



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of San Diego Invites Residents to Participate in Virtual Forum on Build Better SD Initiative

PROGRAM SEEKS TO CREATE CITYWIDE FUND TO ACCELERATE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND CREATE EQUITABLE POLICIES

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego will hold a public forum on Thursday, March 10, to discuss a new initiative aimed at expediting the construction and expansion of public infrastructure projects, such as libraries, fire stations and other public spaces.

[Build Better SD](#) will do away with old, inequitable planning policies that restrict incoming public infrastructure fees to a single community and instead restructure fees into a citywide funding program.

“With our City in dire need of new investments, Build Better SD will not only allow us to prioritize investments in areas where the needs are greatest, but it will improve the crucial delivery of these investments for all residents,” said interim Planning Director Heidi Vonblum. **“Gathering public input is essential to making sure we are developing policies that will help us see changes in our communities that will have the greatest benefits for the people who live in our City.”**

Currently, when projects are built, the development impact fees (DIFs) that property developers pay toward new infrastructure improvements go into 43 separate neighborhood funds. Community funds cannot be shared across neighborhood lines.

Build Better SD would put all future DIFs collected into a citywide fund divided into four asset types: libraries, fire-rescue, mobility and parks. This funding structure has already been applied to the parks asset type since the City Council approved the [Parks for All of Us](#) initiative in August 2021. Under Build Better SD, infrastructure needs would be examined across San Diego and funding would be directed to high-priority projects in each asset category.

During Thursday’s virtual meeting, which will be held in both English and Spanish, Planning Department staff will discuss the goals of Build Better SD and then attendees will have a chance to ask questions and provide feedback.

The meeting will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. San Diegans can learn more about the initiative and register for the virtual meeting on the City's [Build Better SD webpage](#). Residents are also encouraged to provide their input through an online survey, available in English or Spanish.

The Build Better SD initiative is expected to go to City Council for approval this spring.

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