained

Gallons of water saved through process automation

Signs replaced

Total code inspections

Graffiti removed in

# tinancial

Encinitas' financial outlook is positive at the end of Fiscal Year 2022-2023, having successfully developed a balanced and fully funded budget for the upcoming fiscal year

The City started Fiscal Year 2022-2023 with a reported budget surplus of \$3.1 million from Fiscal Year 2021-2022, which reflects our history of responsible spending and strong revenues. With this surplus, the City was able to pay down a portion of its unfunded pension liabilities and be able to invest more than \$3.8 million on important capital improvement projects such as roads, trails, park improvements, drainage, facility maintenance and transportation safety enhancements. The City funded additional streets in the Annual Overlay Program, the next phase of the Citywide Rail Corridor Quiet Zone, the Encinitas Habitat Stewardship Program, studies for the Leucadia At-Grade Rail Crossings, and Santa Fe Drive Corridor Improvements.

The City enjoys a AAA bond rating, which is the highest rating issued, and is a reflection of Encinitas' strong economy and financial planning by the City Council and staff.

The City of Encinitas operates on a one-year budget cycle. The Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget, per the City's policy, was reviewed by staff and City Council before the start of the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2023.

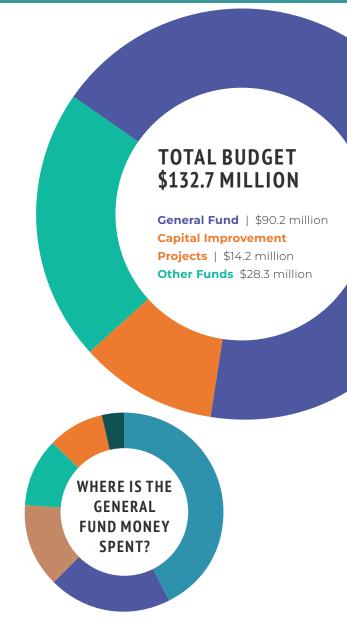
During this review and approal process, the City projected continued revenue growth due to increased residential real estate values at a modest pace and a tourism industry that has rebounded. The City maintains a balanced budget providing services to the residents, businesses and community.

The City's reserves are fully funded at \$20 million and provide for emergencies and recession planning.

The City was awarded a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Fiscal Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 budget. The City meets the program criteria of publishing a budget document as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide and as a communications devise. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

In August 2022, GFOA also awarded the City a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Fiscal Year 2020-2021 annual comprehensive financial report. This honor represents a significant accomplishment by a government agency and its management.

A detailed budget is available on the City's website. and visual representations of Encinitas financials can be found at: encinitasca.opengov.com.



Public Safety | \$38.5 million General Government | \$18.1 million **Development Services** | \$12.3 million Parks, Recreation, Cultural Events | \$9.9 million Public Works | \$8.2 million **Engineering** | \$3.2 million

#### **HOUSING IN ENCINITAS**

The City of Encinitas is actively implementing its housing plan, also known as a Housing Element, and has made meaningful progress including a draft study on housing barriers, equity and displacement. The City continuously updates the Encinitas Municipal Code and Local Coastal Program to be consistent with new housing legislation to help remove housing barriers and promote access to housing for all income levels. Since 2021, the City has approved 1,652 new housing units, of which 348 will be priced more affordably to broaden the price range of homes in Encinitas.

Encinitas also hosted a joint roundtable workshop with area schools, including Mira Costa Community College, and religious organizations to discuss affordable housing. For information, please visit our Housing Element Implementation Website.

## **ADU PROGRAM**

The City's award-winning Permit Ready Accessory Dwelling Unit (PRADU) program was launched in April 2019. Since then, residents have submitted 664 accessory dwelling unit permits, 52 of which were pre-approved plans provided by the PRADU program. These units, perhaps better known as granny-flats, continue to be an integral part of Encinitas' housing conversation. Learn more at our **PRADU** website.

# **MAP ENCINITAS**

MAP Encinitas (Modal Alternative Projects) was adopted by City Council on February 8, 2023. The plan provides a prioritized list of bike and pedestrian projects that reflects the community's desires and values. The project also develops conceptual plans and fact sheets for 35 of the highest priority projects,

so that the City is well-positioned to apply for grant funding. For more information, please visit the <u>City's</u> MAP Encinitas website.

# **EL CAMINO REAL SPECIFIC PLAN**

The El Camino Real corridor is the City's busiest and most vibrant commercial corridor, and it serves as a major thoroughfare within the community. The City's General Plan envisions more connection, and walkable areas throughout Encinitas that support a mixture of land uses, including retail, offices and housing opportunities. The El Camino Real Specific Plan will also provide the streetscape design standards to create a unique identity for this key corridor, and development standards to guide future development for the community. The project is expected to be completed in FY 2023–2024. Visit the El Camino Real Specific Plan Website for more information.

# **NEW HOUSING PROGRAMS**

In January of 2023, the City hired a homelessness solutions manager to efficiently utilize resources

and address homelessness in Encinitas.

This hire expands upon a coordinated effort with the Continuum of Care program, county agencies and other local and regional housing partners.

The City was also awarded a significant
Permanent Local Housing Allocation grant
from California's Department of Housing
and Community Development to establish
a Navigation Center to bolster case
management and outreach.

The Homeless Outreach Program for Empowerment (HOPE) program has served over 213 individuals and has housed 91 people. Additionally, Encinitas' Safe Parking Program, run by Jewish Family Service, is still providing resources and a safe overnight place to park for pre-approved applicants who sleep in their cars. Since 2020 the program has served over 163 individuals, 57% of which have had positive exits to housing or reunification with family.





## COASTAL STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT

Encinitas is part of a collaborative coastal storm damage reduction project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Solana Beach. Its goal is to reduce storm and sea level rise related to coastal damage and erosion by adding sand sediment along 7,800 feet of coastline. Funding is comprised of local, state and federal sources. The project is finishing up the pre-construction and monitoring phase this fall and moving into the construction phase of the project in late 2023 and mid-2024. Monitoring will continue. Major milestones include securing a project partnership agreement, dredging contract and a 50-year land lease agreement for the duration of the project.

### REGIONAL BEACH SAND PROJECT

Planning is underway on a regional sand beach project in partnership with SANDAG for the 10 beachfront cities in San Diego County spanning 70 miles of coastline. Encinitas is working with SANDAG on a study to evaluate the feasibility of future sand and beach restoration projects that will kick off this fall.

#### CARDIFF STATE BEACH LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT

The Cardiff State Beach Living Shoreline Project created a coastal dune with engineered repurposed rocks and sand. Replanting native plants was also part of the project that was the first in Southern California to test coastal dunes as a nature-based solution for beach erosion and flood protection.

To date, the project has achieved its objectives and proven itself to be an effective coastal resiliency measure through multiple large storm and wave events. There have been no significant instances of flooding or erosion of Coast Highway 101 since the Project's installation.



Cardiff State Beach

# COASTSNAP BEACH MONITORING PROGRAM

In 2022, the City installed a CoastSnap Station at Grandview Beach at the public access stairway to encourage beachgoers to take photos from the same location with the same vantage point to record coastline conditions over time. Four additional station locations were installed in 2023 at D Street and Stonesteps. Residents are encouraged to use the QR code to upload photos to the City's archives that are taken from a CoastSnap location in Encinitas.

## SAN ELIJO LAGOON DREDGING

The San Elijo Lagoon is a State Marine Conservation Area managed by the Nature Collective. The Lagoon inlet is located at Cardiff Reef, and it is dredged annually to manage lagoon tidal flows. Approximately, 13,000 cubic yards of sand was removed this past spring. Most was used to repair the dunes in Cardiff after seasonal storms, and the rest was placed in front of Cardiff's restaurant row to be dispersed naturally.

# Environmental Stewardship

# **WE'RE CHARGED UP**

In 2022, the City installed six new public electric vehicle charging stations in the lower parking lot of City Hall, conveniently located near downtown. The charging stations are powered by 100% renewable electricity provided by our community choice energy agency, San Diego Community Power, and the chargers are managed by EVgo, a national EV charging network providing reliable service at affordable charging rates.

In March of 2023, the City's first ever EV Charging Station Master Plan was adopted by City Council. The purpose of the plan is to facilitate the transition to electrified transportation for citizens, employees and visitors by planning the deployment of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the City. City staff is currently seeking state and federal funding to install public chargers at city parks, the community center, the library, and other key locations.

# **CAP ANNUAL REPORT**

In June 2023, the City published its fifth comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP) Annual Monitoring Report. The 2022 CAP Annual Report summarizes the progress the City has made toward meeting its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets set in the 2020 CAP and evaluates progress made on implementing the measures established in the CAP. This annual report includes notable City actions and data tracked through 2022. Of the 20 measures in the CAP, 14 have been completed, 5 are in progress, and 1 is awaiting resources. To learn more about the City's progress, check out the Encinitas Climate Dashboard.

# **BEES ARE ABUZZ**

Encinitas was proud to be recognized as a Bee City USA Affiliate in early 2023. This affiliation supports local pollinators, protects their habitats, and promotes native plants and trees throughout the city. As a Bee City Affiliate, the City is supporting pollinators by implementing a pest management plan to avoid the use of pesticides at City parks and City-managed open space. The City is also in developing a native plant policy, which would support the creation of new pollinator habitat.

#### **SMOKE-FREE ENCINITAS**

After the adoption of Ordinance 2023-02 on April 12, 2023, new no smoking rules took effect on July 11. The goal is to reduce waste, protect the environment and limit secondhand smoke exposure. Smoking and vaping are no longer allowed in all public places, including places of employment (including restaurants and businesses), or within 20 feet of a public place (except on private residential property). In June, the City conducted a robust outreach campaign to notify residents and businesses of this new rule. No smoking decals were provided by the City free of charge to display at business and employment premises. Additional decals may be picked up at City Hall.

#### **BIKESHARE PROGRAM ROLLS ON**

In 2021, the City partnered with BCycle, one of the largest and longest operating national electric bikeshare companies. In early 2022, City Council elected to extend the program for an additional year given its initial success. Now, there are 30 more docks at four new locations throughout Encinitas. Download the BCycle App today and start riding today!



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts

# Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts fosters Encinitas' sense of community.

# MURALS INSTALLED AT ENCINITAS BLVD/I-5 CROSSING

Encinitas, Caltrans, and SANDAG completed one of the Build NCC Project's newest enhancements in early 2023 - murals at the I-5/Encinitas underpass. Artists Amy Baur and Brian Boldon created fused image mosaic tile artwork consisting of a variety of California native plants, animal species and vibrant colors patterns in this public art project. This art is a key design component, constructing visually appealing and helpful infrastructure improvements throughout North County. Similar work can also be found at the I-5/Santa Fe Drive underpass with improved bike and pedestrian connectivity, and a variety of mosaic panels from local artists in the community.

#### **ENCINITAS HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

The Encinitas Habitat Stewardship Program (EHSP) was created by the City in 2020 to help with the upkeep of City-owned properties that contain sensitive habitat. The first site was at Cottonwood Creek, where the program was launched in partnership with the San Diego Botanic Garden. Since then, it has expanded to include the Moonlight Beach Parcel along B Street between 3rd Street and South Coast Highway 101. Efforts are focused on invasive plant removal, slope stabilization and planting native species. The San Diego Botanic Garden will install 1,800 native plants at the Moonlight Beach Parcel grown from seeds collected from the open spaces at the City of Encinitas.

#### **CULTURAL ART PROGRAMS**

The weekly Wednesdays@Noon concert series at the Encinitas Library continued to welcome a full house at nearly every performance and the monthly Music by the Sea series welcomed several world-renowned musicians for the 2022-23 season. Dia de los Muertos welcomed a record number of attendees with the addition of a Ballet Folklorico performance and several culturally relevant art projects, in addition to a beloved annual community ofrenda. Art Night Encinitas provided expanded public engagement with art and artists by increasing the number of performers and programs offered at each of the three sites and adding two new community partners. The quarterly celebration of visual and performing arts welcomed over 7,000 people last year. In partnership with Encinitas Ballet, sold-out performances of The Nutcracker thrilled audiences of all ages in what will be a returning holiday tradition at the Community Center.

# **COMMUNITY SPECIAL EVENTS**

In 2022–23, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department resumed its full calendar of community events, including the Summer Concert series in summer 2022, Fall Movie in the Park, the Encinitas Holiday Parade in December, Cyclovia Encinitas, Spring Egg Hunt and Spring Movie in the Park.



## PARKS AND RECREATION FEES

A public hearing was held to consider new Parks and Recreation user fee adjustments, card processing fee pass throughs, recreation software processing fees, and annual CPI adjustments. The request was approved by City Council on June 28, 2023. The adjustments are estimated to generate additional revenue of approximately \$25,000 in FY 2023-24 and \$75,000 in FY 2024-25.

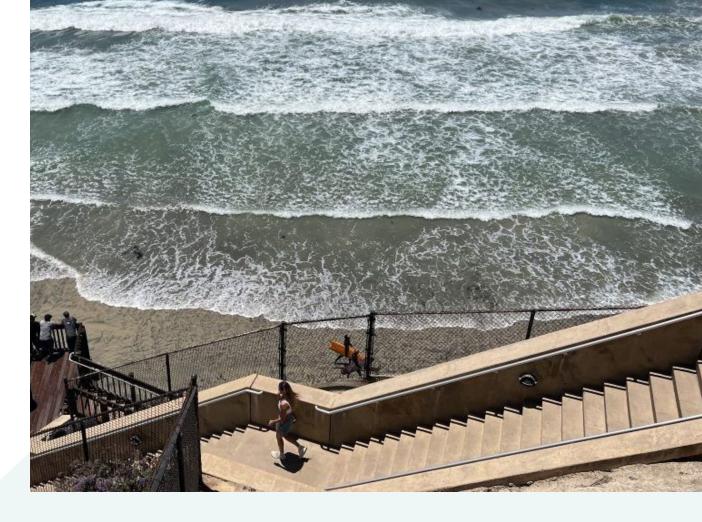
# STONESTEPS BEACH ACCESS EMERGENCY REPAIRS COMPLETE

In January 2023, the City's contractor and structural engineer determined the Stonesteps stairway platform and support beam were structurally compromised and unsafe.

An emergency declaration was made, and a contract for the repair work was executed in March 2023. Emergency repairs were completed by June 21 and Stonesteps Beach Access reopened in time for the summer season.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION AT THE ENCINITAS COMMUNITY AND SENIOR CENTER

Providing exceptional customer service, community engagement and education is one of the main priorities at the Encinitas Community and Senior Center. City staff focused efforts on continuing to build rentals, registrations, and participation with new programs focused on education, enrichment, health, and wellness for all ages. Registration across all programming areas increased in revenues approximately 26% and in participation approximately 20% compared to FY22.



# VOLUNTEER IN PURPOSE (VIP) PROGRAM LAUNCHED

In April 2023 during National Volunteer Month, the Recreation Division launched the VIP volunteer program to grow and expand community engagement and support for programs to include the senior lunch program, senior games and classes, sports, State of the City, Spring Egg Hunt, Movie in the Park and Art Nights.

Volunteer engagement grew from 40 to 103 registered volunteers, a 158% increase in

engagement with more than 1,000 volunteer hours served. The VIP program saved the cost of City staff time, approximately \$25,000 since launching the program in April and annually is anticipated to be over \$50,000 in future years. A dedicated webpage was added for the new program with an online registration portal.

# Public Safety

#### SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The North Coastal Sheriff Station serves as the base for Encinitas' sheriff deputies and provides support for patrol and traffic enforcement, a crime suppression team and a community-oriented policing and problem solving team.

A big focus for the Sheriff's Department this past year was educating and supporting residents with concerns related to e-bike safety and Encinitas' unhoused. This included partnering with the City, local schools and the San Diego Bike Coalition to provide education and enforcement related to e-bikes. The Sheriff's Department is an integral member of the city's Homeless Outreach Program for Empowerment (HOPE) Team and partners with the Human and

Human Services Agency (HHSA) and nongovernmental organizations to respond to the residents' concerns to the unhoused situation.

The department continued to partner with the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), a program that dispatches behavioral health experts to emergency calls instead of police, to aid in situations where residents needed help, but not to the level of a law enforcement response. Similar to MCRT, the North Coastal Station also continued to work with the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) to assist with mental health calls more effectively. The team of clinicians have already responded to 490 calls of services in 2023.





## **FIRE AND MARINE SAFETY**

The Encinitas Fire and Marine Safety Department is committed to prioritizing the safety and welfare of the community. Notably, City employees participated in a countywide emergency training exercise in February 2023, testing the resilience and preparedness of response teams against a range of natural and manmade hazards. Additionally, the City adopted an updated plan to proactively identify and mitigate local hazards that may impact the people and property of both the County of San Diego and the City of Encinitas.

The department organized a multitude of educational programs, workshops and outreach events with the objective of promoting fire and marine safety within the community through various outreach events, school visits and neighborhood gatherings, which allowed them to share essential safety information to a wide audience throughout Encinitas.

#### FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

In the past year, the department was involved with updating the Olivenhain Evacuation Plan and played a supportive role in the creation of a new wildfire preparedness plan for Olivenhain neighborhoods, in addition to engaging with the community at several events.

The fire prevention team conducted 669 annual inspections, supplemented by 269 fire protection systems inspections, 200 construction inspections, and 38 defensible space inspections, ensuring the highest standards of safety across the board. The focus on special events was maintained with dedicated inspections to guarantee public safety during various gatherings. The division completed a substantial 2,945 plan checks, showcasing their commitment to meticulous evaluation and approval of safety plans, with special events undergoing rigorous review to confirm adherence to safety standards.





# MARINE SAFETY DIVISION

In the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Encinitas Marine Safety Division continued its commitment to safeguarding 3.5 miles of coastline extending from Swamis Beach to South Ponto Beach. The division provided mutual aid extending their reach to an additional three miles of state-owned coastline within the city limits. The division covers a wide spectrum of marine safety services, encompassing open water, swiftwater, underwater and cliff rescues, as well as medical aids, hazard mitigation, community outreach, and public education.

Lifeguards and firefighters underwent advanced swiftwater team training in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and CAL Fire. The dive team also received additional training and integrated a new manual to improve operational efficiency.

The Encinitas Junior Lifeguard Program had 1,249 participants and volunteers this year, with the division's in-house Ocean Lifeguard Academy achieving a significant milestone by graduating 15 new lifeguards following rigorous training.

# Public Works

Public Works maintains and enhances the Encinitas way of life.

# AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION RE-ACCREDITATION

In 2023, the Public Works Department was re-accredited by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the third time since 2008. Re-accreditation requires the department to evaluate their innerworkings across a variety of defined disciplines and best practices. These range from assessing budget and planning practices to standards for maintaining and implementing safety policies and procedures.

APWA accreditation and re-Accreditation provides the Public Works Department with the opportunity to evaluate operational practices, policies, and procedures against nationally recognized public works industry "best" practices. The accreditation and reaccreditation processes support a departmental culture of continuous improvement and offers insight into how local services are delivered to the Encinitas community.



# LA COSTA BASIN MAINTENANCE PROJECT

The La Costa Basin project continued to make progress this past fiscal year, as a part of the department's drainage infrastructure maintenance program. The City contracted a consultant to obtain environmental permitting to perform dredging of excess sediment accumulated in the basin. The La Costa Basin, located along the southern edge of La Costa Avenue and across from the Batiquitos Lagoon, was originally constructed under an emergency permit in 2005. Currently the City is working with appropriate resource agencies to secure required permits prior to the completion of the maintenance work. Project completion is anticipated in FY 2024-2025.

# MUNICIPAL TREE ORDINANCE UPDATE

Initiated by a recommendation by the Urban Forest Advisory Committee, the City's tree ordinance was amended to expand the definition of a "heritage tree" to include groups of trees in neighborhoods. This new classification restricts residential tree removal and requires direct caution during construction projects.



# ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS AT CITY HALL

Ten Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations were put in place at City Hall in May 2023. These new stations charge city fleet electric vehicles and provide infrastructure to support the City's Climate Action Plan goal of electrifying 100% of the City's fleet by 2030. This effort is part of the external renovation of City Hall and was assisted by a \$42,000 grant from CalEVIP, a program by the California Energy Commission for EV infrastructure. As EV charging infrastructure rapidly expands throughout the nation, the City will look for more opportunities to grow its network of available charging stations for City fleet vehicles.





# **ORGANICS RECYCLING (SB 1383)**

Organics recycling and related programming, defined by Senate Bill 1383, continued its roll out in 2022-23. The intention of this bill is to remove organic waste from landfills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2022, EDCO has collected 14,767 tons of residential organic waste and 1,066 tons of commercial organic waste. From this material, 41,068 diesel gallon equivalents of renewable natural gas were produced through EDCO's anaerobic digester.

The total disposal rate for Encinitas in 2022 has been calculated at 5.6 pounds per person per day, which is consistent with 2021 rates. The goal of the City's climate action plan is to have a disposal rate of three pounds a person a day by 2030. With increased participation and ongoing outreach efforts, the City predicts there will be a decline in disposal rates and greenhouse gas emissions.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROCUREMENT**

The City's climate action plan has a goal of transitioning the municipal fleet to low or zero emission vehicles by 2030. Due to global supply chain constraints and shortages, there has been a lack of available electric vehicles, posing an hurdle to purchasing new fleet cars. In 2022-2023, the City was able to order: one new hybrid vehicle, four all-electric trucks, and three fire engines that will be fueled by renewable diesel. Efforts are ongoing to find all available options for electric and alternatively fueled vehicles, fire apparatuses and equipment in the future.

## **BEACH ANNUAL REPORT CARD**

For more than 30 years, Heal the Bay, an environmental nonprofit organization, has assigned annual "A-to-F" letter grades for 700 beaches from Washington State to Tijuana, Mexico including 500 California beaches. In the 2022-2023 report, based on levels of fecal-indicator bacterial pollution in the ocean measured by County health agencies, Encinitas received the following grades for its beaches:

CH GF

San Elijo



Moonlight | Beach | /



Pipes | A

Seaside





# Milities-

# SAN DIEGUITO WATER DISTRICT

In January 2023, the second of three planned rate adjustments took effect following the successful completion of a comprehensive cost-of-service water rate study. The study established rates for the calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024.

In March 2023, the Utility Billing Customer Self Service (CSS) and Bill Pay portals were merged and upgraded to one that integrated to the MyEncinitas App. Along with greater security, the upgrade allows users to view and/or pay their water utility bills using a single account.

The District successfully completed and issued the 2022 Annual Drinking water Quality Report. The report is based on water quality monitoring data collected in 2022. San Dieguito Water District's tap water met all Primary Drinking Water Standards as set by the US EPA and the California Division of Drinking Water. The District also successfully completed the fiscal year-end audit of District finances for FY21-22 without any findings.

## FIELD OPERATIONS

Encinitas' utility field operations team rebuilt three emergency pumps and motors last year, as well as installed two new automatic

flushing units. It also completed lead and copper sampling that evaluated the City's piplelines.

In April, SDWD adopted Resolution 2023-05 amending Article 18 (Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention) of the San Dieguito Water District Administrative Code

# **ENGINEERING AND** PLANNING DIVISION

The construction of the Encinitas valve replacement project began in June 2023 and is anticipated to be completed in winter 2023. The design of the Cambridge Avenue water pipeline extension was completed and ready for the City's Planning Department review. The design of the Air Release and Blow Off Replacement Phase I project has been completed and construction is anticipated to start January 2024. The laboratory testing of tens of Asbestos Pipe (AC) segments removed during repair projects were completed. The results of these test will provide a clearer picture of City's aging AC pipe conditions and will supplement the AC Pipe Condition Assessment study to be completed next fiscal year.

Staff also supported the City's Engineering Department with the preparation of the Encinitas' Sewer Master Plan and the design of improvements for the Cottonwood sewer project. Planning is also underway for the next phase of sewer and manhole upgrades of the Olivenhain Trunk Sewer.

Ongoing projects include the review, approval and inspection of private developer projects that range from accessory dwelling unit to large multifamily construction.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Wastewater from the City is treated at the San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility (SEWRF) in Cardiff and the Encina Water Pollution Control Facility (EWPCF) in Carlsbad. The SEWRF can recycle up to three million gallons of treated wastewater per day. Recycled water use within the City of Encinitas is primarily used for landscape irrigation and industrial uses such as street sweeping, construction dust control, soil compaction, and cooling tower makeup water.





San Dieguito Water District 2023 Landscape Contest First Place Winner

## WATER CONSERVATION

In response to the recent statewide drought, San Dieguito Water District initiated enhanced outreach and water reduction measures that helped Encinitas conserve over 140 million gallons of water or 8.03% compared to 2020's usage. As part of this elevated communication protocol, SDWD created a **quarterly newsletter** that highlights rebates, events and updates.

Over the year, more than \$3,500 in rebates and \$20,000 in turf removal incentives were issued, and 200 leak work orders were investigated.

The District also hosted events and contests, such as 4th Grade Water Awareness Poster Contest

and the WaterSmart Landscape Contests, and. provided educational resources, workshops, and presentations.

# WASTEWATER ADMINISTRATION & CUSTOMER SERVICE

In Spring 2023, staff initiated a sewer rate study, which is conducted every five years. As enterprise funds, the Cardiff Sanitary Division and Encinitas Sanitary Division rely on annual sewer charges to meet their financial obligations. Depending on the results of the rate study, staff may hold a public hearing in early 2024 to present potential rate adjustments.

# **WASTEWATER**

To keep 126 miles of sewers flowing properly, the City conducts regularly scheduled cleaning, CCTV video inspections, debris removal and responds to emergency call outs, spills and blockages of City maintained pipelines. In addition to regular maintenance, staff also helped rehab sewer lines in Olivenhain, replaced a section of pipe on Emma Drive, and removed 655 cubic yards of sand from the storm drain system. Staff also updated its wastewater procedures.

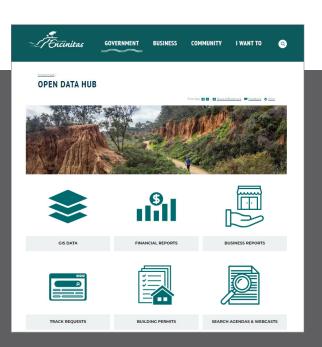


## PUBLIC SAFETY DIGITAL EVOLUTION

Fire and Marine Safety have teamed together with IT to implement digital solutions to unify public safety resources using technology. This included replacement of mobile device computers in all public safety vehicles to allow online access to information from dispatch and transitioning to a digital system for tracking equipment maintenance to improve process efficiency behind the scenes. Over the next year, the public safety digital evolution will continue with implementation of technology that integrates public safety information into a unified digital dashboard.

# DIGITAL LANGUAGE TRANSLATION SERVICES

Digital language translation is available anywhere you choose to conduct business with the City. This includes online webpages, permits, videos, agendas and webcasts, which can be automatically translated into over a hundred available languages.



# NEW WEBSITE INCLUDING THE REQUESTS HUB AND OPEN DATA HUB

In 2022, Encinitas' website was redesigned with a focus on online services. Encinitas's new website is user-friendly and designed with the resident's journey in mind. This included development of a new Requests HUB aligning with the MyEncintas app where people can make their requests from one location on the web. Complementing the Requests HUB is an Open Data HUB, serving as the foundation for digital transparency where people can search for financial reports, building permit information, prior agenda information, and geographic information systems (GIS) data and maps.

# AWARD WINNING VIDEO PRODUCTION

The City of Encinitas's Multimedia Division earned a prestigious STAR award for Excellence in Video Production by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors. Ongoing efforts in video production have highlighted City projects, updates, events, and educational content through 16 produced videos that increase transparency and engagement. Streaming of live public meetings, educational content, safety information, and other valuable content are available on MyEncinitasTV Live.

### **ENCINITAS ACADEMY**

The Encinitas Academy is a community-based academy to share information about public services in an inclusive and interactive environment. Attendees learn about City operations and how they can get involved by becoming local government and community partners. The first Encinitas Academy cohort graduated in the Spring of 2023. Please visit Encinitas Academy to learn more.



# Engineering

The Engineering Department is responsible for:

- The comprehensive oversight of major City infrastructure projects to create a livable community.
- Creating and implementing policies and projects that enhance mobility to help residents get around the city by car, bike or on foot.
- Evaluating and responding to approximately 200 traffic-related inquiries annually.
- Ensuring projects and activities in the public right of-way meet all City zoning standards, plans, policies, ordinances, guidelines, and applicable local and state regulations.

The department is comprised of three divisions: the Capital Improvement Program(CIP), Traffic Engineering and Land Development Engineering. Please visit the <u>City's website</u> for more project updates and information.

# LEUCADIA STREETSCAPE

The Leucadia Streetscape Phase 1 project was completed in the summer of 2022. New improvements include wider sidewalks, dedicated bike lanes, landscaping, irrigation, streetlights, storm drain system, parking pods, pedestrian trials, crosswalks, asphalt paving, traffic striping, street furniture including benches, chairs, tables, bike racks, and trash and recycling bins, and a roundabout linked to the new pedestrian undercrossing at El Portal Street.

The Leucadia Streetscape Segment B/C Safety and Mobility Striping project was completed between Basil Street and La Costa Avenue this year. This segment included a slurry seal on North Coast Highway 101, reducing traffic lanes, and restriping to add buffered bike lanes. Pedestrian signals were added at North Court and Diana Street to assist pedestrians and bicyclists with crossing North Coast Highway.

The design for Segment C West improvements between Jupiter Street and La Costa Avenue was completed. Focusing on the westside of North Coast Highway, the community can look forward to new wider sidewalks, enhanced crosswalks and roundabouts at Grandview and Jupiter streets. In a parallel project, the City will also improve drainage infrastructure at the north end of North Coast Highway with funding support from a \$4 million Housing and Urban Development Grant. These two projects will begin construction during Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

#### LEUCADIA AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSINGS

Initial analysis and conceptual designs were completed for two new at-grade rail crossings. These crossings are designed at the same height of the tracks, and are located by Leucadia at Glaucus Street and Grandview Street/Hillcrest Drive. New crossings would provide safe access across the tracks for pedestrians and cyclists from North Vulcan Avenue to North Coast Highway 101.

# ANNUAL STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM

Improving pavement condition citywide is an ongoing goal of the City of Encinitas. Each year, the City evaluates roads in need of resurfacing and prioritizes them based on available funding. This past year, resurfacing was completed on 25 streets for a total distance of 2.7 miles including Rancho Santa Fe Road and South Coast Highway 101.

# PACIFIC VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The City began renovations to the Pacific View Elementary School. When complete, the new campus will contain seven classrooms for community instructional activities. The improvements include new roofing, electrical panels, wiring, restrooms, light fixtures, ceilings, window glass, doors, frames, finishes, fire sprinkler service, and structural upgrades.





# RAINY SEASON EMERGENCY SINKHOLE RESPONSE

With the heavy rains this past year, City staff completed emergency repairs at five sinkholes, including the Lake Drive sinkhole and slope failure. The Lake Drive repair project required an emergency detour, relocation of utilities, removal of the old drainage structures, installation of new pipes and catch basins, and restoring the failed slope.

# STRIPING ENHANCEMENTS AND RAISED CROSSWALKS ON VULCAN AVENUE

Lane narrowing was implemented on Vulcan Avenue between Encinitas Boulevard and La Costa Avenue. Three raised crosswalks were also constructed to provide safe pedestrian crossing locations. After the project was implemented, the speed was surveyed, and the speed limit was able to be lowered on N Vulcan Avenue.

# MANCHESTER AVENUE AND SAN ELIJO AVENUE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

This intersection was improved with new curb ramps, a crosswalk and a pedestrian path at the intersection of San Elijo Ave and Manchester Ave. This quick build project provides a safe path for pedestrians to get to the San Elijo lagoon.

# SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY 101 CYCLE TRACK PHASE II PROJECT

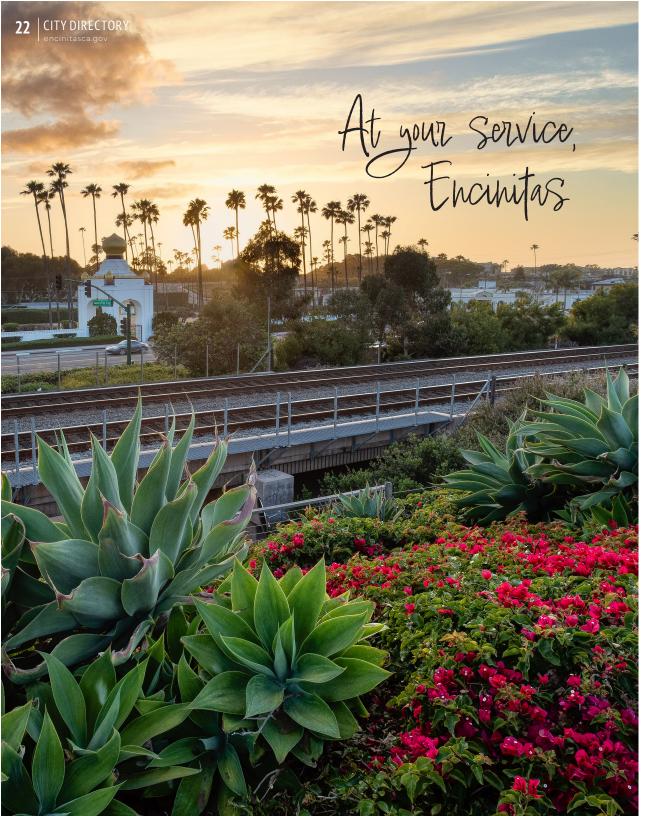
Construction was completed on phase II of the South Coast Highway 101 cycle track project between K Street and Chesterfield traffic signal. This Highway Safety Improvement Program grant funded project narrowed the travel lanes and added a protected bikeway facility. Bike lanes were kept in both directions. After the project was complete, the speed was surveyed, and the speed limit was able to be lowered on South Coast Highway 101 in this segment.

#### LAND DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING

The Land Development Engineering team reviews discretionary, final engineering, building, hardscape and right-of-way permits. The team also inspects construction projects to confirm their compliance with local, regional and federal codes and regulations. The Land Development Engineering team serves both developers and the public by providing information, addressing comments and reviewing/inspecting construction projects to ensure projects are designed and constructed to applicable standards. This past year, the land development team issued 88 permits and has 118 permits currently under review.

# **TRAIL 95 IMPROVEMENTS**

The Trail 95 Improvements Project was completed in August of 2022. This new trail was installed along the south side of El Camino Del Norte from Lucylle Lane to the City border with the County near Escondido Creek for roughly 900 feet. The new trail is comprised of a decomposed granite surface with header board on each side with sporadic fencing installed along edges of the trail. Crosswalks were installed across Lucylle Lane and Windmill Ranch Road with ADA curb ramps to improve mobility. A Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon and crosswalk was also installed across El Camino Del Norte to connect Trail 95 to the existing Trail 96 on the north side of the road.





505 South Vulcan Avenue | Encinitas, CA 92024 760.633.2600 | encinitasca.gov

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(760) 633-2601	City Elections
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(760) 633-2260	Community Center
(760) 633-2740	Cultural Arts
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()	Emergency Number
(760) 633-2787	Stormwater Hotline
(760) 633-2650	San Dieguito Water District (SDWD)
(760) 633-2922	SDWD After-Hours Emergency Numbe
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(760) 656-5200	San Diego County Sheriff's
	North Coastal Station Dispatch
(760) 966-6500	San Diego County Sheriff's Office (Non-Emergency Number)
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