
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

GOALS

Provide a full and balanced range of employment opportunities, medical facilities, public utilities, and educational, social and recreational facilities and services.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Schools

There are four school districts which serve the community: the San Ysidro School and South Bay Union School Districts which provide elementary school education through the eighth grade, the Sweetwater Union High School District which provides high school education and the Southwestern Community College District which offers a junior college curriculum. In the San Ysidro community, the Sweetwater Union High School District also operates an adult education center. The Southwestern Community College District operates the Southwestern Education Center, a satellite of Chula Vista-based Southwestern College. In addition to these four school districts, the community is served by a parochial school, Mt. Carmel, which provides elementary school education through the eighth grade. (See **Figure 30.**)

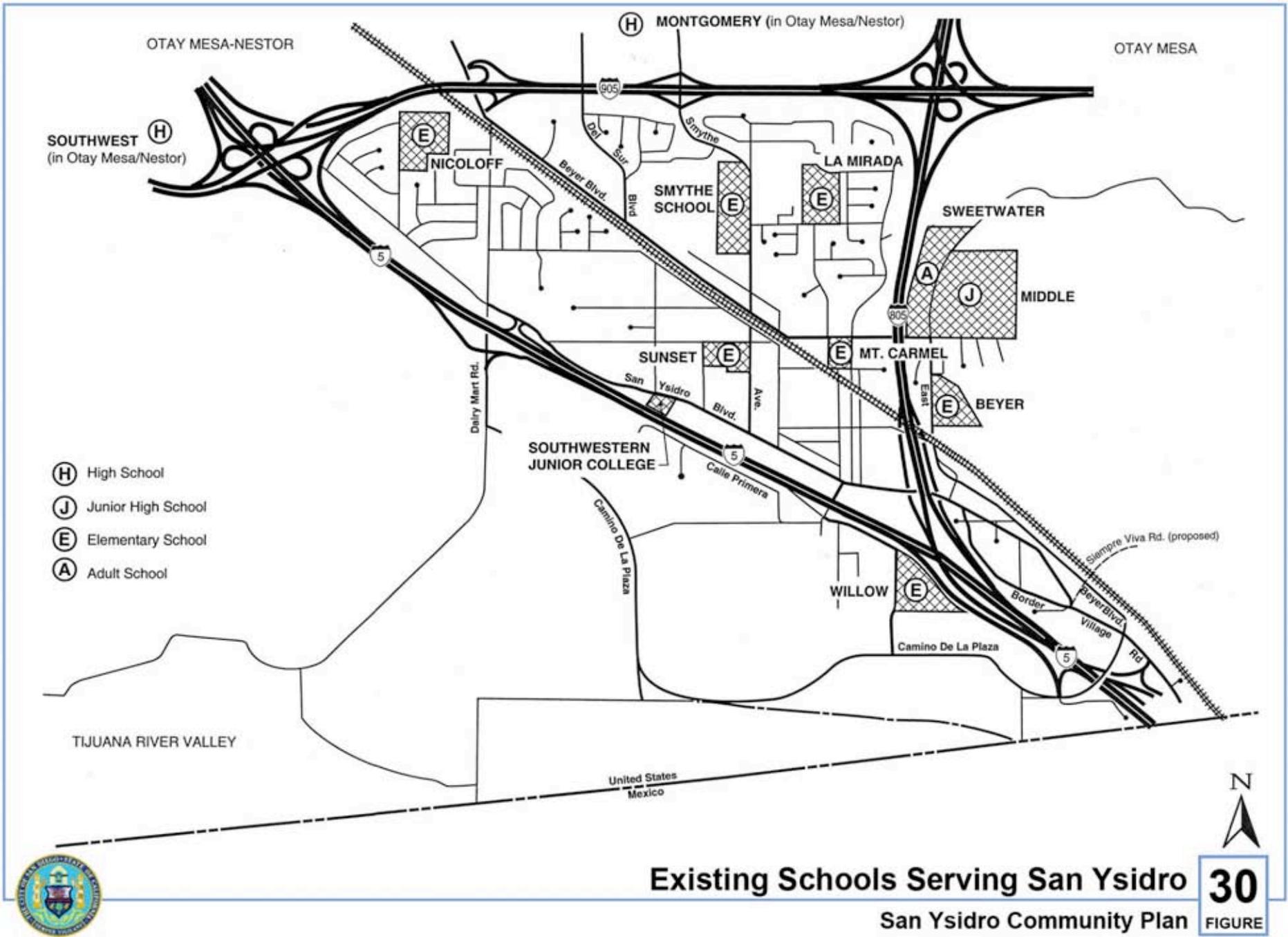
The school is a very important element in the life of most San Ysidro residents because:

- Most residents are very family-oriented with many young children and tend to identify and form their neighborhoods around their children's schools. For most San Ysidro residents, the best possible education for their children is a major goal.
- The school districts in San Ysidro are the community's largest employer; and
- The school district boards, particularly the San Ysidro School District, serve as a political forum for many community residents, even for those without school-age children. Many residents, especially Hispanic residents, consider the school district board to be their "City Council" because the board is located in their community and is very accessible.



Southwestern Adult Center

Many of San Ysidro's schools are overcrowded. The population of the community has dramatically increased in recent years from 14,584 at the time of the 1980 census to 22,130 (from a City of San Diego Planning Department study of January 1988). This increase has been due, primarily, to the construction of low-income, multifamily apartments. This rapid development has not been tied to the development of new schools and other public facilities. Instead, the school districts have initiated multi-track school programs at several of the schools, increased class sizes and increased the use of temporary structures (portables).



Existing Schools Serving San Ysidro
San Ysidro Community Plan

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FIGURE

Overcrowded schools are further strained by the large numbers of Spanish-speaking children learning English as a second language and the large migratory problem (children moving into the district, attending school for several months, and then moving out of the district). These conditions tend to require smaller class sizes and more individualized instruction for each student. According to the San Ysidro School district, 50 to 60 percent of the classes in San Ysidro elementary schools are conducted in both English and Spanish. In addition, district officials estimate that as many as 54 percent of the children attending schools in their district in 1989 will move before the end of the school year.

Tables 11, 12, 13 and 14 illustrate the enrollment capacity and the current enrollment for the public schools serving San Ysidro.

**TABLE 11
SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY**

| School | Capacity | 10/88 Actual Enrollment | 10/89 Projected Enrollment |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Beyer (K-6) | 631 | 665 | 705 |
| La Mirada (K-6) Four-track | 626 | 643 | 685 |
| Smythe (K-6) Single-track | 622 | 502 | 535 |
| Sunset (K-6) Single-track | 361 | 426 | 450 |
| Willow (K-6) Four-track | 537 | 692 | 735 |
| Middle School (7-8) | 1,182 | 744 | 790 |

**TABLE 12
SOUTH BAY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY**

| School | Capacity | 10/88 Actual Enrollment | 10/89 Projected Enrollment |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nicoloff (K-6) | 610 | 1,107 | 1,162 |

**TABLE 13
SWEETWATER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY**

| School | Capacity | 10/88 Actual Enrollment | 10/89 Projected Enrollment |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Southwest High | 1,214 | 1,814 | 2,237 |
| Montgomery High | 1,270 | 1,650 | 1,748 |
| Adult Education Center | 630* | n/a** | n/a |

* Number of students at the school at any one time

** Actual enrollment figures are unavailable but are probably much higher than the school capacity because of the several sessions offered (for example, morning, afternoon, and evening) and the variety in the length of classes offered (for example, some classes might last for one week, others for one month).

**TABLE 14
SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY**

| School | Capacity | 10/89 Actual Enrollment |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Southwestern Adult Center | 1,100* | 1,162 |

* Number of students at the school at any one time

Libraries

The San Ysidro Branch Library, a historical community landmark and community focal point, was donated to the community by Mr. Frank and Mrs. Evelyn Beyer in 1924.

The library is located on San Ysidro Boulevard at the southern end of the linear park and is adjacent to the senior citizens' center. Originally built at 1,264 square feet, the library was remodeled in 1984 and tripled in size to 4,089 square feet. The library contains 20,500 volumes, 6,000 of which are in Spanish. This is the largest Spanish language book collection in the City's library system and serves a community that is roughly 75 percent Spanish speaking. The library also serves as an archive of San Ysidro history with a small collection of turn-of-the-century San Ysidro photographs and documents.



The San Ysidro Library



Station No. 29

The San Ysidro library is adequate for the present needs of the community, according to General Plan standards, which state that a branch library serves a population of up to 30,000 people. Parking, shared with the senior citizens' center, is also adequate. The Library Department's future plans for expansion include a new 10,000-square-foot library facility in the San Ysidro community to meet anticipated future growth and a new 10,000-square-foot facility in Otay Mesa as that community develops.

Fire Protection

The City of San Diego Fire Department facility that serves San Ysidro, Station No. 29, is located on San Ysidro Boulevard, east of Cottonwood Road. This station, originally built in 1963, consists of an engine company, a truck company, brush rig and utility rig. Twenty-four people are stationed here, eight people (or two crews) per 24-hour period. In 1989, the station met the response time of six minutes for residential areas and four minutes for commercial areas as required by Council Policy. This station is supported by two Otay Mesa-Nestor Fire Stations, Station No. 6 on Palm Avenue and Station No. 30 on Coronado Avenue.

Future plans for expansion include a new fire station at Brown Field in Otay Mesa as that community develops.

Police Protection

The police station, the headquarters of the Southern Division of the San Diego Police Department, was built in 1960 and is located on San Ysidro Boulevard, two blocks from the international boundary. In 1989, the station was supported by a staff of 100 people, each assigned to one of six beats. The staff has outgrown its present building and the possibility of a new location, in Otay Mesa, is being studied.



Southern Division of the San Diego Police Department

The Southern Division police deal with several major crime problems primarily associated with the station's proximity to the border and the recent, rapid growth that has occurred in San Ysidro. The recent influx of minorities has created serious racial tension. One major site of racial tension has been Larsen Field which is adjacent to recently built, low-income multifamily housing. This new multifamily housing has contributed to a serious racial problem, according to some in the community, because recreational facilities in the area cannot adequately support this new population, leaving young people with nothing to do.

In addition, much of the crime that the police in San Ysidro confront is a result of the large number of people that cross the border every day—the undocumented immigrants. Although some crime is attributed to the undocumented immigrants, immigrants are often the victims. According to the Southern Division police, there is a great deal of violent crime being committed by “alien robbers” or highwaymen against the vulnerable immigrant, especially at night and in the area of the Tijuana River levee. The police also believe that many of these crimes in the levee area could be related to drug trafficking.

Commercial truck parking on local streets is also a tremendous problem for the police. It is against the law to leave a truck parked on a street unattended. Yet, because Mexico does not allow American commercial trucks to cross the border, American truckers park anywhere they are able while waiting to exchange cargo. (See also **Transportation and Circulation Element**.)

Medical Facilities

The San Ysidro Health Center provides most of the public health care for the San Ysidro community. The center is located at 4004 Beyer Boulevard, across the street from the Beyer Trolley Station. The center opened in August of 1969 and was originally sponsored by the University of California at San Diego. In 1974, the sponsorship was ended and the center became a corporation. It is now funded by federal, state, and City/county governments.

The center offers a wide range of health services, including dental and mental. In 1989, the staff consisted of approximately 150 full-time and 50 part-time employees. The center covers approximately 40,000 square feet divided between three buildings. In 1987, the center served 14,955 patients and in 1988, the center projected 18,700 patients would be served. The on-site parking is currently over-burdened, requiring patients to park on the street.



The San Ysidro Health Center

There is no hospital in San Ysidro. Residents must travel to other communities in San Diego, Chula Vista and National City to receive hospital care. The hospitals used are Paradise Valley, University and Chula Vista Community hospitals. There are few private medical practices in the community.

Social and Government Services

Many residents do not know what is available to them in terms of social and governmental services because of language and cultural barriers and physical isolation from the rest of the City of San Diego. For example, Municipal Code violations, including zoning, signage and litter, often go unreported as many residents, particularly older ones, are unaware of the Code's existence. In addition, these barriers create special needs for many residents, such as a local utilities office for seniors to pay their bills and a satellite Council office for government information. The major social and government services that currently exist in the community are described below.

Post Office

The post office located at 440 W. San Ysidro Boulevard, has a unique function in this community: it serves a border community, including many Mexican nationals with San Ysidro post office boxes. According to many residents, this added patronage has significantly added to the traffic congestion problem on San Ysidro Boulevard and brings large amounts of traffic through the center of the community.

Social Service Agencies

The demand for social services in San Ysidro is higher than the county average. San Ysidro residents, as stated in previous sections of the Plan, are predominantly low-income and Hispanic and have large, young families. Many residents face language and cultural barriers, obstacles for receiving an education and finding a job. These conditions increase the demand for social services.

There is a lack of employment opportunities available to San Ysidro residents. San Ysidro lacks a strong economic base and, because of its large, young population, will generate more job seekers than most other areas.

Unemployment due to lack of education and job skills is among the community's major social problems. Other urgent community needs, according to a 1984 San Diego County survey, include juvenile diversion and youth counseling.

Several social agencies serve San Ysidro. One of these is the MAAC (Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee) Center, a non-profit social service agency located in the linear park in the center of the community.



The MAAC Center

Another social service agency, "Casa Familiar," offers social services such as counseling and educational outreach. This agency has become increasingly involved in the development and planning of the community as well.

The existing social services, however, are insufficient to solve all of the youth problems such as drug abuse, the school dropout rate, teen pregnancy and racial tension. Recreation programs for the community's youth can also help to solve younger residents' social problems. Currently, though, there is a lack of youth-oriented recreation within the community. Existing parks, for example Larsen Field, do not meet the community's need for youth recreation. Many younger residents go instead to Tijuana where, some community parents say, "they get into trouble." (See **Commercial and Park, Recreation and Open Space Elements.**)

Churches

There are seven churches located in the San Ysidro community. The churches play an active role in supporting the community's social needs and they provide a means of organizing the community, of distributing information to the community, and of giving child and senior citizen care.



Public Utilities

Sewer and Water Service

When San Ysidro was annexed into the City of San Diego in 1957, the community had poor water service and sewer lines and storm drains did not exist. At that time, the City made several improvements to the community's sewer and water service. San Ysidro is now served by the South San Diego Pipeline and the San Ysidro trunk sewer. Some residences in the older sections of the community, however, are still without sewer and gas service. Exactly how many residences lack these services and where they are located are unknown because much of the community is old, annexation to the City is relatively recent and public utilities records are incomplete. According to the city of San Diego Water Utilities Department, the extension of new sewer service would be dependent on new development or the assessment district process. New gas service, according to San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), would be dependent on the property owner. (After being contacted by the property owner, SDG&E would investigate the site to determine gas line requirements. If the required gas line were above a certain size, all costs would be borne by the property owner.) There are several possible reasons why no action has been taken to obtain these services:

- The language barrier—Roughly 85 percent of the community is Spanish-speaking. Many people believe that they would be unable to communicate with City and utility company staff, unaware that there are bilingual staff in almost every department.
- The cultural barrier—Many residents and business owners in the community are unaware that local ordinances prohibit such conditions (non-existent services). Some Hispanic residents and business owners have experienced much worse conditions in Mexico and believe that conditions in San Ysidro are “better.” Their experiences in Mexico have demonstrated that complaints to the authorities would result in little action.
- Fear and threats of losing their homes—Some residents who lack basic services are also afraid that if they were to file complaints or requests for services, building codes would then be enforced and many of them would lose their homes. Also, renters face their landlord's threats of eviction or higher rents and are further discouraged from filing complaints.

Drainage

Another major problem with public utilities in the community is street drainage, especially in the area of the Border Trolley Station on San Ysidro Boulevard. There, on San Ysidro Boulevard south of I-805, on Calle Primera between Via de San Ysidro and Willow Road, and on several local streets, the heavy rainfall submerges sidewalks and parking lots and impedes traffic flow. There are three major reasons for this:

1. San Ysidro is an old community and storm drains do not exist on many of its old streets. (Many of these older streets are also without curbs, gutters and sidewalks.)

2. San Ysidro is difficult to drain because it is flat, low and adjacent to the Tijuana River.
3. Otay Mesa runoff, containing large quantities of silt, drains into San Ysidro and obstructs storm drains. This is a major problem at San Ysidro Boulevard and Center Street and at San Ysidro Boulevard and the Border Trolley Station. In 1988, a contract was awarded by the City to improve the drainage at the trolley station.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve educational opportunities for residents.
- Attract additional medical facilities.
- Broaden residents' familiarity with the special services and facilities that are available to them in the community, City and region.
- Promote self-reliance and volunteerism among community residents to assist in providing education, public safety and social services.
- Provide sewer and water service to all residents of San Ysidro.
- Improve the community's drainage system.
- Ensure the maintenance and periodic upgrading of public utilities services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All Community Facilities and Services

1. Development projects will be approved upon the provision of basic facilities and services, including schools, parks, roads, water, sewer and public safety, at standards equal to those recommended by the General Plan. A Public Facilities Financing Plan will be prepared concurrent with plan adoption to define possible funding sources if known, not limited to the General Fund and Development Impact Fees.
2. Eliminate additional City or Section Eight participation in subsidized multifamily apartments in San Ysidro. The community is already impacted with large numbers of subsidized units, contrary to the balanced communities policy adopted by the City Council.
3. Prepare and distribute a guidebook to San Ysidro and the San Diego region to publicize available public facilities and services.

Schools

1. Provide additional educational programs, such as literacy and English training, to increase employment opportunities (for example, to provide an employee pool for Otay Mesa industry).
 - a. Publicize existing adult education programs.
 - b. Attract a college or university.
2. Complete a comprehensive master plan for all educational facilities in the South San Diego area with the assistance of the four school districts.
3. Collect development impact fees to provide necessary facilities, such as libraries and parks.
4. Allow Southwestern Junior College room for expansion in the future (their current site has no expansion capability) by utilizing vacant industrial warehouse space in the Border International Industrial Park. This can be accomplished with a Conditional Use Permit. (See also the **Industrial Element**.)
5. Apply the Institutional Overlay Zone to all public school sites.

Libraries

1. Allow for future library expansion at or near the existing library site in the linear park to maintain this use in the “heart” of the community.

Police Protection

1. Provide a police storefront office at or near the site of the existing Southern Division Headquarters. Members of the community have requested that police presence be maintained in the community when the Police move their headquarters to Otay Mesa.

Social and Government Facilities

1. Establish a “mini-City Hall” to provide residents with improved access to local government. It could include services such as a satellite Council office, a satellite utilities office for close-to-home bill paying (especially for low-income seniors), and an employment opportunities center. This could be located in conjunction with a police storefront office at the existing police sub-station on San Ysidro Boulevard when the police relocate to Otay Mesa.
2. Locate post office boxes at or near the border gate. (The majority of those who use this service are Mexicans who, after crossing the border, now must traverse the entire community to reach the post office, contributing to the traffic congestion on San Ysidro Boulevard.)

3. Establish San Ysidro as a regional cultural/retail visitor center to provide jobs.
4. Create programs to link jobs in Otay Mesa with San Ysidro residents. Such programs could include: “First Source” hiring, a program that requires Otay Mesa and San Ysidro employers to target community residents as potential employees; centralized job banking; and a job training center in the community, targeting unemployed and underemployed San Ysidro residents.
5. Develop the San Ysidro Community Cultural Center at the San Ysidro Middle School site to provide meeting, classroom and social and cultural space for the community. This project was proposed as part of the 1989 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program but did not receive the required funding.

Public Utilities

1. Determine the community's infrastructure needs and address funding sources.
2. Publicize the City's services and its bilingual staff. Provide information on how to make complaints to City Departments, including Building Inspection and Water Utilities, and what constitutes a legitimate complaint.
3. Enforce health and safety codes to help clean up deteriorated conditions in residential and business districts.
4. Establish a Code Enforcement Task Force (similar to Project First Class in Southeast San Diego).
5. Expand the City’s role in helping renters respond to intimidation and threats by landlords.