



**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**Work Plan  
2019**

**Goals should be consistent with the City's goals:**

- Safe Community
- Maintain a Financially Sound and Affordable City Government
- Continue to Improve High Quality Municipal Services
- Revitalize Neighborhoods and Corridors
- Enhanced Recreation and Quality of Life Opportunities
- Safe and Affordable Homes for All Current and Future Residents

**Staffing Department:** Public Works Department – Environmental Services Division

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>TRACKING MILESTONES</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. Continue a subcommittee that will advise and assist the City with implementation of the Climate Action Plan.	Ongoing	1) Submit implementation plan to the City Council 2) Receive quarterly updates on progress	In progress
2. Review and advise on current City policies and ordinances and make recommendations for improvements to promote sustainability as needed.	Ongoing	Identify items as needed	In progress
3. Continue a subcommittee to advance community gardens by providing best practice examples and encouraging the city to develop a process for implementation.	Ongoing	1) Recommend updates to zoning ordinances 2) Report on possible school partnerships 3) Assist, facilitate and advise on any projects that may be implemented	In progress
4. Complete the City chemical use policy recommendations for presentation to the City Council.	6/30/19	Submit completed report to the City Council	In progress
5. Advise the City on the use of tree canopy assessment data and make recommendations for utilizing the data to maximize environment, economic, public health and crime prevention benefits as opportunities arise.	Ongoing	To be determined	In progress
6. Establish a subcommittee to explore issues regarding green/food waste recovery.	Ongoing	1) Identify committee members 2) Host informational presentation 3) Progress updates	Planned



January 30, 2019

To the La Mesa City Council

Re: Recommendations for Including Community Gardens in La Mesa's Zoning Regulations

Dear Members of the City Council:

During the past year, our Environmental Sustainability Commission was charged with exploring the promotion of community gardens as a means of increasing our green space as delineated in our Climate Action Plan and General Plan.

We had city staff review our zoning ordinances to determine the specs for community gardens, and learned that these are permitted only in public parks at the present time.

Simply put, while our Climate Action Plan supports community gardens, our zoning ordinances do not provide a means for these to be created. We believe that, in order to create a means for the City of La Mesa to encourage community gardens, the zoning regulations need to specifically include relevant ordinance(s). At our public meeting on January 28, 2019 the Commission voted on these recommendations and to have them presented to the City Council.

We are aware of the public community garden in planning at MacArthur Park. Other options we discussed for community garden venues include but are not limited to private property and public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James D. Stone  
Chair, La Mesa Environmental  
Sustainability Commission

January 30, 2019

To the La Mesa City Council

Re: Recommendations for La Mesa Advocacy at SANDAG/MTS

Dear Members of the City Council:

The Environmental Sustainability Commission recommends that the La Mesa City Council engages SANDAG as it works to update the 2019-2050 Regional Plan for San Diego County. Specifically we want SANDAG's 2019 Regional Plan to emphasize targets and actions that would assist La Mesa in meeting our 2035 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, while delivering improved transit services for La Mesans. At our public meeting on December 17, 2018 the Commission voted on these recommendations and to have them presented to the City Council.

The target in the Transportation and Land Use section of the La Mesa Climate Action Plan (CAP) - a reduction of 23,080 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr from 2010 levels - represents almost 20% of our 2035 total targeted reduction goal of 116,470 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr.<sup>1</sup> The CAP specifies these reductions will be achieved chiefly through Mixed-Use and Transit-Oriented Development that focuses housing and job opportunities in existing urban areas.

The SANDAG Board of Directors is currently working to select Preferred Network Scenarios for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to be drafted in the Fall of 2019. Input has been solicited from the general public and is being sought from Board members at this time. The City Council should take this opportunity to write to Steve Vaus, Chair, SANDAG Board of Directors, with specific points of advocacy during this process.

Also, MTS is currently planning a ballot measure for 2020 to levy sales taxes for transit improvements that are designed to complement the SANDAG RTP. The City Council should advocate in support of this ballot measure.

The development and implementation of the RTP and getting the MTS sales tax measure on the 2020 ballot, and ultimately passed, will be heavily dependent on effective advocacy at SANDAG and MTS by the Councilmembers representing La Mesa on the Boards of these agencies. This advocacy is critical to enabling the City to deliver our targeted CAP GHG reductions.

Specific points of advocacy to include:

1. Support initiatives to increase transit ridership and mode-share consistent with SANDAG's strategy and implementation measures including the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Table 3.1 Summary of Measures and Quantified Reductions, La Mesa CAP dated March 13, 2018



- Make transit more affordable to all and free for students and those with disabilities. (Helping youth build the habit of taking transit rather than driving is key to sustaining ridership over the long-term.)
  - Provide increased infrastructure for safe-walking and biking in La Mesa.
  - Improve transit service frequency, route options and quality (including providing weather shelters at transit stops).
  - Provide increased connectivity between transit modes to reduce travel time and increase access.
2. Ensure that SANDAG RTP is fully aligned with La Mesa CAP GHG reduction measures.
  3. Support investments in clean transportation technology with focus on increasing EV charging infrastructure in La Mesa and electrification of public transit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



James D. Stone  
Chair, La Mesa Environmental  
Sustainability Commission



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**Staffing Department:** Community Development

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>TRACKING MILESTONES</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. Regular Duties as identified in LMMC 2.60.060 and 24.02.010	As needed		Ongoing
2. Review and comment on Annual Zoning Code Clean-up Amendments	As needed		Ongoing
3. Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance	Spring 2018		Completed
4. Climate Action Plan Review and Implementation	Review: February 2018		Completed
5. Downtown Village Specific Plan Update	2020		Pending
6. Coordination with Historic Preservation Commission on Historic Preservation Ordinance / Policy	N/A		Ongoing

**LMMC**

2.60.060 - Powers and duties.

The Planning Commission shall have, and is hereby vested with all the powers and duties provided by said act and amendments thereto, and such other powers and duties as may be conferred upon the Planning Commission by any and all laws of the State of California and the City Council.

2.60.140 - La Mesa relocation appeals board.

The planning commission shall also act as the "La Mesa relocation appeals board" and shall have the power when it acts in that capacity as provided by the by-laws for the relocation appeals board and shall carry out its duties and obligations pursuant to said by-laws. Said by-laws shall be adopted at the first



## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

meeting of the planning commission acting as the relocation appeals board and shall not thereafter be amended without the prior approval of the city council.

Title 24 – Zoning Ordinance  
24.02.010 - Administration and enforcement agencies

B. Planning Agency. The city council, planning commission, development advisory board, and community development department are hereby designated collectively as the planning agency. The planning agency shall perform all functions required by California state law. The specific duties and functions of the council, commission, and departments relative to this title are given below.

1. Perform all functions required by California law of a planning agency.
2. Furnish information and general assistance to the public in the administration of this title.
3. Maintain the Zone Map.
4. Review site development plans as to their compliance with the requirements of this title.
5. Review applications for adjustments in development regulations.
6. Interpret, administer and enforce this title.
7. Assist the planning commission in performance of its functions.

E. Planning Commission. The authority and functions of the planning commission in the administration of this title shall be to:

1. Review and approve plans, including site development plans when either required of or when appealed or referred to the commission, and to perform such other functions as provided by this title.
2. Resolve the question as to whether or not a proposed use is permitted in one or more zones in keeping with the general description and intent of such zones and the Land Use Element of the General Plan.
3. Consider appeals from any determination made in the administration or enforcement of this title.
4. Review applications for special permits, conditional use permits and variances.
5. Perform other functions as provided by state law.
6. Resolve questions or alleged ambiguity on appeal from the determination of the Community Development Department.



**YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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**Staffing Department:** Community Services Department

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>TRACKING MILESTONES</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. Commissioners will coordinate Power Hour with La Mesa Spring Valley School District ESS Program to introduce one hour of physical activity to elementary children.	Fall 2018 (1) Winter 2019 (2)	Power Hour will be offered at various ESS program sites. The goal is up to 60 children participating at each school site.	Maryland Avenue School – November 26 @ 3:45pm  Rolando – January 28 @ 3:45pm
2. “Holiday Cheer”	December 2019	To bestow a gift upon a low income family appointed by La Mesa Spring Valley School District Middle School designee.	
3. The Youth Advisory Commission hosts a yearly spring educational workshop for high school students.	Spring 2019	“Teen Talk” is a YAC agenda item. From the various conversations, the workshop topic will be established and speakers requested.	Decision for the topic will be made throughout the year based on commissioner feedback.

**La Mesa Municipal Code:**

2.71.060 - Mission, duties and functions.

The youth advisory commission shall have the following duties and functions:

- (a) The mission of the youth advisory commission is to advise the city council on policy matters pertaining to programs, projects, and issues which address the concerns of youth in the community.
- (b) The duties and functions of the commission shall include:
  - (1) Prepare an annual work program;
  - (2) Participate in, and help sponsor workshops dealing with youth issues;
  - (3) Plan and execute an annual event to promote positive youth awareness in the community;
  - (4) Provide a forum for discussion by the commission and the community on youth issues;



CITY OF  
**LA MESA**  
*JEWEL of the HILLS*

## **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION**

- (5) Consult with other youth groups to best coordinate the activities of the commission with these other groups;
- (6) Explore and develop other activities/issues which will promote positive youth relations in the city of La Mesa;
- (7) Recommend awards and recognition of individuals or groups.





**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

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**Staffing Department:** Community Development Department

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>TRACKING MILESTONES</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. Update Historic Resources Inventory	On-going and as staffing support permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop phased program to implement update procedures.</li> <li>• Develop initial assessment ranking criteria.</li> <li>• Finalize data collection tool.</li> <li>• Implement public outreach program in collaboration with the La Mesa Historical Society.</li> <li>• Bring the first completed inventory submissions forward for consideration.</li> <li>• Begin field survey and research with assistance from SDSU/LMHS volunteers.</li> </ul>	On-going
2. Regular Duties as identified in LMMC 25.01.060. G.	As-needed		On going
3. Consider Ordinance/Policy Updates	As - needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the possibility of an ordinance amendment to require HPC review for properties 50 years or older.</li> </ul>	On-going

LMMC  
25.01.060 - Historic preservation commission.

G. Powers and Duties. The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

1. Conduct a continuing survey of all cultural resources in the City which the Commission, on the basis of information available or presented to it, has reason to believe may be eligible for designation as a historic landmark or historic district or for recognition as a structure of merit.



## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

2. Review the La Mesa Historic Resources Inventory according to the criteria set forth in the Historic Preservation Element of the General Plan.
3. Recommend to the City Council amendments to the La Mesa Historic Resources Inventory.
4. Recommend to the City Council that certain areas, places, buildings, structures, natural features, works of art or other improvements having significant historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological, community or aesthetic value as part of the heritage of the City be designated as a historic landmark or historic district.
5. Maintain a local register of designated landmarks and historic districts within the City.
6. Approve or disapprove, in whole or in part, applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness pertaining to alteration, modification, or removal of any exterior architecture feature of a designated landmark or improvement within a historic district.
7. Adopt guidelines to be used by the Commission in reviewing applications for Certificates of Appropriateness.
8. Review and comment upon applications for demolition permits pertaining to designated cultural resources and applications for demolition and alteration permits for cultural resources included in the La Mesa Historic Resources Inventory.
9. Explore means for protection, retention and use of any designated or potential landmark including, but not limited to, appropriate legislation and financing.
10. Recommend and encourage the protection, enhancement, appreciation and use of structures of historical, cultural, architectural, community or aesthetic value which have not been designated as landmarks but are deserving of recognition as structures of merit so as to emphasize their importance in the lifestyle of La Mesa.
11. Encourage public understanding of an involvement in the unique architectural and environmental heritage of the City through educational and interpretative programs. Such may include, but shall not be limited to, lectures, tours, walks, reports, publications, films, open houses, special events.
12. Encourage private efforts to acquire property and raise money on behalf of historic preservation; however, the Commission is specifically denied the power to acquire property or invest therein for or on behalf of itself or the City.
13. Render advice and guidance on any structure at the request of the property owner as time permits (i.e., painting, color, materials, landscaping, fencing, lighting). This advice shall not be construed to impose any controls, but shall be offered in a spirit of friendly help.
14. Investigate and report to the City Council on the use of various federal, state, local or private funding sources and mechanisms available to promote historic resource preservation in the City.
15. Cooperate with local, county, state and federal governments in the pursuit of the objectives of historic preservation.
16. Implement other historic preservation plans and programs including, but not limited to, those listed as Complementary Programs in the General Plan Element.
17. Prepare or cause to be prepared nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, as time permits.
18. Consult with professionals and experts in fields such as archaeology, paleontology, history, preservation, architecture, design and engineering whenever such consultation is desired or necessary.