The City of Encinitas is a coastal city located in northern San Diego County. Encinitas is bordered by the City of Carlsbad to the north; the unincorporated community of Rancho Santa Fe to the east; the City of Solana Beach to the south; and the Pacific Ocean to the west. As of 2014, the City of Encinitas has an estimated population of 61,204, which is projected to increase to 76,659 by 2050 (SANDAG Regional Growth Forecast, 2010).

The City of Encinitas is governed by a five-member elected city council, consisting of four council members and a Mayor annually chosen by the council members.

The City of Encinitas’ adopted Sphere of Influence is larger than the city’s boundary and includes adjacent unincorporated territory located within the San Dieguito Community Planning Area of the County of San Diego.

The City of Encinitas provides fire protection service city-wide and wastewater collection services to the western portion of the City. The Leucadia Wastewater District provides wastewater service to the north and east portions of Encinitas.

Police service is provided by contract with the San Diego County Sheriff. Emergency medical service is provided by County Service Area No. 17 (San Dieguito Ambulance).

The San Dieguito Water District, a subsidiary district of the City of Encinitas since 1986, provides water service to the western half of Encinitas. The Olivenhain Municipal Water District provides water service to the eastern half of the City; the Santa Fe Irrigation District provides water service to a small southern portion of the City. Trash hauling and disposal services are provided by contract with EDCO Disposal.