

2023-24  
FISCAL YEAR REPORT

City of  
**ENCINITAS**

# CONTENTS



- 2 – Table of Contents
- 3 – City Manager’s Letter
- 4 – Financial Health
- 5 – City Workings
- 6 – Life in Encinitas

- 9 – Paving the Way
- 12 – Community Guardians
- 15 – Environmental Efforts
- 17 – A Day at the Beach
- 19 – Kids Corner

- 20 – Community Enrichment
- 21 – Infrastructure Advancements
- 24 – Community Milestone
- 25 – And the Winner Is...

2024 CITY COUNCIL	
TONY KRANZ	Mayor
ALLISON BLACKWELL	Deputy Mayor, District 1
KELLIE SHAY HINZE	District 2
JOY LYNDES	District 3
BRUCE EHLERS	District 4
PAMELA ANTIL	City Manager
<p>The Encinitas City Council typically meets on the second, third, and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.</p>	



505 South Vulcan Avenue  
 Encinitas, CA 92024  
 760.633.2600  
[encinitasca.gov](http://encinitasca.gov)

City Hall, Public Works,  
 and San Dieguito Water  
 District offices are closed  
 every other Friday.

**CITY HALL HOURS:**  
 Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 Every other Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
 COUNTER HOURS:**  
 Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Every other Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

# HELLO ENCINITAS

With Fiscal Year 2023-2024 behind us, I am pleased to reflect back on the City's successes and forward momentum. This annual report showcases major projects, milestones, and department achievements while honoring the determined efforts made by our community. I am grateful for the work done by all our dedicated public servants, the City Council's leadership, and your valued input. By working together, we can ensure the safety and well-being of our residents, continue protecting our coastline, maintain a balanced budget, and act as responsible stewards of the environment.

Over the past year, we have made significant strides enhancing the City's infrastructure and protecting our beaches. City Council appointed an Infrastructure Task Force, major improvements continued to Leucadia's Streetscape project and storm drains, and a significant portion of our coastline was restored. In fact, you might have noticed our cover for this year's annual report is our coastline after the Storm Damage Reduction Project replenished sand on our beaches! Not only do these initiatives ensure resiliency and sustainability for years to come, but they also emphasize our community and staff's ability to collaborate for the betterment of our city.

Another initiative worth noting is the City's dedication to cyclist and pedestrian safety. In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, significant safety enhancements were completed to foster safe riding habits, reduce accidents, and create a safer community for all. These



included safety improvements for the Santa Fe Drive Corridor, enhancements to the Leucadia Streetscape Segment C West Project, a new pedestrian Z-crossing on El Camino Real, and lower speed limits on key streets across the city.

This year brought a commitment to the community through the transformation of the Pacific View School into the Pacific View Arts Center, which I can proudly say is a vibrant community arts hub. We also unveiled new public art sculptures and mosaics and launched a pilot program to boost economic development. This commitment to our community enrichment is what makes the city a special place to live, work, visit, and raise a family.

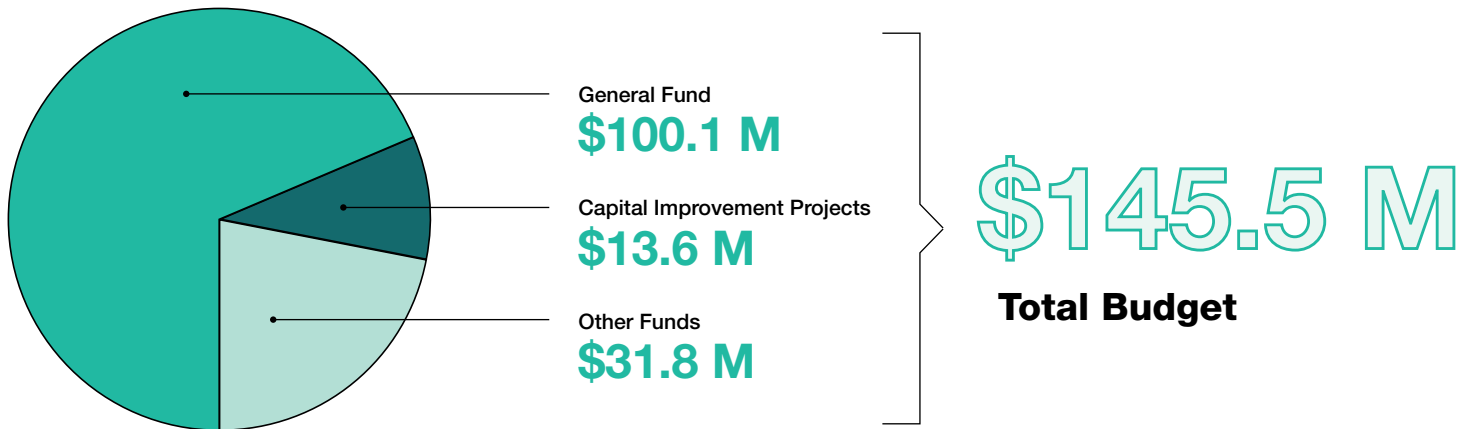
Looking back on what we've accomplished, this year fills me with immense gratitude for our City Council and staff. Their dedication has been key to achieving our annual goals, and I'm truly inspired by the milestones we've reached together. As we move forward, I'm excited to plan for another year of progress, innovation, and a continued commitment to preserving the unique character and legacy of our community.



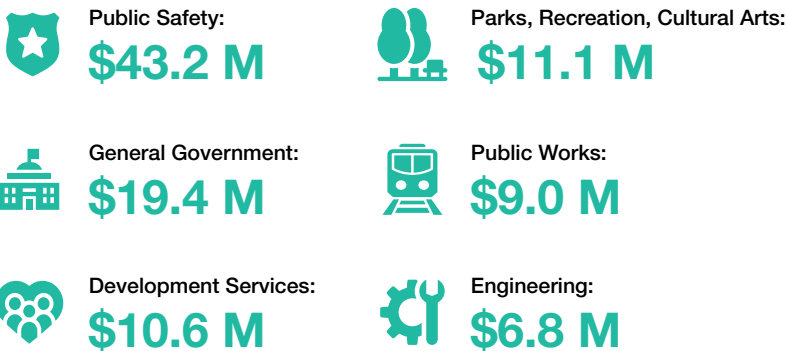
Pamela Antil  
City Manager, City of Encinitas

# FINANCIAL HEALTH

## FY 2024-25 BUDGET



### WHERE IS THE GENERAL FUND MONEY SPENT?



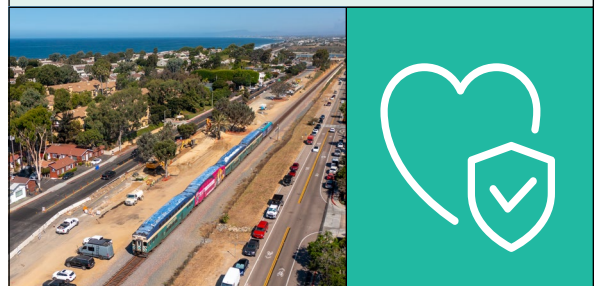
### DID YOU KNOW?

The City provided **707 programs** for over **10,000 participants** through our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department, receiving over **\$1.6 million** in revenue.

The City received **17 state and federal grants** in Fiscal Year 2024, helping to leverage external resources to fund infrastructure improvements, environmental programs, public safety efforts, and community services. Plus, grants help alleviate the financial burden on local taxpayers.

### HEALTH CHECK

- July 1, 2023: Started with operating budget savings of **\$14.4 million**
- Replenished internal service funds: **\$6.0 million**
- Paid a portion of unfunded pension liabilities: **\$0.5 million**
- First year of cannabis tax: **\$0.25 million**
- 2024 Lease Revenue Bond Issuance: **\$5.7 million**
- Credit Rating: **AAA (the highest rating)**, AA+ on the 2024 lease revenue bonds (the highest rating)
- The City's FY 2024-25 interactive budget book is **available online**, complete with interactive charts, videos, and a downloadable PDF.



# CITY WORKINGS



## INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE PRESENTS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

In January 2023, City Council appointed seven Encinitas residents to a one-year Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) to evaluate the City's infrastructure. The task force held 19 meetings to identify the City's infrastructure needs and backlog, ensure capital projects were linked to City policies and priorities, and make recommendations to fund the City's infrastructure needs. On February 28, 2024, the ITF's final report was presented to City Council, which included a capital project ranking rubric and recommendations to fund infrastructure projects through pursuit of grant funding, public/private partnerships, a future Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) increase, and a November 2024 1-cent per dollar sales tax increase.



## NEW PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION ESTABLISHED

The City launched its newest Commission in the fall of 2023 - the Public Health and Safety Commission. Comprised of dedicated community members with diverse experience in healthcare, law enforcement, education, and social services, the Commission acts in an advisory capacity to City Council, offering recommendations and actively engaging with residents, stakeholders, and City staff to promote a safer and healthier Encinitas. Guided by their annual Work Plan, the commission is focused on achieving key goals to address community needs and challenges.

## SERVICING PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

From July 01, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the City Clerk's Department received 895 Public Records Requests. 99% of the records requests are fulfilled within the 10 business day requirement as outlined by the California Public Records Act (CPRA).

### What is a Public Records Request?

- A Public Records Request provides a right of access to non-exempt public records.
- Members of the public may formally request information from the City of Encinitas.
- Each request varies in complexity and may require input from multiple departments, even if similar requests have been handled before.
- Exemptions may be based on CPRA, other laws, or if an agency proves that the public interest in keeping information confidential outweighs the interest in disclosure.

## TRACKING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Have you ever wondered about upcoming construction work? Check out [Work Across the City](#) online and the [myEncinitas app](#) for a map with details about all planned construction projects. Work Across the City highlights projects within a two-week window, though schedules may change due to weather or supply issues. Please note that non-city utilities and private developments aren't included at this time.





## **CITY ACQUIRES PROPERTY TO PRESERVE COMMUNITY CHARACTER**

In August 2023, the City Council took action to approve the purchase of 1.43 acres at the northeast corner of Highway 101 and La Costa Avenue to preserve community character. The property was acquired for \$6.0 million, funded through a temporary transfer from the Contingency Reserve, and issued lease revenue bonds in May 2024 to reimburse the Contingency Reserve. Consistent with the City's Strategic Plan, the purchase was important to protect resources such as wetland vegetation and bluffs.

# **LIFE IN ENCINITAS**



## SHOPPING CART ORDINANCE ADOPTED TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SPACES

In January 2024, the City Council adopted a Shopping Cart Ordinance to address the public nuisance created from abandoned shopping carts, which often obstruct pedestrian and disabled access, interfere with vehicular traffic, impede emergency services, and can be found in streets, parks, and other public rights of way. Since the ordinance became operative, the City has had a 98% recovery rate of abandoned shopping carts within the required 48-hour notification period. The new ordinance establishes:

1. It is unlawful to remove a marked shopping cart from a premises or to be in possession of a marked shopping cart.
2. It is unlawful for a shopping cart owner to allow a shopping cart to be abandoned or remain unattended.

## TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING PROVISIONS EXTENDED

In October 2023, Assembly Bill (AB) 1217 was signed to extend outdoor dining provisions of AB 61 until July 1, 2026, providing regulatory relief to applicants regarding outdoor dining, alcohol service, and parking standards. All outdoor dining establishments are currently operating under the temporary provisions until a permanent local outdoor dining ordinance is adopted.

City Council provided the following staff direction on outdoor dining: extend temporary outdoor dining, prepare a permanent outdoor dining ordinance, require leasing fees for the use of public parking spaces for outdoor dining, develop safety and aesthetics standards, clarify limits on the number of outdoor dining establishments per block, increase downtown parking time limits, require inactive and/or unpermitted outdoor dining removals, and require converted parking be used exclusively for seating.

In June 2024, City Council adopted an outdoor dining right-of-way usage fee of \$2.50 per square foot, per month. Additionally, the City Council approved the replacement of the existing plastic barricades with permanent concrete barriers, which will be painted a neutral tone or with a mural/ art installation. Staff is in the process of working with outdoor dining establishments to implement the right-of-way usage fee, to replace the barriers and to prepare a permanent outdoor dining ordinance.



## BUENA VISTA CREEK NAVIGATION CENTER OPENS DOORS

The City of Encinitas and the City of Vista worked together during the winter of 2024 to establish a low barrier navigation center, or interim transitional housing, for adults experiencing homelessness in North County San Diego. After securing a location and a service provider, the Buena Creek Navigation Center (BCNC) opened its doors in March 2024. A first of its kind, the BCNC provides wrap-around services to assist clients to work towards self-sufficiency, job placement, and permanent housing. The center has 48 beds, with 12 beds exclusively reserved for unhoused Encinitas residents. BCNC utilizes state grant funds to cover most of the operating costs and has served over 20 unhoused Encinitas residents during its first quarter.



## NEWSWORTHY ENHANCEMENTS IN TOWN

Several development projects received discretionary approvals, including:

- Saint Constantine Greek Orthodox Church multi-family development and the Moonlight Apartments
- Mixed-use developments such as Burtech residential/retail project and “The Captain” residential/retail project
- Various restaurants providing new or expanding services including The Roxy, Versailles Café, Goodonya, Gelati and Picatti, Beachside Bar and Grill, Breakers Cafe, and Board and Brew

Several projects broke ground for construction, including:

- Scripps Memorial Hospital’s new acute care building
- The Encinitas Boulevard Apartment project
- Fox Point Farms Housing Element project

Several noteworthy projects received their certificate of occupancy, including:

- Vulcan Apartments Housing Element project
- Fox Point Farms

## QUAIL GARDENS L7 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN BEGINS

Phase 1 of the public engagement plan outreach efforts for L7, the city-owned lot on Quail Gardens Drive, is anticipated to begin in fall 2024. A series of focus group discussions will provide information on affordable housing, qualifying income levels, allowable affordable housing, and market rental rates. Phase 1 will also include information about typical affordable housing projects and how this project would be similar to the surrounding residential neighborhood in terms of size, bulk, and architectural design. The meetings will solicit community input, answer questions, and encourage community feedback.

## FUNDING SECURED FOR SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS

In September 2023, the City’s Housing Authority learned their “Lower than Average Leasing” funding application was approved, an opportunity made available through a Housing Assistance Payment fund established by HUD. This meant the City could make progress on implementing Program 2C of the Housing Element, resulting in additional vouchers to assist qualified households on the Housing Choice Voucher waitlist.

# PAVING THE WAY



1,307

resident-reported potholes filled within 24 hours



\$3.5M

of street overlays and slurry seals



5.87

miles of distressed roadways rehabilitated



29

ADA curb ramps added



## MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO LEUCADIA STREETSCAPE PROJECT CONTINUE

In February 2024, construction began on the Leucadia Streetscape Segment C West Project. Initial improvements include drainage upgrades, median modifications, and pedestrian and cyclist enhancements. The City Council authorized additional funding to allow completion of major drainage improvements, including a 60" storm drain from Jupiter Street to La Costa to address the city's longstanding issues diverting excess storm runoff in Leucadia. Project work will continue through spring 2026 and staff have been coordinating with local businesses and the surrounding community regarding construction progress and upcoming traffic pattern changes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The City **won an award** for its Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 Pavement Rehabilitation Overlay and Slurry Seal Project from the **American Public Works Association (APWA)**.



## ENCINITAS PRIORITIZES SAFETY WITH EXPANDED BIKE EDUCATION

With the rise in bicycle and e-bike use among youth, the City has made it a priority to teach students how to safely navigate roadways and reduce the risk of accidents by partnering with local school districts to implement comprehensive bike and e-bike safety programs. The City has funded a range of assemblies and hands-on workshops that focus on teaching safety rules, traffic laws, and proper bike handling techniques.

Additionally, the City collaborates with the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition to offer bi-monthly bike and e-bike safety classes on cycling laws, safety practices, and bike drills to enhance rider confidence and competence. Since the program's launch in 2021, nearly 700 participants have benefited from these classes, prompting the City to expand the program to meet the community's growing interest.

## BIKE EMERGENCY PROJECT TO ENHANCE SAFETY AND MOBILITY

In January 2024, the City Council approved designs for a bike emergency construction project to enhance mobility and safety. A construction contract for the work was awarded in May 2024. The project will implement several bicycle safety measures across the community, including:

- New bike lanes on Village Park Way between Mountain Vista Drive and Diegueno Middle School
- Cross-bikes (a crosswalk for bicyclists) with dedicated high visibility areas at the intersections of Encinitas Boulevard with Via Cantabria and Balour Drive, El Camino Real and Santa Fe Drive and at the intersection of Manchester Avenue and Mira Costa College
- Shared lane markings (sharrows) along Nardo Road between Requeza Street and Santa Fe Drive

These improvements will create comprehensive, safe, and aesthetically-pleasing new bicycle infrastructure for the community. Construction will commence in fall 2024, with completion anticipated in the winter of 2024.



## SANTA FE DRIVE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

The western segment of the Santa Fe Drive Corridor Improvements project began construction in January 2024 and is on pace to finish in fall 2024. This street reconstruction project will improve safety and mobility for vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic along Santa Fe Drive. Improvements include continuous sidewalks, protected bike lanes, landscape beautification, enhanced intersection improvements, and a signalized pedestrian crossing at San Dieguito High School Academy. The western segment was primarily funded through a federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant, a Community Block Development Grant, and a California State Budget Allocation from the office of State Senator Blakespear.

## NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OPENS ON EL CAMINO REAL

In spring 2024, a new pedestrian staggered mid-block crossing, or Z-crossing, opened on El Camino Real between Encinitas Boulevard and Via Molena. The Z-crossing design enhances safety and requires pedestrians to face traffic before crossing the second half of the street.

Funded through a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant, the pedestrian-activated traffic signal and crosswalks connect existing NCTD bus stops and commercial centers on both sides of the road and is synchronized with nearby traffic lights to ensure efficient operation and minimal disruption.

## CITY IMPLEMENTS NEW LOWER SPEED LIMITS ON KEY STREETS

In June 2024, the City Council adopted a new ordinance lowering speed limits on various streets, pursuant to another provision of Assembly Bill 43 (AB 43). Lower speed roadways were selected based on collision history and the location of schools and education centers. The City also established “business activity districts” with a speed limit of 25 mph, including South Coast Highway 101 between D and J Streets. Lower speed limits increase safety for cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers.

## SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS UNDERWAY ON QUAIL GARDENS AND SAXONY

In January 2024, the City Council approved the design of safety and mobility enhancements along Saxony Road and Quail Gardens Drive between Encinitas Boulevard and Leucadia Boulevard. This project implements new bicycle and pedestrian facilities along with traffic calming features that will improve safety and mobility, helping to create a transportation network that encourages people to use other forms of active transportation. Construction began in summer 2024 and will be completed by winter 2024/25.





## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BY THE NUMBERS

DUI ARRESTS  
**164**

DEPUTY INITIATED ACTIVITY  
**19,232**

TRAFFIC COLLISIONS  
**329**

TRAFFIC CITATIONS  
**8,053**

CALLS FOR SERVICE  
**17,170**

CRIMINAL ARRESTS  
**1,255**

# COMMUNITY GUARDIANS

## CITY EXPANDS LICENSE PLATE READER CAMERAS



The City upgraded its public safety measures with the expansion of License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology, with 17 new LPR cameras added in May 2024. The system converts images into text in real time, a crucial tool for public safety as it helps investigate stolen vehicles, missing persons, and delivers real-time notifications that speed up law enforcement response times. The expansion from 7 cameras in 2022 to 24 cameras as of this year significantly boosts the City's ability to enhance public safety and investigative effectiveness. The technology adheres to SB 34 regulations and only shares data with local law enforcement agencies within San Diego County.

## HOPE TEAM EXPANSION CONTRIBUTES TO SAFER COMMUNITY

In June 2024, the City funded an expansion of the HOPE team, the Homeless Outreach Program for Empowerment, by adding two more deputy positions. HOPE pairs a Sheriff's Deputy with a Health and Human Services Agency Social Worker to help people transition from the streets to stable housing while receiving necessary medical and mental health care. The Community-Oriented Policing and Problem Solving Team collaborates with HOPE to address homelessness in Encinitas. This expansion is expected to significantly improve the program's effectiveness and contribute to a safer and more supportive community.

## BUILDING TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY THROUGH COPPS

The North Coastal Sheriff's Station enhanced its community engagement efforts in Encinitas this year through a series of initiatives aimed at building trust and addressing local needs. The Community-Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) Team conducts regular foot patrols in business districts and parks to foster open communication and build genuine relationships with residents and business owners. Their "Coffee with the Community" events help deputies meet with community members in local coffee shops and businesses, providing a relaxed setting for residents to share their concerns and suggestions, promote a collaborative approach to public safety, increase transparency, and reinforce trust.



## COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD RESPONSE

During the severe winter storms of January - February 2024, essential repairs and enhancements were made to storm drains, including dredging to increase capacity and reduce flooding risks. City staff deployed signage and equipment to high-risk areas, emergency management staff provided up-to-date weather forecasts, and Fire and Marine Safety personnel adjusted staffing to handle storm-related incidents.

The Streets crews cleared over 1,600 yards of debris, silt, and vegetation from public areas, and removed over 1,200 cubic yards from the City's MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) areas. The Wastewater Collections Division tackled nearly 500 cubic yards of sand and debris from the storm drain system.

**Cardiff State Beach Living Shoreline Project:** Despite localized damage from the January 2024 storms, the Cardiff State Beach Living Shoreline Project's coastal resiliency and engineering successfully protected South Coast Highway 101 from severe flooding and erosion.

**Lake Drive Emergency Project:** From February to June 2023, emergency repairs were made to a failed storm drain and culvert on Lake Drive. An Emergency Declaration allowed for a temporary stormwater bypass to address a new failure, guiding stormwater through the canyon while a permanent solution is being developed.

**Eolus Avenue & Loch Lomond Storm Drain Repair:** In December 2023, two failed pipes were replaced to restore functionality at 1711 Eolus and Loch Lomond Drive.

**Caminito Graciela Project:** Following heavy rains in 2023, groundwater accumulation under the pavement at Caminito Graciela and Rancho Encinitas Drive caused distress. A new subsurface drain was designed and installed in October 2023 to channel groundwater to a catch basin.

**Moonlight Beach and Cottonwood Repair:** Three deteriorated pipes and a collapsed gabion wall at Moonlight Beach were repaired in December 2023 with funding from the State of California Parks Department, with the support of Assembly Member Boerner, to restore vital stormwater infrastructure.



## GENASYS EVACUATION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The County of San Diego introduced Genasys Protect, a new evacuation notification system designed to deliver timely and relevant emergency information to keep the community informed and safe during emergencies. This tool allows first responder agencies to quickly communicate details about evacuation areas, shelter locations, road closures, maps, and impacted zones. Residents can access Genasys Protect by downloading the mobile application or visiting the [Genasys Protect website](#).

## FIRE STATION 6 SEARCH

The City is actively seeking a permanent location for Fire Station 6 in Olivenhain as part of its commitment to enhance safety and community well-being, particularly in high wildland fire risk areas.

## UTILIZING DRONES FOR FIREFIGHTING

Drones have become a vital enhancement to the tools used in firefighting efforts, improving safety and saving time in emergencies. The Encinitas Fire and Marine Safety Department is in the process of launching its drone program to assist with many types of incidents, such as bluff rescues, wildfires, train accidents, and search and rescues.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT BY THE NUMBERS

95.39%

calls were responded to within 90 seconds  
(Time elapsed between call received by dispatch and notification sent to first responders.)

96.16%

non-medical calls were responded to within 90 seconds

93.33%

units were enroute to medical calls within 120 seconds (2 minutes) of notification from dispatch

99.07%

units were enroute to fire operations calls within 135 seconds (2 minutes 15 seconds) of notification from dispatch



## CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE UNDERWAY

In line with the City's commitment to update the Climate Action Plan (CAP) every five years, the update process began in 2023. This phase involved completing a new baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecasting future emissions through 2050. The update will establish new GHG reduction targets and propose revised or additional measures to cut emissions. In 2024, two public workshops were held to gather community input on potential actions. Further workshops and public hearings will take place over the next six months as the final elements of the updated CAP are developed.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

## 2023 STORMWATER DESIGN MANUAL UPDATE

The City Council adopted the updated Stormwater Best Management Practice Design Manual on October 18, 2023. Originally established in 2016, the manual provides guidelines for new and redevelopment projects to manage runoff and treat stormwater in accordance with San Diego Region Municipal Stormwater Permit requirements. The 2023 update incorporates recent technical advancements and regulatory changes, offering greater flexibility in design, streamlining the review process, and ensuring that the latest standards are met.

## UPCOMING NATIVE PLANT ORDINANCE AND DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

The City Council has moved forward with developing a native plant ordinance based on recommendations from the native plant subcommittee. On March 20, 2024, the subcommittee presented their refined scope of work and budget for the ordinance. In the 2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget adopted on June 12, 2024, the City Council allocated \$150,000 for the ordinance's development with a consultant and another \$150,000 for creating a native plant demonstration garden. These initiatives aim to promote the use of native plants and enhance local biodiversity.

## CITY OF ENCINITAS JOINS SAN DIEGO REGIONAL GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK

In December 2023, the City of Encinitas joined the San Diego Regional Green Business Network (SDRGBN) as a program partner in close collaboration with the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce. This partnership encourages businesses to adopt environmentally sustainable practices and gives green businesses the recognition they deserve. The SDRGBN is a subsidiary of the California Green Business Network and is administered by the U.S. Green Building Council California. This program will provide targeted outreach, certification, and recognition to local Encinitas businesses who are interested in participating in the program. If you own a local business and want to learn more, check out this [City webpage](#).

## CITY ADOPTS NEW GREEN BUILDING REACH CODE TO ENHANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

A new green building ordinance was adopted by City Council on June 12, 2024. The new ordinance replaced the previous all-electric requirement with a building code that increases energy efficiency standards and electric-readiness requirements for residential new construction. The new ordinance is intended to encourage all-electric construction and will help get one step closer to meeting the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets outlined in the City's Climate Action Plan.



## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: ENHANCED FUNDING AND ACHIEVEMENTS

For FY 2023-24, the City increased its investment in the Habitat Stewardship Program to \$200,000. This year, the program has made significant strides in improving native habitats across city parks.

At Cottonwood Creek Park, efforts focused on invasive plant management and native plantings. Native species now dominate much of the site, with indications of self-sustaining populations due to the reduction of nonnative plants. The program also extended to the Moonlight Beach parcel, emphasizing similar invasive plant control and native plant establishment. At Oakcrest Park, new initiatives include rare plant preservation, access controls, and general habitat enhancements.

Recon Environmental was brought on board in May 2024 to provide project management and environmental oversight in habitat stewardship efforts. The San Diego Botanic Garden also managed Habitat Stewardship activities, including hosting 20 volunteer events. These events engaged local schools and community groups, contributing 250 volunteer hours to restoration efforts at Cottonwood Creek Park and the Moonlight Beach parcel.



# A DAY AT THE BEACH

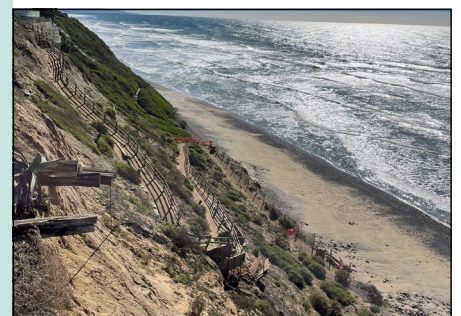
## SUPPORTING LONG-TERM SAND NOURISHMENT

The City remains a key supporter of the Regional Beach Sand Project III (RBSP III), a collaborative initiative that maintains and enhances our region’s beaches, ensuring their resilience and sustainability for years to come. Collaborating with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and ten other coastal cities in San Diego County, the City is actively involved in a long term, regional beach study which focuses on the planning, engineering, and economic feasibility of future sand nourishment needs.

## BEACON’S BEACH TRAIL UPDATES

In January 2024, following heavy rainfall, a reactivation of the historic landslide at Beacon’s Beach caused significant damage to the northern portion of the bluff, closing the access trail, stairs, and walls. Through a collaborative response from the City’s Engineering, Planning, and Parks teams, the City monitored the landslide, stabilized the site, secured necessary permits, and implemented repairs. As a result, the trail reopened in May 2024.

Additionally, City staff finalized a design to relocate the parking lot away from the bluff’s impacted area. After facing multiple appeals in 2023, City staff effectively defended the project and received approval from both the Planning Commission and the California Coastal Commission. This reconstruction project is now scheduled for FY 2024-25.





BEFORE



AFTER

## STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT RESTORES COASTLINE

In May 2024, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) restored 1.5 miles of heavily eroded Encinitas coastline with 346,000 cubic yards of sand from just north of Swamis Beach to just south of Beacon’s Beach. The Storm Damage Reduction Project provided essential storm damage protection, increasing public safety and expanding recreational benefits for all.



## SAFE BEACH DAY: YOUR ULTIMATE BEACH PLANNING TOOL

Plan your beach day with ease using the Safe Beach Day feature available on the [myEncinitas app](#) and [website](#). Access essential safety information such as open lifeguard towers, stingray hazard levels, UV index, temperature, wave heights, and Marine Protected Areas.

## MARINE SAFETY DIVISION ACHIEVEMENTS

The Marine Safety division successfully conducted its fifth new hire academy, graduating sixteen new lifeguards, and hosted its inaugural State Fire Training River and Flood Rescue Technician course. Amid these advancements, lifeguards have observed significant increases in beachgoer numbers and “calls for service,” which are likely attributed to the recent sand replenishment project.



## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2024, the City’s Junior Lifeguard program engaged over 1,200 youth participants, ages 9-17, by offering valuable education and essential knowledge on ocean and beach safety, drowning prevention, basic first aid, and practical skills for their safety and well-being.

# KIDS CORNER

## PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENTS AND RENOVATIONS

Playgrounds are essential for children’s physical health, mental well-being, and social interaction. High-quality playgrounds offer safety, accessibility, and a range of engaging activities, while outdated equipment requires replacement to meet current standards for inclusivity and safety.

This year, significant improvements are underway at the following parks:

### Scott Valley Park

The playground at Scott Valley Park (1995) will be replaced with a fully inclusive play space featuring elements for all abilities. The design phase is complete and construction is expected to start late 2024.

### Wiro, Orpheus, and Glen Parks

The playgrounds at Wiro Park (1992), Orpheus Park (1993), and Glen Park (2011) are due for replacement due to age and high repair costs. The City was awarded a \$600,000 grant to fund renovations with the support of Assembly Member Tasha Boerner. Glen Park received additional funding to install adult fitness equipment and a new picnic shelter.

Designs are currently in the development stage and community input will be sought before construction begins in FY 24-25.

## CITY LAUNCHES INAUGURAL YOUTH PIANO COMPETITION

In fall 2023, the City launched its inaugural Youth Piano Concerto Competition to celebrate young talent. In partnership with the North Coast Symphony Orchestra (NCSO), young musicians in grades K-12 were invited to compete for three soloist opportunities to perform on a concert grand piano with NCSO.

On June 15, 2024, three exceptionally talented young musicians received standing ovations at a sold-out performance.



## SUMMER CAMPS FOSTER GROWTH AND SKILLS

The City continued to foster personal growth, relationship building, and environmental awareness for over 4,000 youth across the community through a diverse array of summer camps. Activities included skateboarding, surfing, Lego engineering, various sports, dance, theater, and the arts.



## EL PORTAL UNDERCROSSING MOSAICS UNVEILED

600 elementary students shared their history lessons and personal stories with artist Jeremy Wright, who with the help of high school students from San Dieguito Academy, incorporated their insights into mosaic designs. The project, a testament to the power of public art in fostering community spirit, featured 17 panels, decorative tile ribbons, and two cairns. The completed mosaics were unveiled to the community in August 2024 at a celebratory event.

# COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

## GLEN PARK TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY

As part of the City’s ADA Transition Plan, the Glen Park ADA Improvement Project aims to enhance accessibility across the park, including upgrades to the main parking lot, accessible parking stalls and walkways, and a new accessible path to the picnic shelter and playground. The updated design will be completed, permits secured, and construction initiated in FY 2024-25.



## OAKCREST CAFÉ PROVIDES SENIOR CONNECTION

The Oakcrest Café at the Encinitas Community and Senior Center exemplifies the City’s commitment to connecting seniors with essential services, resources, and community. By serving 6,500 meals, the program combats social isolation while providing nourishment and a vibrant array of activities. From art, yoga, and games, to live performances and surprise flashmobs, seniors leave with full bellies and full hearts.

## PILOT TO BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, the City launched a pilot program with Cardiff 101 Mainstreet, Encinitas 101 Mainstreet, Leucadia 101 Mainstreet, and the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce to boost economic development. The pilot program was launched allowing City Council Members to visit local businesses and gather feedback directly. The Mayor and City Council Members visited four businesses—Surfhouse Hotel, Broad Street Dough, Tower 13, and Code Ninjas – to gather feedback. Due to the program’s positive feedback, staff plans to expand the program (pending City Council approval this fall).



## NEW PUBLIC ART SCULPTURES ENHANCE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

In April 2024, the City Council approved the installation of public art sculptures around Encinitas. Submissions were reviewed by the Commission for the Arts, a jury panel made up of residents of each community, and included public feedback.

In July 2024, two sculptures were installed at the Pacific View Arts Center and across from the Cardiff Library. Additional sculptures are scheduled for installation at Little Oaks Equestrian Park, Oakcrest Park, Leucadia Oaks Park, and Sun Vista Park. This two-year loan program not only showcases art in prominent community spaces but also enriches the city’s cultural landscape.



## LEUCADIA STORM DRAIN UPGRADES

In September 2023, the City Council approved the \$23 million construction phase for the Leucadia Streetscape Segment C West project on North Coast Highway 101. Supported partially with federal funds secured by Congressman Levin, this included over \$6.8 million for local drainage improvements, adding 24 new storm drain inlets, over 3,000 linear feet of new storm drains, and a 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe from Moorgate Road to La Costa Avenue. An additional \$6.7 million was approved by the City Council to extend the 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe under North Coast Highway 101 from Moorgate Road to Jupiter Street. In March 2024, the City Council reviewed a report that analyzed flooding between North Vulcan Avenue and I-5, identifying additional potential drainage projects.

# INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENTS



## LEUCADIA AT-GRADE RAIL CROSSINGS PROJECT ADVANCES

During FY 2022-2023, the City completed concept designs and initial public outreach for two at-grade rail crossings near Grandview Street and Phoebe Street in Leucadia. This year, additional data has been collected, the environmental studies were completed and the design is nearing completion. The City will submit the design, environmental analysis, and California Public Utilities Commission application seeking approval for the crossings in fall 2024.

## CITYWIDE QUIET ZONE PROGRESS

This year, the City continued efforts to extend Quiet Zones, or areas where train conductors are not required to sound their horns, to Leucadia Boulevard. Chesterfield Drive is currently the only area of the city with an existing Quiet Zone. To extend this zone, supplementary safety measures are required at four existing crossings: E Street, D Street, Encinitas Station, and Leucadia Boulevard. Consultant work began in January 2024 and their first designs are expected this fall.

## VERDI UNDERCROSSING DESIGN

In FY 2023-2024, a design was completed for the Verdi Undercrossing project to provide safe access between residences in Cardiff and the San Elijo Campground. The project, which proposes a grade-separated crossing for pedestrians and cyclists, will be presented to the Planning Commission for approval in FY 2024-25.



## WATER AND SEWER RATE HIKE TO SUPPORT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

In May 2024, the City Council approved updated Sewer Capacity Fees and Sewer Service Rates for the Cardiff and Encinitas Sanitary Divisions to fund critical sewer maintenance and capital improvement projects, such as Olivenhain Trunk and Cottonwood Creek sewer improvements. The fees also provide adequate reserves for emergency repairs and ensures safe and reliable drinking water delivery through necessary operation, maintenance, and planned capital improvements.

## SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Olivenhain Trunk Sewer, the City's largest sewer pipeline, requires manhole rehabilitation to prevent rainwater inflow. The project will advance once environmental permits are secured from the California Coastal Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

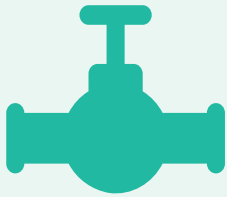
The Cottonwood Creek sewer improvements project aims to realign approximately 500 feet of wastewater piping out of Cottonwood Creek, reducing the risk of failure and wastewater spills. The project is fully designed and currently undergoing environmental approvals.

The FY 2024 annual sewer rehabilitation project will repair approximately five miles of aging wastewater piping throughout the City, significantly extending their useful life and saving ratepayers money with full project clearance. Construction is set to begin in fall 2024.



# WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The City recently completed several water infrastructure projects aimed to improve resilience and maintain a safe and reliable water supply for the community.



Replacement of 67 water valves across 23 intersections, enhancing water flow control and system reliability



Replacement of 15 valves on the 36-inch transmission main throughout Encinitas and Rancho Santa Fe



Replacement of a 5,500-gallon emergency chlorine scrubber

# WASTEWATER COLLECTION DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Wastewater Collection Division achieved several key milestones this year, enhancing the City's overall drainage infrastructure and ensuring effective wastewater management.



Removed 498 cubic yards of sand and debris from the storm drain system



Inspected 174,855 feet (33.2 miles) of sewer lines through CCTV



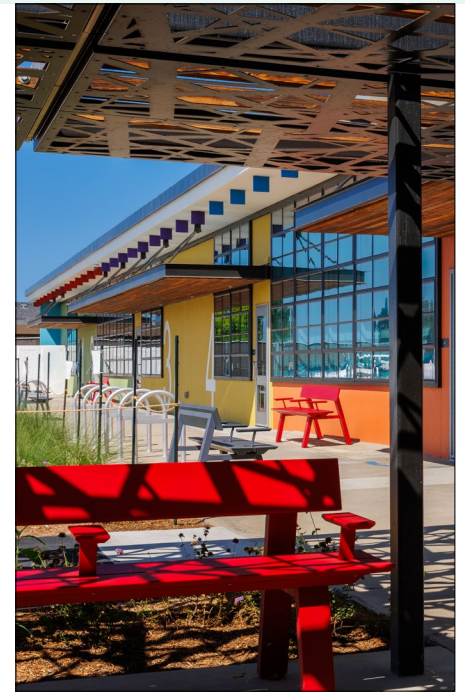
Cleaned 786,819 feet (149 miles) of sewer lines



Cleaned and inspected 2,081 storm drain catch basins/boxes



# COMMUNITY MILESTONE



## PACIFIC VIEW ARTS CENTER RENOVATION AND GRAND OPENING

The transformation of the Pacific View School into the Pacific View Arts Center marked a significant milestone for the City, blending historical charm with modern functionality. Beginning in November 2022 and extending through the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, the renovation project aimed to rejuvenate the former Pacific View Elementary School, which was originally built in 1953, and repurpose it into a vibrant community arts hub.

The renovation involved a comprehensive overhaul of the building's infrastructure, making the building ADA and California's Standard Title 24 Building Code compliant. Improvements included Climate Action Plan (CAP) measures, energy-efficient mechanical equipment, and an all-electric design. Because the windows were an important historical feature to the site, the contractor stripped and repainted the frames and placed new Low-Emissivity glass. There are four parking spaces available for electric vehicle charging, which meets another sustainability goal for the site.

In addition to the renovation, City staff executed the installation of furniture, equipment, hardscape, irrigation, and a fully native landscape.

Using input from community surveys about the types of arts programs of interest, City staff set about recruiting contract instructors and teaching artists to offer a broad variety of arts classes for all ages and abilities.

The grand reopening of the Pacific View Arts Center was celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on August 6, 2024. The event was followed by an Open House, attracting 400 attendees who toured the new facilities, met instructors, and learned about upcoming classes and workshops.

Classes at the Pacific View Arts Center commenced on August 13, 2024. The Center now offers a diverse range of visual, performing, literary, multimedia, and specialty art programs, with 138 classes scheduled and 150 pre-registered participants. This \$6 million renovation project not only revitalized a historic building but also created a dynamic space for community engagement and artistic expression. The Pacific View Arts Center stands as a testament to the City's commitment to arts, culture, and sustainability.



# AND THE WINNER IS...

In the past year, the City of Encinitas was honored with several prestigious awards that recognize our ongoing commitment to excellence. These accolades reflect our dedication to environmental leadership, fiscal reporting, and public service. Each award underscores the hard work of our City staff and partners, who continue to strive for excellence in making Encinitas a model for other cities. Encinitas is proud to be your award-winning city.

NAME OF AWARD RECEIVED	ASSOCIATION PRESENTING THE AWARD
APWA Re-Accreditation	American Public Works Association (APWA)
Beach Report Card – Honor Roll 2023-2024 for Moonlight Beach	Heal the Bay
Blue City Certification	Blue City Network
Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023	Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Annual Budget beginning July 1, 2023	Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
Excellence in Promoting WaterSense Award	United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Excellence in Public Information and Communications Awards for El Portal Undercrossing's Outreach, Education, and Encouragement Series	California Public Information Officials (CAPIO)
Honor Award - Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair: Lake Drive Sinkhole Emergency Repair	American Public Works Association (APWA)
Honor Award: Leucadia 101 Streetscape Project Phase I	American Public Works Association (APWA)
ISO Rating 2	Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Outstanding Geotechnical Project Award: Lake Drive Sinkhole Emergency Repair	American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
STAR Award for Excellence in Video Production for the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Video	National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA)
The Mission Lifeline Award	American Heart Association
Transportation Project of the Year: FY 2022-2023 Pavement Rehabilitation Overlay and Slurry Seal Project	American Public Works Association (APWA)
Tree City USA Designation	Arbor Day Foundation



**City of Encinitas**

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