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City of San Diego Releases Draft Updates to Land Development Code

RESIDENTS INVITED TO VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS TO SHARE FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED ITEMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS

SAN DIEGO – To keep up with the ever-changing needs of the City of San Diego's development regulations, City staff released this year's draft updates to the <u>Land Development Code</u> and will host workshops to answer San Diegans' questions and hear their feedback. The changes will have an impact on future development in our neighborhoods.

The City continually monitors its development regulations and makes updates annually. These draft updates include clarifications, corrections, regulatory reforms and changes to the regulations to bring the City into compliance with state law.

"These updates are important to make sure we have efficient procedures in place that provide certainty to the City's development process and that the regulations are also aligned with the City's goals, particularly when it comes to housing, climate and equity," said the City's Planning Director Heidi Vonblum. "We encourage community members and organizations to share their feedback with us so that we can best ensure these updates meet our City's needs."

Among the <u>53 proposed items</u>, staff is looking to align the City's housing goals with its climate goals by tailoring various development incentive programs to areas where people are more likely to use transit, walk or bike. Other items include adding regulatory reforms to clarify where, when and how battery energy storage facilities can be set up and providing flexibility in some industrial zones to allow businesses to sell products out of places like warehouses. Also, as part of this year's code update are <u>31 items</u> related to the Downtown Planning District Ordinance.

"Because Downtown has its own specific zoning code, we are uniquely positioned to pilot innovative new streamlining measures that advance implementation of the Downtown Community Plan," said Brian Schoenfisch, Deputy Director of the Development Services Department's Urban Division. "Planning for the years ahead, Downtown San Diego is well-situated for additional growth. Many of the items included in the update further incentivize the diversification of housing and amenities to make Downtown a more inclusive place filled with interactive and engaging public spaces." City staff will hold a virtual workshop on Thursday, Oct. 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. and again on Tuesday, Oct. 11, from noon to 2 p.m. to briefly discuss the draft items, answer questions and hear feedback. Residents can visit the Land Development Code Updates in Progress webpage to review the updates, register for the workshops and submit their questions in advance of the meetings. San Diegans are also invited to share their feedback after the workshops by visiting the webpage.