



**Public Comments**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**May 26, 2021**

From IP Address: 68.111.173.149

**Email** [christinenava858@gmail.com](mailto:christinenava858@gmail.com)

**Council Meeting Date** 5/26/2021

**Agenda #** #6

**Subject** Designation of city owned surplus land

**Position** In Opposition

**First and Last Name** Chris Nava

**Escondido Resident** False

**Street Address** 858 Calle Montera

**City** Escondido

**State** Ca

**Zip** 92025

**Comments** Dear Mayor and Member of the City Council, Regarding Agenda to hold off on action to dispose of the parcel once designated as the site of the old MFRO. This particular site, along with others on the list for disposal, is of enormous value to the future of Escondido and should remain as a city asset. It should be utilized by the city to advance Executive Order N-06-19 which requires agencies to "identify and prioritize areas of excess state-owned property and aggressively pursue sustainable, innovative cost-effective housing projects. The old MRFO location offers huge opportunities for the city to advance its directive. I urge no decision on this parcel until further study. I further request that the council assign a group/committee to the study of a dedicated study of land trusts and Limited Equity Cooperatives both of which are proven ways of providing affordable Housing and allowing more equitable affordable projects to be developed. Thank You. Chris Nava

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=ae89f6c8-4d8d-4574-9ada-e641a8d127fb>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

From IP Address: 76.216.194.42

**Email** [loanproc@pacbell.net](mailto:loanproc@pacbell.net)

**Council Meeting Date** 5/26/2021

**Agenda #** 5262021

**Subject** Senior Housing Repair

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Barbara Calabrese

**Escondido Resident** False

**Street Address** 211 N Citrus Ave, 47

**City** ESCONDIDO

**State** CA

**Zip** 92027

**Comments** The City of Escondido discontinued the repair program for mobile homes which are owned and occupied predominantly by seniors. There are over 30 mobile home parks in Escondido. Over 30% of the population in Escondido are over the age of 55. The majority of those seniors are low income. I understand that the City of Escondido lost funding for this program. Not sure where the funding was originally started for the previous program but when it stopped why didn't the City of Escondido fund it in their budget. Not only has this program been removed for low income seniors it is not available through the County of San Diego for Escondido Residents. The HUD repair/improvement program for low income seniors is available for other incorporated cities BUT NOT ESCONDIDO RESIDENTS???? The City of Escondido has left behind the low income seniors in the City of Escondido only to have their homes become unlivable and beyond financial repair for them. A repair grant/program/loan needs to be reinstated for low income seniors living in mobile homes in the many mobile home parks with the City of Escondido. It is one of the VERY FEW places seniors and low income can afford to live.

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Good Evening Mayor and council members.

My name is Evelyn Langston an 18 yr.resident of Casa Grande. I'm writing this tonight because I feel the rent increase although very reasonable is not appropriate at this time. Residents here as well as everywhere in Escondido are still recovering from the covid crisis and will take awhile to get somewhat back to normal adding this rent increase would just be an added burden.I'm not disputing the amount just the timing. I'm really proud of where I live and enjoy our amenities when available with all that said there's always room for improvement. I do believe there is still a couple of items from the staff report that's not complete so maybe address the rent increase when they're done with the violations. Thank you Mayor Mac and council for your consideration.

Sincerely Evelyn Langston 18 yr resident of Casa Grande and President of Empac

Dear Mayor and Council members :

I would have liked to be present today to personally express my opinion on this subject. Unfortunately I have a funeral to attend and wont be able to. I'm sure I'm not the only resident of Escondido that will have a similar situation .

So one question is : do we have the right to express our opinions via on line messages as we have been doing during the Pandemic? Or should we go back to business as usual and request in person attendance?

The consequences for this last are simple and clear : residents participation will decrease significantly.

Another question : is the council interested in listening to its constituents? Will the council facilitate participation? Or will they/you obstruct participation and blame the residents for NOT making an effort to be present at the meeting?

We have an aging population in this city, and allowing an on line option for Public Comment will facilitate their continuous engagement in city issues. Same goes for residents who cannot get to meetings on time due to changes to an early schedule.

We have the technology to have a hybrid model : in person and on line comments . What would be the reason to appose it?

Thank you for taking my opinion in consideration.

Ana Marie Velasco

PAC Member

ECAG Member

D3 Resident

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

From IP Address: 68.111.173.149

**Email** [Christinenava858@gmail.com](mailto:Christinenava858@gmail.com)

**Council Meeting Date** 5/26/2021

**Agenda #** 13

**Subject** REquest to place discussion of public comment on future agenda

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Chris Nava

**Escondido Resident** False

**Street Address** 858 Calle Montera

**City** Escondido

**State** CA

**Zip** 92025

**Comments** Dear Mayor and Members of the Council, The request Councilwoman Martinez to agendize discussion of the public comment policy is of great importance to many of us who understand the value of public participation in local governance. The option to submit electronic public comment read aloud by the city clerk resulted in significant increases in public participation – a goal of a true democracy. Why then roll back the process back to an old procedure that is less effective. Isn't the goal to create a more vibrant and participatory citizenry? I urge a council vote to place on a future agenda discussion of public comment. Respectfully, Chris Nava

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**Council Meeting Date** 5/26/2021

**Agenda #** 13

**Subject** Cannabis Equity Now

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Danielle Polson

**Escondido Resident** True

**Street Address** 830 W Lincoln Ave #159

**City** Escondido

**State** CA

**Zip** 92026

**Comments** Stop stalling and decriminalize cannabis now! There is no excuse. Alcohol is far more harmful, yet we sell it in almost every store. It is legal in California and has been for some time, so get with the times. Far too many people have been put in jail for low level non-violent drug crimes. How does this help anyone?? It could be a much safer industry if people didn't have to run around in secret to avoid arrest! Oh, and you love money, right? Well, currently, a lot of people in Escondido use cannabis. But, that money is going to neighboring cities that do allow the cannabis industry. You are losing your own city's tax money to other smarter cities! What are you doing???! Get it together. I'd be happy to share resources if you want to read more.

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From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

From IP Address: 71.63.161.30

**Email** [laurahunter744@gmail.com](mailto:laurahunter744@gmail.com)

**Council Meeting Date** 5/26/2021

**Agenda #** 13

**Subject** Public Comment

**Position** No Position

**First and Last Name** Laura Hunter

**Escondido Resident** True

**Street Address**

**City**

**State**

**Zip**

**Comments** Dear Mayor and City Council, Next to voting, there is probably nothing more sacred in our democracy than the protected ability for people to speak directly to their elected representatives. For sure, we have been tried over the last year in this regard. As you being to deliberate how to resume 'normal' communications, I urge you to institutionalize some of the good about what happened during our COVID year and make it permanent. We learned a lot in the past year. One of the best things, for public engagement and the environment, is that the menu of options for public engagement was expanded. As someone who engages frequently with the Council, I request the following actions be considered: 1. Because we are not out of the woods yet, please keep the option to submit comments for reading along with in-person testimony at least until the pandemic 'officially' ends. 2. For the long-term, please consider a future hybrid model where the public can call in to speak directly to Council from their home or workplace. Such a system would help offset the earlier meeting time of the Council meetings. Thank you for considering my comments. Laura Hunter

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I am grateful to Council member Consuelo Martinez, for requesting an item be placed on Escondido City Council Agenda, for discussion of the public comment policy tonight (May 26, 2021).

I join several other stakeholders in Escondido who were disappointed, and disturbed when Council majority recently voted to discontinue the public comment practice that was put in place during COVID restrictions, with an option to submit electronic public comments which were read aloud by the City Clerk. It is notable that this practice had a beneficial result which led to increased public participation in City Council meetings, where brief messages from the public were read aloud on issues of importance to residents and businesses in Escondido.

It cannot be overstated how important it is to stakeholders to have confidence in our local decision-making process, where elected leaders in Escondido make every effort to facilitate a system that makes active public participation possible, and makes it easy to do. During COVID pandemic many adjustments were necessary, and an unexpected 'silver lining' benefit was this former public comment policy had a successful outcome where more people became active participants, and there was a satisfying sense that City Council members in Escondido wanted to know what constituents have to say, before taking action on Agenda items, and that our leaders are really listening.

Having a voice in public affairs, and public hearings in Escondido is a fundamental right, which once a system has become a commonplace practice, is not something that most stakeholders want to relinquish, or to see a practice that works to then be removed. Expediency and efficiency in public meetings should not come at the expense of considering oral public comment (in person, or in virtual form). Basics in civics are worth remembering, that 'power is derived from the consent of the governed".

Many members of the public wonder why City Council suddenly wants to discontinue this new and effective method that began during COVID restrictions, instead of continuing what is the ideal of a thriving democracy -- an engaged and informed citizenry ? I urge the City Council to reconsider the recent action taken to discontinue the most recent public comment policy, and instead to allow brief public comments be either delivered in-person, or read aloud by the City Clerk.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Patricia Borchmann

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment>

From IP Address: 68.7.169.179

**Email** [szfrawley@uchastings.edu](mailto:szfrawley@uchastings.edu)

**Council Meeting Date** 5/26/2021

**Agenda #** 13

**Subject** Public Comment Policy

**Position** In Favor

**First and Last Name** Sean Frawley

**Escondido Resident** True

**Street Address** 2407 Heatherwood Ct.

**City** Escondido

**State** CA

**Zip** 92026

**Comments** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers; I write to you in support of continuing to read public comments out loud during the City Council Meetings. Unfortunately, this COVID-19 pandemic has still not past us and California and San Diego County is still requiring most public hearings, including the Escondido City Council meetings, to limit their capacity to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. At last week's meeting I had to wait outside the City Council Chamber's until several members of the public left before I could enter the space and speak on an agenda item. Until the City Council Meetings are no longer restricted to a limited capacity, the city council meetings should continue to read public comments out loud in to the record for all members of the public to hear to provide transparency and more accessibility to public participation. Thank you, Sean Frawley

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