

Urban Design Element CPC Summary Sheet

The Urban Design Element of the General Plan establishes a set of design principles from which future physical design decisions can be based. Policies call for respecting San Diego's natural topography and distinctive neighborhoods, providing public art, and encouraging the development of walkable, transit-oriented communities. This element has been revised, reorganized and edited since the July 2005 Draft in response to Planning Commission and public comment. The current draft does not change the policy direction; but it has been reorganized.

Policies in this element are designed to:

- Contribute to the qualities that distinguish San Diego as a unique living environment,
- Build upon our existing communities,
- Direct growth into commercial areas where a high level of activity already exists and
- Preserve stable residential neighborhoods.

The CPC General Plan Subcommittee reviewed the July 2005 Draft General Plan Urban Design Element on December 5, 2005, and provided comment on January 17, 2006. The full CPC made recommendations on the Element on February 28, 2006. The attached table reflects those recommendations, indicates staff's responses, and, if applicable, identifies where new/revised policies are located in the October 2006 Draft General Plan.

CPC Recommendations on Urban Design (UD) Element made at CPC Meeting of February 28, 2006	Staff Responses to CPC Recommendations References refer to October 2006 Draft General Plan
Section B, Discussion (p. UD-16) - Revise to state "...should contribute to the <i>creation</i> and the preservation of neighborhood character and creation of a sense of place."	Change made to the discussion section and to the 3 rd bullet under Section B, Goals. (p. UD-16)
Section A, "General Urban Design," Policy UD-A.1.a (p. UD-7) - The sentence "Protect the integrity of community open spaces intended for preservation," was modified to read, "Protect the integrity of community <i>plan designated</i> open spaces."	Change made. Policy UD-A.1.a (p. UD-7)
Section A: Policy UD-A.2.a - Add word "meadows" to the sentence, "Preserve and enhance naturally occurring features such as coastlines, rivers, creeks, canyons and ridge lines."	Sentence restructured to refer to wetlands and riparian zones. Now Policy UD-A.1.b (p. UD-7)
Section A: Policy UD-A.13.a - Where the text states, "Provide comprehensive project sign plans", modify to read, "Design signs as a means to communicate a unified theme and identity for the project."	Change made. Now Policy UD-A.14.a (p. UD-14)
Section A: Policy UD-A.16.a - Revise to state, "Design projects to encourage visible space that will serve as a means to discourage and deter crime through the location of physical features, activities and people to maximize visibility." These words replaced the phrase "encourage natural surveillance", which was felt to be too intrusive.	Change made. Now Policy UD-A.17.a (p. UD-15)
Section B, (p. UD-16) The last sentence of the discussion read: "However, new development – whether it is in the form of infill, redevelopment, or first-time development – should contribute to the <i>preservation</i> of neighborhood character and creation of a sense of place." The words "the preservation" replaced "continuing positive evolution."	Change made to the discussion section and to the 3 rd bullet under Section B, Goals. (p. UD-16)
Section D, UD-D.2 - Deleted entire text which stated: "Encourage placement of active uses, such as retailers, restaurants, fitness centers, and various services, on the ground floor of buildings in areas where the greatest levels of pedestrian activity is sought."	Repeat of Policy UD-C.1.c (p. UD-22)
Section G, Policy UD-G.1.d - Revise to state "Reinforce community pride and identity by encouraging artworks and cultural activities that celebrate, <i>but do not overwhelm</i> , the unique cultural, ethnic, historical, or other attributes of the neighborhood."	Now Policy UD-F.1.d and did not add " <i>but do not overwhelm</i> " to the policy. (p. UD-31)
Section G: Policy UD-G.1 - Add policy under <i>Community Identity</i> to address involvement and oversight by community planning committees in the decision-making process regarding public art and cultural amenities.	Policy added which provides for planning group involvement. Policy UD-F.1.g (p. UD-31)
Policy UD-A.11.e - Revise to state " <i>especially adjacent to community public viewsheds.</i> "	Change made. Policy UD-A.12.e (p. UD-13)

