

## Article 2: Administrative Code

### Division 24: Development Services Department, City Planning Department, and Economic Development Department

*(“Planning Department” added 2-27-1975 by O-11499 N.S.)*

*(Retitled to “Development Services Department” and amended 7-25-1994 by O-18088 N.S.)*

*(Retitled to “Development Services Department and Department of Planning,*

*Neighborhoods, and Economic Development” and amended 2-12-2014 by O-20347 N.S.)*

*(Retitled to “Development Services Department, Planning Department, and Economic Development Department” and amended 6-11-2015 by O-20491 N.S.; effective 7-11-2015.)*

*(Retitled to “Development Services Department, City Planning Department, and Economic Development Department” on 7-22-2024 by O-21836 N.S.; effective 10-5-2024.)*

**[Editors Note:** Amendments as adopted by O-21836 N.S. will not apply within the Coastal Overlay Zone until the California Coastal Commission certifies it as a Local Coastal Program Amendment. Click the link to view the Strikeout Ordinance highlighting changes to prior language [http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode\\_strikeout\\_ord/O-21836-SO.pdf](http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode_strikeout_ord/O-21836-SO.pdf) ]

#### §22.2401 Development Services Department — Powers and Duties of the Development Services Director

- (a) The Development Services Department is a City department. The department provides review, permit issuance, inspection, and code enforcement services for private and public development. The Director is the administrative head of the department and shall be appointed by and may be removed by the City Manager.
- (b) The Director of the Development Services Department, under the direction of the City Manager and with policy direction of the City Council and policy guidance and recommendations of the Planning Commission, shall be responsible for performing those duties and functions as assigned and directed by the City Manager. Such activities, as may be assigned, shall be performed as required by federal, state and local law and regulations as may be promulgated by the City Manager.
- (c) The Development Services Director, under the direction of the City Manager, shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Land Development Code (San Diego Municipal Code chapters 10-15).

*(Retitled to “Development Services Department — Powers and Duties of the Development Services Director— Environmental Section” and amended 7-25-1994 by O-18088 N.S.)*

*(Retitled to “Development Services Department and Department of Planning, Neighborhoods, and Economic Development” and amended 2-12-2014 by O-20347 N.S.; effective 3-14-2014.)*

**§22.2402 City Planning Department — Powers and Duties of the Planning Director**

- (a) The City Planning Department is a City department. The department is responsible for long-range planning of the City’s communities and neighborhoods. The department’s responsibilities also include historic resource analysis, the multiple species conservation program, and environmental policy and analysis. An environmental section responsible for all California Environmental Quality Act policy in the City shall serve as a section of the department. The Planning Director is the administrative head of the department and shall be appointed by and may be removed by the Mayor.
- (b) The Planning Director, under the direction of the Mayor or City Manager and with policy direction of the City Council and policy guidance and recommendations of the Planning Commission, shall be responsible for performing those duties and functions as assigned and directed by the Mayor or City Manager. Such activities, as may be assigned, shall be performed as required by federal, state and local law and regulations as may be promulgated by the Mayor or City Manager.
- (c) The environmental section of the City Planning Department shall maintain that degree of independence in the performance of its functions and duties as will assure the Mayor or City Manager, the City Council, Planning Commission and the people of the City of San Diego that its review and analysis of the environmental consequences of projects under its purview, whether beneficial or detrimental, are independent and wholly objective and are not prepared for the purpose of either supporting or detracting from any project, plan or position, whether advanced by the City, any other governmental agency, a developer, a citizen or a group of citizens.

*(“Department of Planning, Neighborhoods, and Economic Development— Powers and Duties of the Planning Director” added 2-12-2014 by O-20347 N.S.; effective 3-14-2014.)*

*(Retitled to “Planning Department — Powers and Duties of the Planning Director” and amended 6-11-2015 by O-20491 N.S.; effective 7-11-2015.)*

*(Retitled to “City Planning Department — Powers and Duties of the Planning Director” and amended 7-22-2024 by O-21836 N.S.; effective 10-5-2024.)*

**[Editors Note:** Amendments as adopted by O-21836 N.S. will not apply within the Coastal Overlay Zone until the California Coastal Commission certifies it as a Local Coastal Program Amendment.

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**§22.2403 Economic Development Department – Powers and Duties of the Economic Development Director**

- (a) The Economic Development Department is a City department. The department is responsible for the implementation of economic development programs within the City. The Department's mission is to improve the quality of life in core urban neighborhoods, create opportunities for unemployed or underemployed residents, provide community development services to those areas in greatest need, and generate new revenues to fund essential municipal services. The Economic Development Director is the administrative head of the department and shall be appointed by and may be removed by the Mayor.
- (b) The Economic Development Director, under the direction of the Mayor or City Manager, and with policy direction from the City Council, shall be responsible for performing those duties and functions as assigned and directed by the Mayor or City Manager, including:
  - (1) performing administrative functions and duties related to managing the City's real estate and airport needs, such as property valuation, leasing City-owned real property, and acquiring real property interests for the City;
  - (2) managing City airports as provided in Chapter 6, Article 8 of the Municipal Code;
  - (3) acquiring and managing public rights-of-way and easements;
  - (4) coordinating with the County Tax Collector regarding property that may be sold because of delinquent taxes that the City may desire for public use;
  - (5) performing administrative functions required for eminent domain proceedings;
  - (6) performing administrative functions to manage leases and concessions at City-owned properties;
  - (7) inspecting and maintaining City-owned real property;
  - (8) periodically reviewing City-owned real property to identify underutilized real properties; and

- (9) managing and controlling Pueblo Lands and unimproved City properties that are not under the control of a specific City department.

*(“Economic Development Department – Powers and Duties of the Economic Development Director” added 6-11-2015 by O-20491 N.S.; effective 7-11-2015.)  
(Amended 3-14-2025 by O-21928 N.S.; effective 4-13-2025.)*