



CITY OF
LA MESA

JEWEL of the HILLS

INTEROFFICE MEMO

DATE: April 28, 2025

TO: Design Review Board

FROM: Allyson Kinnard, Associate Planner ^{aeK}

VIA: Lynnette Santos, Director of Community Development ^{LS}

SUBJECT: Objective Design Standards

To conform to State law, many cities are adopting objective design standards that establish clear and measurable criteria that can be evaluated by staff in the same manner as zoning development standards. The new objective standards would apply only to housing and mixed-use development projects required by State law to be approved ministerially.

Staff will present and requests DRB's input on elements related to Site Design, Building Design, and Landscape Design, three key considerations that will help to ensure that the appearance of new housing developments continue to be compatible with the city's Vision. Staff will also share what we have heard to date from the community on 1. what are the most important design considerations and 2. how might the existing guidelines pertaining to those design elements be made objective?

The draft standards are programmed to be reviewed and adopted by the Planning Commission and City Council by May of this year. The schedule for implementing objective design standards is driven by a June deadline imposed by the State Department of Housing and Community Development.