

# City of Westminster



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **City Receives Award of Excellence for Westminster Mall Specific Plan**

WESTMINSTER, Calif. – The City of Westminster has received the 2023 Award of Excellence for Economic Planning and Development from the Orange County Chapter of the American Planning Association for the Westminster Mall Specific Plan.

Initiated by the City in 2018 as an implementation action from the 2016 General Plan, the specific plan reimagines the high-profile 100-acre Westminster Mall site from a traditional indoor mall to a vibrant, mixed-use destination and activity center for the community.

“All the hard work and active community engagement over several years has led to this honor. I am proud of what we have accomplished by working together,” said Mayor Chi Charlie Nguyen.

Adopted by the City Council on November 30, 2022, the specific plan includes a blueprint for up to 3,000 new residential units, including 10 percent affordable units, at least 600,000 square feet of retail, new office space and medical uses, new hotel rooms, and 17 acres of parks and open space. It creates rules and zoning for development in the area, including height, density, circulation, infrastructure, design, and landscaping. It is anticipated that the mall’s redevelopment will result in \$2-\$3B of private investment in the community over the next several years.

“This is a once-in-a-generation planning effort that will not only substantially transform the site, but also the city. I’ve been a part of this specific plan since the beginning, and community engagement was always a priority. I’m proud of our team’s efforts to capture and incorporate our community’s vision and goals in the adopted specific plan,” said Assistant City Manager Adolfo Ozaeta.

Over the past four years, City representatives held meetings with stakeholders including city department representatives, the site’s property owners, Westminster residents and businesses, and adjacent residents in Huntington Beach. The public participation process included an online survey, pop-ups at City events, and four community in-person and online meetings.

Westminster Mall originally opened its doors in 1974 on what had once been the world's largest goldfish farm, with a May Co., Sears, and Buffums, followed by a J.W. Robinsons. The mall, remodeled in 2008, now includes a Best Buy, JCPenney, Macy's, and Target.

To view the adopted specific plan, or to subscribe to future updates related to the Westminster Mall, visit <https://www.westminster-ca.gov/WMSP> or call (714) 548-3494.

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