August 2025

CITY OF CHULA VISTA

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City Manager Message



Greetings,

August is here, and while summer may be winding down, we've seen exciting progress across the city with even more on the horizon in the months ahead.

New electric micromobility vehicle regulations were recently advanced in an effort to make the City of Chula Vista one of the safest places in San Diego County to ride an electric bicycle (e-bike). As more people use these devices, it's important that we all share the road responsibly. I encourage you to learn the new rules and ride safely. Read more about e-bikes in "Know Before You Ride," below.

We look forward to celebrating the grand opening of Casa Casillas on Monday, Aug. 11! a new cultural hub honoring the legacy of Paula Casillas and supporting local artists. Join us in welcoming our first artists-in-residence, Melissa "Melicha" Salgado and German Rojas, and enjoy a space dedicated to storytelling, art, and creativity.

Residents and visitors alike are taking advantage of the newly launched Chula Vista Bayfront Shuttle, a free, electric, ADA-accessible service connecting our waterfront to key destinations like the Gaylord Pacific Resort and Convention Center, Living Coast Discovery Center, Chula Vista Center, and more. It's a great way to explore and support local spots without the hassle of driving or parking. Take a ride and discover Chula Vista! Learn more about the shuttle on our website.

Don't miss National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at Police Headquarters. This is a fun, family-friendly event that brings together neighbors and public safety professionals to strengthen community ties.
We want to hear from you! Help us improve how the City communicates and engages with you by completing our short community survey by Friday, Aug. 15 at www.cvcommunityvoices.com/cvcommssurvey.

~Maria V. Kachadoorian, City Manager

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Know Before You Ride



It is not just like riding a bike. Electric bikes, better known as e-bikes, and other micromobility vehicles are a convenient and efficient way to commute, but riding an e-bike is not just like riding a regular bike. Higher speeds mean riders need to stay alert and follow additional safety guidelines.

The City of Chula Vista, recognized as one of the safest cities in San Diego County, wants to ensure everyone stays safe. Whether you're a driver sharing the road or a rider enjoying your e-bike, understanding the rules is key.

Know the rules

Chula Vista's new ordinance, which sets boundaries for where, how and who may operate these devices within city limits.

Age Restrictions: No person under the age of 12 may operate or ride a Class 1 or Class 2 e-bike in Chula Vista. Adults are also prohibited from knowingly allowing children under 12 to operate these devices.

Sidewalk Restrictions: Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are prohibited on sidewalks in all business districts and in any area where signage restricts use. Class 3 e-bikes and motorized scooters are prohibited on any sidewalk in the city. This measure enhances safety for both pedestrians and riders.

Passenger Restrictions: No person under age 18 can transport any passengers on any electric micromobility vehicle.

Helmet Requirements: Anyone under age 18 must wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet when operating any electric micromobility vehicle.

Exceptions do exist for people with disabilities using mobility devices.

Ensuring the safety of riders, pedestrians, and other drivers is the City's priority. The City will continue to focus on public education in cooperation with local businesses, schools and residents to ensure understanding of these new rules.

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Grand Opening of Casa Casillas



The City of Chula Vista is opening the doors to a brand-new cultural arts destination! Casa Casillas is more than a gallery, it's a place where creativity thrives, neighbors connect, and local talent shines. This welcoming space will host exhibitions, artist studios, and programs that bring art into the heart of our community.

Residents are invited to attend the grand opening of Casa Casillas on Monday, Aug. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. Located at 50 Fourth Ave.

Casa Casillas honors the life and legacy of Paula Casillas, a lifelong Chula Vista resident, former Rohr employee, and mother of former Mayor Mary Casillas Salas. Inspired by art classes she once took at a city recreation center, Casillas developed a lifelong passion for art, creating a prolific body of work. The opening exhibit will feature her paintings and sculptures.

The Artist-in-Residence Program is a six-month pilot running from July through December 2025. The program supports artistic innovation, education and community engagement by providing selected artists with a stipend, studio space and the opportunity to exhibit their work at Casa Casillas.

The first two artists-in-residence are Chula Vista native Melissa "Melicha" Salgado and German Rojas of San Diego. Salgado's oil and acrylic works explore themes of vulnerability, identity and nostalgia through surrealistic symbolism, while Rojas draws on their Mexican heritage to create bold, expressive compositions inspired by sustainability and renewal.

Join us for an evening of art, history and community as we celebrate this exciting addition to Chula Vista's cultural landscape.

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Parks and Rec: Leader of the Season



Alicia "Denisse" Ledezma has been named the Leader of the Season for Spring 2025. Ledezma joined the Parks and Recreation Department shortly before the 2020 pandemic. When operations resumed at Norman Park Senior Center, she recognized the need for socialization among seniors and committed to creating activities and events that were both enjoyable and therapeutic.

As a recreation leader, Ledezma organizes and oversees one of the center's most popular programs, Crafty Tea Social Hour. Each Friday, she coordinates an art project, light refreshments, and, most importantly, an opportunity for 40 to 50 seniors to connect with one another.

"Denisse is dedicated to the seniors she works with and the programs she oversees," said Principal Recreation Manager Shaun Ellis. "The seniors at Norman Park view Denisse not only as a leader but as a friend. They know she listens and truly cares about what they have to say."

Ledezma plans to continue developing her professional skills to provide exceptional service and support to the Chula Vista community.

To learn more about how to volunteer or donate to the Crafty Tea Social Hour, visit chulavistaca.gov.

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Business Spotlight: Casa De Otay

Casa De Otay opened in December 2023 after a simple question was posted in the Moms of East Chula Vista Facebook group, "What do you want in the neighborhood?" The answer was clear—"We want a local coffee shop."



Latanya and Daniel Nowatnick, a husband and wife team, decided to build exactly what the neighborhood asked for. While lacking what they call a "formal coffee background," they made up for it with their deep love for community. In 2023, they opened the Casita, an outdoor café inside a shipping container. Their goal was not just to serve coffee but to create a space that felt like home. The community showed up from day one and has continued to support the shop ever since.

In March 2025, the Nowatnicks opened the Casa, their second and larger indoor café just down the street from the Casita. Both locations are in Millenia, where they live, raise their children, and run their business. Today, these neighborhood spots serve as gathering places where people can reset, spend time together, and enjoy something intentionally made and community rooted.

Casa De Otay is known for its signature drinks like flavored matchas, the salted maple latte, and the vanilla bourbon latte. The drinks are made with house made syrups and served alongside a simple food menu and a rotating selection of curated goods and handcrafted items. But what really sets Casa apart is the experience. The atmosphere is warm, aesthetically inviting, and built around meaningful connection.

The team is the heart of the shop. They greet regulars by name, remember their customers' orders, and make every visit feel personal.

Nearly every element of the café reflects local collaboration. The empanadas come from Queridas Cocina, and their floral arrangements are provided by Plant Craft, a local florist. The café's social media is managed by a neighbor who is also a wedding photographer, Yumiko Tan. Even the architect who designed the space is part of the neighborhood. All the photos featured in the shop are taken in Otay Ranch, capturing the spirit of the place that inspired it all.

In addition to daily service, Casa De Otay regularly hosts private events, pop ups, and community gatherings, continuing its mission to create a space for people to come together and feel welcome.

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As a Black owned and family run coffee shop, Casa De Otay was created to reflect the city it serves. August is National Black Business Month, a time to recognize and support Black owned businesses across the country. For the Nowatnicks, the impact of representation is personal and ongoing. "We're proud that the space represents the people who live here," said Latanya Nowatnick. "When we build with the community in mind, it doesn't just serve. It multiplies. Representation leads to opportunity, and our goal is to keep creating space for others to grow and thrive too."

Casa De Otay has two locations in Millenia. Casita is an outdoor shipping container café open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to noon and on weekends from 8 a.m. to noon. Just down the street is Casa—an indoor café open Monday to Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Follow along on Instagram @casadeotay, download the Casa De Otay app on the App Store or Google Play for easy ordering, or visit www.casadeotay.com to learn more, see the latest drinks, and plan your next visit.

If you would like your small business featured in a future newsletter, please complete this submission form.

For business assistance, please check out chulavistaca.gov/businesses and be sure to refer to the Business Resource Guide for additional information on available resources to assist your business.

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Spotlighting Community Partners: MTS

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is a trusted connector for communities across the County, and now, the City of Chula Vista has partnered with MTS to bring that same connectivity to our beautiful Bayfront.

The Chula Vista Bayfront Shuttle is a free, zero-emission transportation option that makes exploring Chula Vista easier than ever. Running daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., the shuttle features all-electric vehicles, providing an eco-friendly way to travel while reducing congestion.

With two convenient routes, the shuttle connects visitors and residents to key destinations, including the Living Coast Discovery Center, Downtown Chula Vista, Chula Vista Center, Gaylord Pacific Resort & Convention Center, nearby residential neighborhoods, parks, and existing Trolley stations.



The two Bayfront Shuttle routes are:

Blue Line: Bayfront to E Street and H Street transit centers
Green Line: Bayfront to adjacent neighborhoods

This partnership between the City of Chula Vista and MTS enhances mobility, supports sustainability, and makes visiting the gem of Chula Vista, the Bayfront, easier than ever.

Hop on the Bayfront Shuttle and discover all Chula Vista has to offer!

For more information visit the website at chulavistaca.gov/bayfrontshuttle.

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City Budget



The City of Chula Vista provides sewer services to about 50,000 residential and commercial customers. A sewer service charge was established by the City Council in 1962 to pay for the operation and maintenance of the sewer collection system and sewage treatment. Residences and businesses on parcels connected to the City's sewer system pay the service charge.

Sewer rate revenues fund the operation and maintenance of city-owned sewer collection and conveyance facilities, capital projects, debt service, administration, and costs related to prudent long-term operation and financial management of the utility system, such as maintaining adequate reserves and planning for contingencies. Sewer rate revenues are also used to pay for wastewater treatment provided by the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Authority (Metro).

Chula Vista sewer customers will see an increase in their sewer bill effective July 1 due to previously adopted annual increases, approved by the City Council in April 2022. Additionally, the increase includes the cost to the City to utilize San Diego's wastewater treatment location (such as chemical/materials costs, energy and construction costs). Together, these increases amount to a total rate increase of 3.7%. An average residential customer with a current bill of $53 will see an increase to approximately $55 per month beginning in July. For more details on the sewer rate adjustment, visit our website, www.chulavistaca.gov/sewerrates.

The City offers payment plans for customers in need. Applications must be completed and submitted to the City's Finance Department. Check our website at www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/finance/sewer for more information regarding sewer rates, the Reduced Sewer Rate Program, and payment plans.

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Community News

Good to know:

Understanding Storm Water Pollution

Every time it rains or when water runs off our lawns, driveways and sidewalks, it becomes storm water—and it carries more than just water with it. As it flows across surfaces, storm water picks up pollutants like motor oil, pet waste, pesticides, paint residue and trash. Unlike water from your sink or toilet, storm water doesn't go to a treatment plant. It's separate from the sewer system. That means anything that enters a storm drain goes straight into our nearby creeks, rivers and ultimately, San Diego Bay and the Pacific Ocean. This pollution then impacts fish, birds, native plants, and the people who enjoy these natural spaces (beach day, anyone?). That's why storm water pollution is a big deal—and why we all need to pitch in to prevent it.

The good news? Preventing storm water pollution is straightforward, and everyone can play a part. Here are a few easy but important practices:

Yard & Garden Care: Use environmentally friendly fertilizers and pesticides and only apply as directed. Overwatering can wash chemicals into the storm drain, so be mindful of runoff from your irrigation system.

Home Improvement Projects: Never rinse paint brushes or other building materials where they can drain into the street. Water-based paint tools can be cleaned in the sink, while oil-based products should be disposed of as hazardous waste (call 619-691-5122 for disposal info).

Vehicle Maintenance: Fix leaks promptly and consider visiting repair shops that follow eco-friendly practices. When washing your car at home, use biodegradable soaps and do it on a lawn or gravel surface—or better yet, use a commercial car wash that recycles water.

Pet Waste: Always pick up after your pets and dispose of waste in the trash. Pet waste left on the ground can contaminate local water bodies.

Sidewalks & Driveways: Avoid using hoses to clean paved areas. Instead, sweep or use a shop vacuum and clean spills with dry absorbents.

Trash & Litter: Litter on streets and sidewalks can easily be carried into storm drains. Help by always disposing of trash properly, securing your garbage bin lids, and picking up litter when you see it. The City conducts clean-ups throughout the year—sign up for our next event!

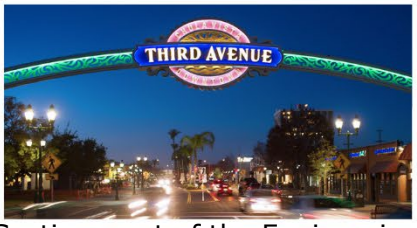
By taking these small steps, you're protecting the health of our environment, our wildlife, and our community. Remember: only rain down the storm drain! Let's work together to keep our waterways clean.

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The City's Storm Water Management Section, part of the Engineering Department, is responsible for developing and implementing programs to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act and local storm water regulations under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Core responsibilities include enforcing the City's storm water ordinance and inspecting construction sites, as well as residential, commercial, industrial and municipal facilities, for adherence to Best Management Practices (BMPs). The team also oversees public and private structural BMP programs aimed at reducing storm water pollution, conducts water quality monitoring, responds to pollution complaints and leads community outreach and education efforts. Additionally, the section works collaboratively with regional partners to support effective watershed management and protect local waterways.

For more information, visit http://www.chulavistaca.gov/stormwater

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Chula Vista Communications Survey

Chula Vista residents are encouraged to take part in the City's Communications Survey to help ensure they are receiving the most effective and timely information. By participating, residents can provide valuable feedback on how they currently receive City communications and share their preferences for future outreach. This input will help the City identify areas for improvement, enhance communication channels, and make sure that all residents are informed about important news, events, and services.

The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes. To fill out the survey visit: https://www.cvcommunityvoices.com/cvcommssurvey

Thank you in advance for taking the City of Chula Vista Communications Survey! Email communications@chulavistaca.gov if you have any questions.

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City launches Pilot Rental Subsidy Program

The City has launched a **Pilot Rental Subsidy Program to support older adult (55+) renters.** This pilot initiative is part of the City's ongoing efforts to expand housing stability, reduce displacement and support aging in place for some of the community's most vulnerable residents.

Eligible Chula Vista residents aged 55 and older may qualify to receive a fixed monthly rental subsidy of $500 for up to 12 months to help offset high housing costs. The program is designed to provide some financial relief for households spending more than 50% of their income on rent. Priority will be given to extremely low-income seniors, especially those living alone or at risk of homelessness.

The new rental subsidy builds upon the City's Healthy & Age-Friendly Chula Vista framework, which aims to address housing affordability and improve quality of life for residents of all ages. According to recent community data, nearly half of Chula Vista's older adults are rent-burdened, with many struggling to balance the cost of housing, food, and healthcare on fixed incomes.

Applications are now open and currently being accepted. The application is available both online and in-person, in English and Spanish. Residents must meet age, income, and residency requirements. Visit https://www.chulavistaca.gov/rentalsubsidy to learn more.

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Community Shuttle Expands to Southwest Chula Vista



The **Chula Vista Community Shuttle is expanding into Southwest Chula Vista** as part of Year 4 operations, and we're celebrating with a launch event you won't want to miss! Join us on Monday, August 12 at 11 a.m. South Chula Vista Library, 389 Orange Ave., Chula Vista, Ca 91911.

With new stops along Third Avenue all the way south to Anita Street and west to the scenic Bayfront, the expanded route brings improved access to community favorites, including mobile home parks (six designed for seniors!), affordable housing, shopping centers and every trolley station.

Whether you're heading to a local market, a medical appointment, or a meetup with friends, the Community Shuttle is here to get you there with ease, affordability, and style. With free rides for ages 55 and older and low-cost rides for ages 18–55, it's on-demand mobility designed to connect residents with the places that matter most, empowering older adults and underserved communities along the I-5 corridor.

Come celebrate this milestone and learn more about how the Community Shuttle is helping Chula Vista move forward, together!

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Clean Energy Tax Credits

Due to recent federal legislation, many clean energy tax credits that were originally scheduled to be available beyond 2030 are now ending over the next several months. These tax credits support clean energy actions like new and used electric vehicles (EVs), heat pump HVAC and water heaters, electrical panel upgrades, solar and battery storage and more. These clean energy projects help community members reduce their energy bills through energy efficiency or clean energy production and storage. They also provide valuable support to the electrical grid and reduce air pollution.

If you would like to review new clean energy tax credit deadlines, please view Rewiring America's guidance here: https://homes.rewiringamerica.org/electric-tax-credits.

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Chula Vista Boards and Commissions Vacancies



The City of Chula Vista currently has several vacancies on its boards and commissions, offering community members valuable opportunities to participate in local government. These volunteer positions are essential in shaping City policies, advising the City Council, and improving the quality of life in Chula Vista. If you are passionate about civic engagement and want to make a positive impact in your community, we encourage you to apply.

This is also an excellent opportunity for youth to develop leadership skills, gain civic experience, and help shape Chula Vista's future. Young residents between 16 and 22 are encouraged to apply and share their unique perspectives in the decision-making process.

For more information and to apply, please visit www.chulavistaca.gov/boards or contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@chualvistaca.gov.

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Help Chula Vista Animal Services Clear the Shelter!

Clear the Shelters is back for its 11th year! From Aug. 10 to Sept. 10, all adoption fees are waived! Our shelter is overcrowded, and we need our community's help more than ever. Be a shelter hero and help find loving homes for every animal.

Let's come together to give these beautiful animals the forever homes they deserve. Spread the word, bring a friend, and let's #ClearTheShelters!

*Approved adoption application required. Apply online at www.cvacf.org

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Things To Do:



Celebrate Park Ranger Day

The City of Chula Vista is honoring the dedicated individuals who safeguard our parks, wildlife, and natural heritage at a **Ranger Day event on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025, 10 a.m. to noon at Rohr Park, 4548 Sweetwater Road.** This family-friendly celebration offers residents an exciting opportunity to learn more about the vital work our City Rangers do to protect and preserve our public lands. With many activities:

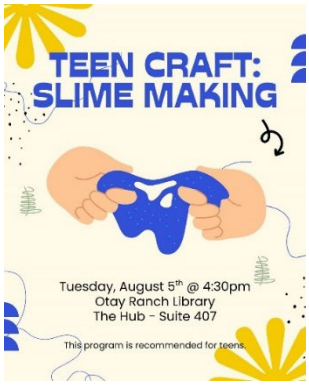
- Story time and a book giveaway with author of "From Park to Playa," Nell Cross Beckerman
- Dog training demonstration: How to be a B.A.R.K. Ranger
- Junior Park Ranger activities and park cleanup
- Inflatable archery and interactive exhibit
- Pet park safety tips from Animal Services
- Adventure backpacks from Library Service

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Teen Craft: Slime Making

Looking for something fun to do after school? Come hang out at the **Otay Ranch Library on Monday, Aug. 5 at 4:30 p.m. for a fun slime-making session.** We'll provide everything you need to make your own unique slime creations. Bring a friend and unwind with us!

This program is recommended for teens. Learn more on the Chula Vista Library website.



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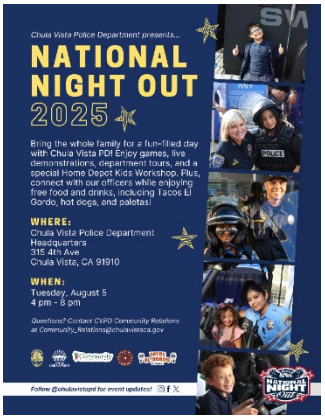
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Chula Vista Police Department Hosts National Night Out 2025

The Chula Vista Police Department invites the community to join them for **National Night Out 2025 on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Chula Vista Police Department, 315 4th Ave. Chula Vista, Ca 91910.** For an evening focused on connecting with neighbors, spending time with local officers, and having fun together!

This family-friendly event will feature games, interactive demonstrations, department tours, free food and drinks, and opportunities to connect with the officers who serve Chula Vista. All are welcome to attend.

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Bilingual Summer Master Composter Training Course

The Summer Master Composter event is a free course on Aug. 9, 16, 23 and 30 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Living Coast Discovery Center, 1000 Gunpowder Point Dr. that provides training in the art and science of composting through hands-on demonstrations, lectures and more! We are excited to offer a new summer weekend option in English and Spanish!

Spots fill up quick, register now: www.thelivingcoast.org/MasterComposter

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Rohr Park Master Plan Public Input Events

As part of the **Rohr Park Master Plan**, the City is developing a comprehensive vision to guide renovations and investments over the next decade. The City aims to preserve the park's natural charm while meeting the evolving needs of its growing community. The public is invited to share input at an **in-person workshop at the Chula Vista Municipal Golf Course on Thursday, Aug. 14 at 5:30 p.m.**

Community members may also share ideas online at Rohr Park Master Plan Visioning - PublicInput

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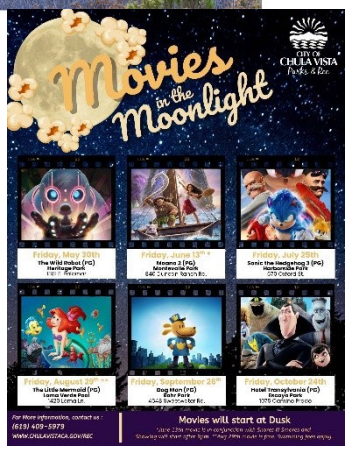
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Movies in the Moonlight



Come out to **Loma Verde Aquatic Center, 1420 Loma Lane**, **Aug. 29 at 7 p.m.** and spend some quality family time watching, **The Little Mermaid** under the stars. Don't forget chairs, a blanket and your movie snacks!

You will be able to watch the movie from the deck or the pool! Swim fees will apply.

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Meeting and Events

The Chula Vista City Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 5 p.m. Members of the public are invited to provide e-comments on any agenda item. Please click here for more information on City Council meetings. A Spanish-language video stream is available and interpretation services for Spanish speakers are provided at each City Council meeting. Members of the public can watch the meeting via livestream. Chula Vista City Council meetings are video recorded and aired live on Cox Cable channel 24 (only in Chula Vista). Recorded meetings are also archived on the City's website.

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