The City of Escondido is located in northern San Diego County and is bordered by the unincorporated community of Valley Center to the north and east; the Cities of San Diego and Poway to the south; and the City of San Marcos to the west.

As of 2014, the City of Escondido has an estimated population of 147,095, which is projected to increase to 177,586 by 2050 (SANDAG Regional Growth Forecast, 2010).

The City of Escondido is a general law city governed by a five-member City Council consisting of a directly-elected Mayor and four Councilmembers elected by district.

The Escondido Sphere of Influence is larger than the City's boundary and includes adjacent unincorporated territory located within the San Dieguito; Hidden Meadows; Valley Center; and North County Metro Community Planning Areas of the County of San Diego.

The City of Escondido provides fire protection, police, water, and wastewater services city-wide. The Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District also provides water service to Escondido and provides fire protection services by contract with the City to adjacent unincorporated areas within its Improvement District “E”.

The Valley Center Municipal Water District and the Vallecitos Water District provide water and sewer service to small northern and western portions of Escondido, respectively. Trash hauling and disposal service is provided by contract with Escondido Disposal, Inc.