

Resilient West Covina

STATE OF THE CITY 2022



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Introductions

The 2022 State of the City Annual Report highlights West Covina's accomplishments, operations, services, and programs relative to the City Council's priorities:

- **Protect Public Safety**
- **Address Homeless Issues**
- **Enhance the City's Image & Effectiveness**
- **Maintain Good Intergovernmental Relations**
- **Achieve Financial Sustainability & Stability**
- **Expand Economic Development Opportunities**
- **A Creative & Active Community**

The 2022 State of the City Annual Report includes an overview of each department's functions, the goals accomplished, and the goals for the upcoming year.



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City Facts

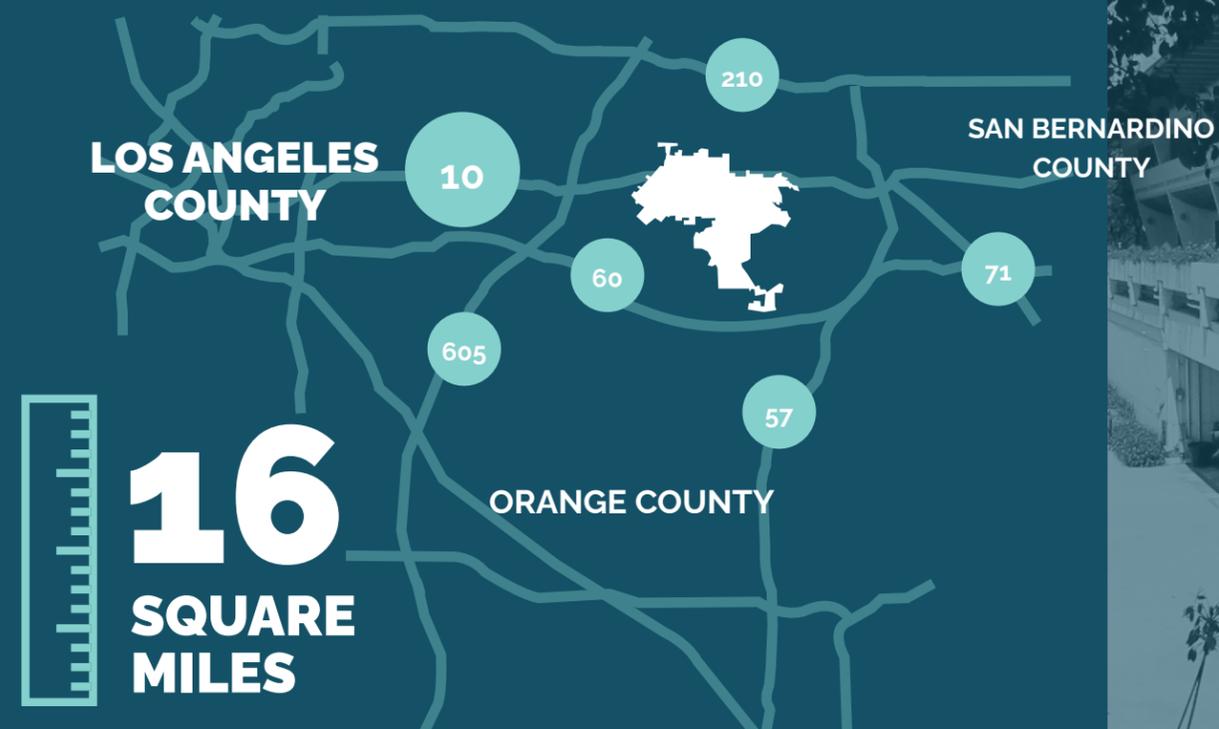
Location: Los Angeles County, in the San Gabriel Valley
 Year of Incorporation: 1923
 Number of City Employees: 415 Employees (full and part-time)

Demographics

Population: 105,013
 Average Household Size: 3.42
 Median Household Income: \$89,834
 Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units: \$602,400
 Race/Ethnicity:

Hispanic or Latino	52.6%
Asian Alone	29.9%
White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	10.6%
Two or More Races	10.6%
Black or African American Alone	4.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	1.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	0.3%

Source: US Census



Mayor of West Covina

Message from the Mayor

Serving as your Mayor in 2022 was an absolute privilege. I am glad 2022 allowed us to regain some normalcy, as we learned to deal with the pandemic. It allowed us, as the City, to go from reacting to pandemic challenges to once again being able to focus on West Covina's future. We have come out of this resiliently and headed in the right direction. Under the City Council's leadership, we were able to focus on improving our parks, maintain safe streets, keep our parks clean, replace outdated equipment, properly maintain our facilities and invest our hard-working employees.

Our efforts yielded positive results; yet there's still more progress ahead. The foundation of effective governance and a resilient community is constructed through the consistent and dedicated contributions of every individual, as well as our collective collaboration. Let's amplify the progress West Covina has attained and tackle new challenges and opportunities together.

Let us move forward, guided by the lessons of our past, driven by the spirit of our present, and embrace the opportunities of our future. Together, we can accomplish great things and ensure that our city's resiliency remains an unwavering beacon of hope.

Lastly, I would like to express sincere gratitude to my fellow City Council members and the dedicated City staff, as well as all residents who tirelessly participate in West Covina's growth and vitality.

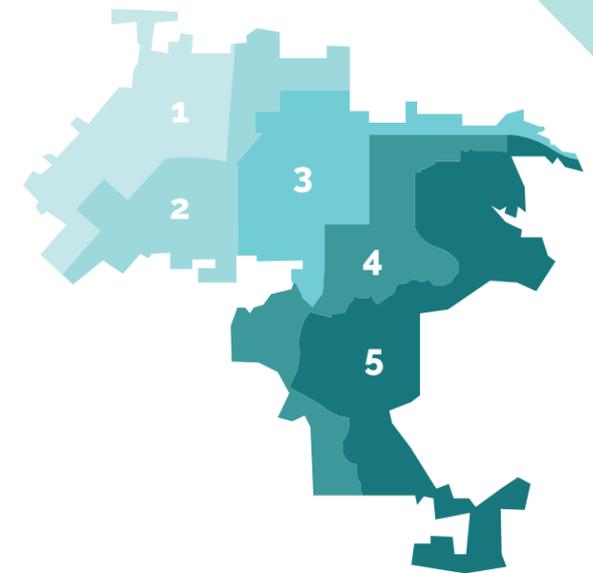
Mayor

Dario Castellanos



West Covina City Council

As a general-law city, West Covina operates through the Council-Manager form of municipal government. The five City Council members are elected by-district to overlapping terms of four years and annually select one of their members to serve as Mayor.



Mayor Dario Castellanos
District 4



Mayor Pro Tem Rosario Diaz
District 3



Councilmember Brian Tabatabai
District 1



Councilman Tony Wu
District 5



Councilwoman Letty Lopez-Viado
District 2

City Manager's Office

Message from the City

The City would like to introduce the third edition of the West Covina State of the City Annual Report.

Having come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, City efforts pivoted to focus on its regular operations and plan for the city's future.

A major focus of the Council's goals and objectives was to improve city facilities and beautify the community. As a result of their leadership, West Covina was able to shift its attention to the City's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). Projects ranged from street rehabilitation projects, median beautification along major corridors, and park improvements (including new playgrounds) to facility upgrades and sewer replacement.

West Covina staff is pleased to share that we have added new events to our community programming, events that have brought the community together. During 2022, the City hosted our very first "Spring Festival" and its first "Let It Snow" Tree Lighting Ceremony. Both events were a tremendous success and will be added to the city's calendar as yearly celebrations. As we continue to host successful events for our community, we will strive to add additional programming across a wide range of cultures in an attempt to engage all community members within our city limits.

West Covina continues to grow. In 2022 the city welcomed three new housing developments. Asteria by Lennar, Vincent Place by Meritage Homes, and West Cameron by Meritage Homes are all underway in their constructive and will bring new single- and multi-family housing to the community. The City also welcomed new businesses to the community. SF Supermarket, Temple Bar Urban Eats, and Dave's Hot Chicken all opened within the year, allowing for additional shopping and dining choices. Highly anticipated projects were also kicked-off, included the City's first food hall, Haven City Food Hall.

Being a full-service city, West Covina is unlike many neighboring communities. The West Covina Police and Fire Departments are not contracted to outside agencies, making them entities made up of dedicated officers and firefighters that are held to a higher standard. Residents can expect quick response times, to be treated with respect and dignity, and to live in a community where it is safe to live, work, and play.

As we approach a future of brimming opportunities, the city is optimistic and ready to meet any challenges head-on. The city looks forward to continuing to build a better future for the community.

City Attorney's Office



Thomas Duarte
City Attorney

The City Attorney's Office strives to provide the highest level of legal representation to the City of West Covina. We assist the City Council in cooperation with the City Manager in identifying issues, crafting solutions, and implementing the City Council's decisions legally, ethically, and effectively.

In 2023, our goal is to continue to provide effective legal services to the City Council, City Manager, Department Heads, and City staff, agencies, boards, and commissions. We aim to continue to assist the City in achieving the City Council's policies and goals, providing necessary services and resources to the community, and continuing to resolve lawsuits favorably for the City.

2022 Accomplishments

- Assisted the City with the redistricting process.
- Collaborated with City staff to draft ordinances to update West Covina Municipal Code provisions and comply with State law.
- Assisted City staff with implementing the requirements of SB 1383, the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Act of 2016.
- Collaborated with City staff and the City's consultants regarding the City's 6th Cycle Housing Element update.
- Assisted City staff with complex California Public Records Act requests.
- Favorably resolved several litigation matters.

Finance



Stephanie Sikkema

Finance Director

The Finance Department improved City's fiscal health and removed from the list of high-risk cities as ranked by the California State Auditor. Improved West Covina's Overall Risk of Financial Distress from High to Moderate. The Finance Department is dedicated to implementing strong internal controls that meet the goals of attaining fiscal stability in the future to ensure that West Covina residents receive the highest level of services.

Achieving Financial Sustainability & Stability

- Maintained general fund reserves at fiscal year-end, unassigned fund balance of \$21M.
- Successfully completed eight separate audits and reduced the number of findings from one to zero.
- Brought collection of Transient Occupancy Tax in-house to save on the cost of outsourcing.
- Provided financial analysis throughout labor negotiations to aid in securing new agreements.
- Updated the City's Long-Range Financial Forecast.
- Completed grant reporting to ensure compliance with State and Federal requirements, including the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act.
- Reorganized the department to increase efficiencies and provide continuity of operations.
- Continued to review the City's Finance policies to ensure that the City has strong internal controls that detect errors in a timely fashion.
- Cross trained payroll duties to speed up the process and ensure continuity of operations.

Coordinated the exchange of approximately \$2.5 million in Proposition A funds with another agency resulting in

\$1,875,000

in revenue for the General Fund.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

PRESENTED TO

City of West Covina
California

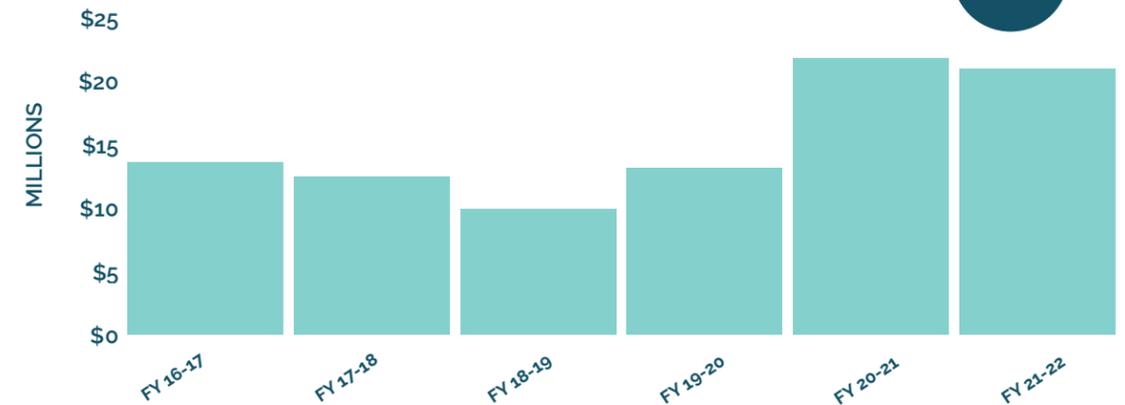
For the Fiscal Year Beginning
July 01, 2022

Christopher P. Morill
Executive Director

Received Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Since FY 2018-2019, the City's General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance increased by

\$11
MILLION



- As of June 30, 2022, the City's total net position (assets plus deferred outflows of resources less liabilities and less deferred inflows of resources) was \$11.2 million.
- The City's total net position increased \$37.6 million from the prior year. Additionally, there is an increase in capital assets of \$11.7 million as the City is investing in needed upgrades to the infrastructure.
- The City's total governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$131.3 million, an increase of \$4.2 million in comparison with the prior fiscal year of \$127.1 million.

City Clerk



Lisa Sherrick
Assistant City Clerk

The City Clerk's Office provides support to the City Council, Administration, other City departments, and the public. The department maintains custody, control, and storage of official City documents and records pertaining to the operation of City government. Through the City Clerk's Office, all City elections for elective office, initiatives, referenda, and recalls are coordinated. Pursuant to the Political Reform Act, the City Clerk serves as the filing officer/official for Campaign Disclosure Statements for elected officials, candidates, and committees; and for Statement of Economic Interests filed by public officials and designated employees. The department provides public information and responds to requests for documents pursuant to the provisions of the California Public Records Act. The City Clerk's Office oversees the appointment process for the City's Commissions and Advisory Boards.

Enhanced City Effectiveness

Prepared, published, and distributed 40 agendas and agenda packets for the City Council, Successor Agency; published and posted required legal notices, and prepared minutes for those agendas.

Completed the Redistricting process and began working with a consultant and staff to update the City's fees for service. Effectively conducted the 2022 election for Districts Two and Four.



Public Records Requests



Human Resources/ Risk Management



Helen Tran

Director of Human Resources/Risk Management

The Human Resources Department serves approximately 303 full-time personnel and 71 part-time and limited-service staff. The department is responsible for the administration of all personnel and risk management functions of the City.

New Hired Employees*



Maintaining Employee Relations and Lowering the City's Risk

- Negotiated 3-year successor Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) through June 2024 for eight (8) bargaining units with expired contracts.
- Reviewed over 2,464 applications for fifty recruitments.
- Continued internship program, giving students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths. Placed 10 + interns in various departments.
- Hired over eleven full-time and twenty-two part-time employees.
- Completed Electronic Benefits Open Enrollment in the 2022-23 year for all current Full-Time employees.
- Hosted City-Wide Benefits Fair with activities, food, and raffles.
- Hosted multiple employee appreciation events: Ice Socials and Employee Appreciation lunch.
- Increased social media status in both recruitment and employee appreciation.
- Implemented minimum wage increased per SB 3 (Leno Chapter 4), \$15.50 per hour effective January 1, 2023.
- Completed twenty-one safety related trainings.

Community Development



Paulina Morales

Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director

The Community Development Department (CDD) consists of five divisions: Economic Development and Housing, Planning, Building, Engineering, and Code Enforcement. The goal of the CDD is to facilitate the development process for our residents, business owners, and developers. The City encourages development and growth in our community while the CDD ensures it adheres to the City's development standards and is consistent with the City's goals to provide a quality, safe, healthy, and sustainable community for our residents and businesses.

Beyond these responsibilities, the CDD also oversees capital improvement projects throughout the City. These initiatives, which enhance the overall quality of life, encompass the infrastructure that caters to the needs of our community.

Planning

Enhancing Infrastructure

- Shopping Cart Ordinance was initiated
- Processed over 500 (approximately 512) administrative/staff level applications
- Prepared and processed the Accessory Dwelling Unit Code Amendment
- Prepared and processed the Mixed-Use Overlay Zone Code Amendment and Zone Change
- The Housing Element Update was adopted by the City Council
- Held 11 Planning Commission Meetings
- Held 12 Subcommittee Design Review Meetings
- Processed CUP for live-entertainment and alcohol sales for Haven City
- Processed Public Art for Emanate Queen of the Valley Hospital Medical Office Building (Art in Public Places)

Major Projects Approved

1912 W. Merced Avenue (The Grove at Merced)



New Businesses in West Covina

615
New Businesses



SF Supermarket

3650 Nogales St, West Covina, CA 91792



Temple Bar Urban Eats

128 N Grand Ave, West Covina, CA 91791



Dave's Hot Chicken

222 S Citrus St, West Covina, CA 91791

Building and Safety

Building & Safety Permits



Code Enforcement

Enhancing the City Image and Effectiveness



Engineering

Enhancing Infrastructure

Completed construction of 4 capital improvement projects at a combined cost of approximately



Capital Improvement Projects

Residential Street Rehab Annual Program FY 20-21

Completed in July 2022

\$2 million

Palmview, Aroma & Walmerado Parks - Pour and Play Playgrounds

Completed in September 2022

\$600 thousand

Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP)

Completed in September 2022

\$100 thousand

Friendship Park - Park Improvements

Completed in November 2022

\$1 million



Sewer Main Replacement - Portion of Azusa Ave and Citrus

Completed in July 2022

\$400 thousand

Cortez Park - Park Improvements

Completed in December 2022

\$400 thousand

Cameron/Barranca Traffic Signal

Completed in December 2022

\$500 thousand

Pedestrian & Vehicle Safety Improvements

Completed in December 2022

\$500 thousand

Residential Street Rehabilitation FY 21-22

Completed in December 2022

\$2.5 million

City Hall Restroom

Completed in December 2022

\$150 thousand

Cameron Park Restroom

Completed in December 2022

\$250 thousand

Public Services



Roxanne Lerma

Assistant City Manager/
Public Services Director

The Public Services Department looks to enhance the quality of life in West Covina through people, facilities, programs, and partnerships. Public Services is comprised of two divisions: the Community Services Division and the Maintenance Division. The Community Services Division offers social and recreational programming, advocacy, senior services, preschool programs, and special events. Community Services serves as the City's liaison to numerous youth sport groups and community organizations, while helping to mediate activities such as community planning, collaboration, and senior programming. The Maintenance Division provides for the maintenance and upkeep of the City fleet, parks, streets, traffic signals, sewer system, public rights of way, trees, and City facilities. The Maintenance Division works diligently to keep city facilities operational, clean, and welcoming.

2022 Highlights

- Launch "Move WC" in partnership with Uber to offer subsidized rides to elderly and disabled residents.
- Expand operating hours and service area for the Dial-A-Ride Program
- Assisting 11 CDBG-funded sub-recipients, which included food banks, fair housing services, senior nutrition, senior case management, homeless services, and subsidies for childcare.
- Served 56,124 senior meals through the Congregate Meal Program. \$379,620 in funding was awarded by the County for the Senior Meals Program.
- Holding various events throughout the year at the Senior Center, including: New Years, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, Easter, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Father's Day, 4th of July, Cooler Cortez Fridays, 90+ Birthday Celebration, Halloween, Veteran's Day Celebration, and Christmas at Cortez.
- Raised over \$8,000 via sponsorships from various Community Partners for Senior Center Special Events.
- Re-introduced its Volunteer program in mid-2022 ending the year with over 40 volunteers and over 700 hours served at the Senior Center.
- Re-opened Shadow Oak Community Center, which provides a variety of enrichment and art classes to the community, including a City-run Tiny Tots program which introduces children to valuable developmental and social skills, which over 100 children ages 3-5 years old participated in.
- Hosted the City's first-ever Spring Festival in March 2022 which brought together thousands of residents for a weekend of fun and entertainment. Over 80 vendors and community groups, a carnival, and several bands participated in the event.
- Held a variety of City Wide Special Events, including Summer Concert Series, the 1st

Spring Festival, Memorial Day, Festival of Frights, Veteran's Day, and the 1st Let It Snow Tree Lighting Ceremony which brought the community together to create lasting memories with family and friends.

- Raised over \$25,000 for Special Events through sponsorships from various Community Partners. Through partnerships with local organizations such as West Covina Kiwanis and Plaza West Covina, hosted events, including: Easter Eggstravaganza, Children's Christmas Parade, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Summer Movie Night Flicks, and Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Upgraded six fields at the WC Sportsplex. Brought back the Adult Softball League program and tournaments for youth baseball, youth softball, and adult softball at the Sportsplex. Created the Adult Soccer League program to promote healthy competition and encourage active participation in sports.
- Hosted the ESPN All-Star Friday Night event at the WC Sportsplex, which celebrated the MLB All-Star Weekend, which was broadcasted on live radio on ESPN LA 710.
- Introduced new programs at Cameron Park Community center, such as youth basketball, pickleball, an adult basketball league, and new recreation classes, including a belly dance class and a middle school volleyball class. Hosted the City's first Pickleball Tournament.
- Cleaned 45 miles of sewer mains, inspected 20 miles of sewer mains, repaired damaged asphalt at major intersections, repaired lifted sidewalk at various locations, and cleaned 400 storm drain catch basins, diverting debris from entering the Walnut Creek Wash.

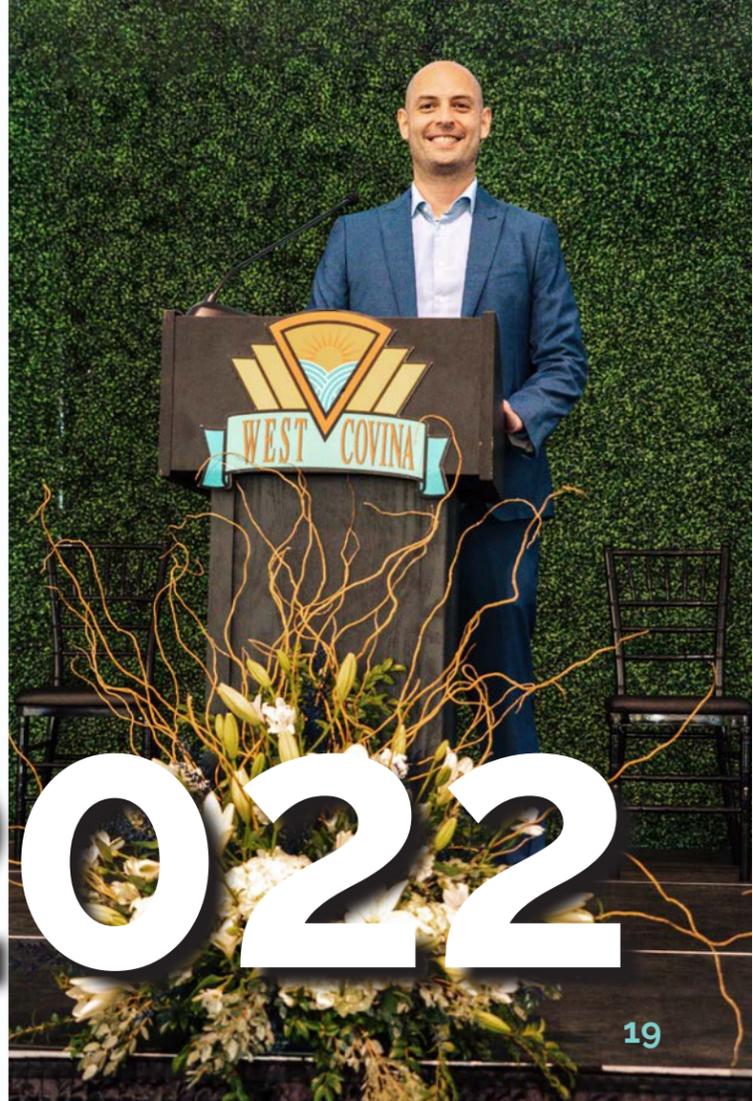




Events in 2022



State of the City



Police Department



Richard Bell
Police Chief

As your police chief, I am honored to serve the West Covina community and proud to share the department's accomplishments with you.

The police department has been working on a few major goals over the past year that were completed in 2022. Ten new officer positions were returned to the department, bringing our total sworn positions back to 100. The additional officers allowed for our patrol unit to bring back one overlap shift that was lost in 2018. The overlap shift increased the number of officers in the field during the busiest time of day.

A new manager and a supervisor for records were hired to improve the consistency in the records bureau. A forensic supervisor was also hired to rebuild the department's forensic unit. The administration bureau implemented the racial and identity profiling act (RIPA) reports, added an Internet Crime Against Children (ICAC) detective, and began the process of selecting body-worn cameras for the department.

I remain committed to building a healthy Police Department to ensure we have a positive relationship with our community with open lines of communication. I also invite you to browse the 2022 West Covina Police Department annual review online at www.WCPD.org/annual-review/. I look forward to our continued growth and am excited for the future of the police department and the city.



Police Service Areas

Service areas the West Covina Police Department has organized the city into four service areas with one lieutenant assigned to each area.

Service Area 1

North
Lieutenant Keith Freeman

Service Area 3

Central
Lieutenant Brian Daniels

Service Area 2

East
Lieutenant Tim Rodgers

Service Area 4

South
Lieutenant Matt Nelson

24 Hour Voice Mail: 626-939-8600

**100
SWORN
OFFICERS**

EFFECTIVE USE OF A DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Added an Internet Crime Against Children (ICAC) detective

Acquisition of handheld and vehicle radios to improve quality, coverage, and interagency communication

Deployed new computers for detectives

Acquisition of Fleetio software to help maintain our vehicle fleet



ENHANCE THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE DEPARTMENT

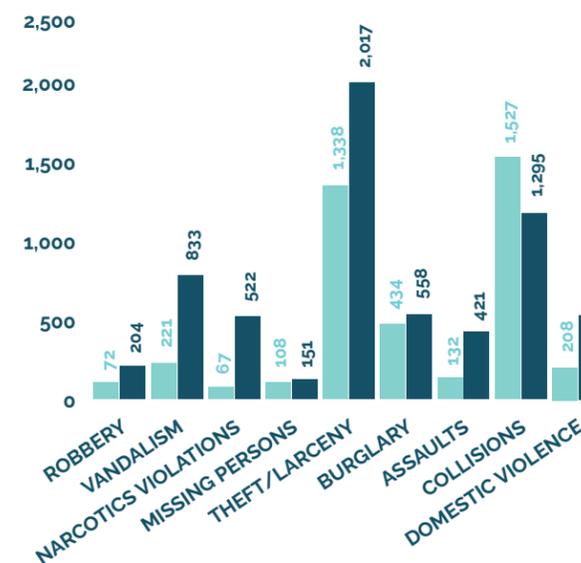
Construction has begun on a wellness/training center

Added a forensics supervisor to assist officers with major crime scenes

Implemented Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) stop reports

Added a Records Manager and Supervisor to better serve community requests

CRIME STATISTICS



For more information about West Covina Police Department and their 2022 Annual Review, visit their website at www.wcpd.org

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND CITY RELATIONSHIPS

Added an overlap shift for continuous and improved coverage for our community

Continued to keep the community informed using our social media/online platforms

Partnered with Target, Dicks Sporting Goods, and the West Covina Police Department Officers' Association to bring back shop with a cop



Fire Department



Vincent Capelle
Fire Chief

The West Covina Fire Department proudly provides the finest fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, and hazardous materials control and response services to our community. This goal is reflected in the department's mission statement:

Our Mission is to provide the highest level of life and property safety in a caring and cost-effective manner, and to continually strive to provide quality customer service for the community, the City, and to one another.

The Department prides itself in providing innovative solutions to maintain the most cost effective, community oriented, customer care organization. Programs are successful due to professionally trained and dedicated personnel who implement them. Serving a diverse community with a wide range of hazards; high-rise buildings, complex medical campus, wilderness park, wild land urban interface, highly traveled freeway, Class I, and Class III landfill, and two shopping malls. We are proud contributors to the Los Angeles region agencies in their time of need and have open boundaries to our neighboring agencies as well.

The West Covina Fire Department strives to provide a high quality of life for our residents. The men and women of the fire department are the core of our operation. The Fire Department family is a team of men and women that are dedicated to providing the highest quality fire, and emergency medical services to protect the community. They are compassionate professionals who are highly trained, solution-oriented, and strive to exceed expectations at all times. I am extremely humbled and honored to work with so many dedicated and hardworking individuals and it is through their daily efforts that we are able to provide exceptional service to the public.



Fire Station

- Fire Station No. 1**
819 South Sunset Ave.
- Fire Station No. 2**
2441 East Cortez St.
- Fire Station No. 3**
1433 West Puente Ave.
- Fire Station No. 4**
1815 South Azusa Ave.
- Fire Station No. 5**
2650 East Shadow Oak Dr.

75
Sworn
Personnel &
Civilian

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Applied and received the Cal OES High Frequency Grant for High Frequency radio equipment.

TRAINING

Created a Training Division that was tasked with hiring and training 9 new firefighters. Training Division was responsible for creating an Academy Curriculum and a Training Manual as reference material for the whole department.

MUTUAL AID

- New Mexico EMAC (May 18)
- SRF Lightning Complex (August 26)
- Wishon Fire (Aug 18)
- Gulch Fire (August 30)
- Route Fire (September 3)
- Mill Fire (September 5)
- Mountain Fire (September 13)
- Hurricane Kay pre deployment (RTF Deployment) (September) *Engine 4 Crew*
- OES Mudslide Preposition (September 9)
- Forest Falls Mudslide (RTF Deployment) (September 13) *Engine 4 Crew*

FIRE INVESTIGATION BUREAU

- Purchased new evidence collection equipment.
- Fire Investigation** 33
- Arson Incident** 15
- Firework Citations** 46

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Inspection Investigated 1,456

CALLS FOR SERVICE

TOTAL CALLS 9,961
Increase of 733 calls from 2021

NEW EQUIPMENT

Purchased and took delivery of a Type 3 Fire Engine from La Verne Fire. Purchased new Rope Rescue equipment for the Department.

FIRE STATIONS IMPROVEMENTS

- FIRE STATION NO. 1**
Replaced apparatus bay doors old shop. Converted old shop into classroom.
- FIRE STATION NO. 2**
Interior/Exterior painting. Cleaned air ducts Storage for PPE. Installed diesel exhaust equipment.
- FIRE STATION NO. 3**
Cleaned air ducts. Upgraded diesel exhaust equipments.
- FIRE STATION NO. 4**
Interior/Exterior painting. Cleaned air ducts Storage for PPE. Installed diesel exhaust equipment.
- FIRE STATION NO. 5**
Cleaned air ducts. Upgraded diesel exhaust equipments.



West Covina Unified School District



*Uncompromising
Excellence and
Opportunities for
Every Student*

Superintendent Message

The West Covina Unified School District is dedicated to safety, well-being, and unwavering excellence in education and citizenship. Our hope is that when our students wake up in the morning, they say, "I GET to go to school." Instead of "I HAVE to go to school." We know that each student comes to us with many gifts and talents, and we are committed to offering our students unique experiences where they can thrive, discover their unique voice, and carve out their individual path in this world.

us with the noble task of nurturing and guiding our greatest treasure: our students. Their growth, curiosity, and potential fuel our commitment, and we pledge to honor this trust by continually striving to provide an education that empowers and prepares them for a future filled with promise and achievement.

Dr. Emy Flores

*Superintendent
West Covina School Unified School District*

WCUSD students have access to a wide range of world-class experiences, including computer science, e-sports, dance, music, theater, speech & debate, a competitive sports program, and so much more. Our programs are tailored to our students' individual needs and interests. Our offerings include Dual Language instruction in Mandarin and Spanish, International Baccalaureate from TK through 12th grade, and Career Technical Education (CTE), designed to create a multi year pathway to postsecondary education and professional careers. Additionally, students can enroll in the Mt. SAC Early College Academy, where they can secure two years of free, transferable college credit and an Associate Degree. Our focus on comprehensive education has led to a 99.2% student graduation rate.

It is an honor to serve as the Superintendent of Schools, and I thank our community for entrusting

West Covina School Districts



Hollencrest Middle School Awarded Schools to Watch Designation

Hollencrest Middle School recently received the "California School to Watch" designation and was honored at the annual "National Schools to Watch" conference held in Washington, D.C. The Schools to Watch Program recognizes middle schools that are academically excellent, developmentally responsive, socially equitable, and highly collaborative. Hollencrest Middle School serves as a model for other middle schools throughout the nation to follow!



Free Year-Round Before School and After School Child Care

All TK-8th grade students have year-round opportunities to expand their learning with our free after school care and summer enrichment programs which include academic support, hands-on enrichment, and fitness activities. In addition, free before school care will be available at each of our elementary schools beginning in 2023-2024.



2023 Bilingual Education Teacher of the Year

WCUSD has outstanding educators! Laura Perez-Vasquez, Orangewood Elementary 2nd grade Spanish Dual Language Immersion teacher, was selected as the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) 2023 Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Perez-Vasquez was honored with the prestigious award in recognition for her excellence, dedication, and promotion of bilingual education at the 2023 CABE Annual Conference. Additionally, Mrs. Perez-Vasquez is the California nominee for the National Association for Bilingual Education 2024 Bilingual Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Perez-Vasquez is one of the originators of the Spanish Dual Language Immersion program at WCUSD and we are extremely proud of her wonderful accomplishments!



Esports Expansion

Edgewood High School and West Covina High School have joined Mt. SAC Early College Academy in offering students the opportunity to participate in CIF sanctioned Esports teams and competitions. In 2021, Mt. SAC Early College Academy won the 2021 Mountain Region Championship. Our teams have been victorious in various divisions within the Play Vs playoffs and earned thousands of dollars in scholarships. We are excited to open new state-of-the-art Esports labs at all 3 campuses during the 2023-24 school year.

Elementary Visual and Performing Arts

Our new and comprehensive Elementary Visual and Performing Arts Program has brought a wide range of exciting experiences to WCUSD elementary students at all of our schools. The program includes during, after school, and summer classes in visual arts, music, theater, and dance, in addition to STAGE (Shared Theater Arts Grand Experience) performances. Instruction is facilitated by local teaching artists and features a variety of parent involvement opportunities through family nights and events. During this past school year, our talented students had the opportunity to participate in various performances, including Seussical, The Jungle Book, and Willy Wonka!



Earn an AA Degree & High School Diploma at WCUSD's Mt. SAC Academy

Students enrolled in the Mt. SAC Early College Academy (MECA) can earn an Associates of Arts (AA) degree and college credits, free of charge, while obtaining their high school diploma. Over the last 2 years, 37 students completed the IGETC (lower-division transfer requirements for admission into the UC and Cal State University systems), 13 earned an AA degree, and 75% of graduating seniors were accepted into a 4 year institution such as Arizona State, UC Berkeley, Colorado State, UC Davis, UCLA, Fordham University, UC Irvine, University of Louisville, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, Washington State, and many more.



Award Winning Speech and Debate Program

WCUSD is proud to be home to the 2023 National Speech and Debate Middle School Champion in Poetry, Brayden Barraza Rodriguez, as well as six WCUSD schools that earned state-level recognition: Cameron Elementary (Mid-Size Schools, Silver), Edgewood Middle School (Mid-Size Schools, Bronze), Hollencrest Middle School (Large Schools, Bronze), Merced Elementary (Large Schools, Silver), Orangewood Elementary (Mid-Size Schools, Gold), and Walnut Grove Intermediate (Small Schools, Bronze).

WCUSD's 4th-12th grade Speech and Debate Program boosts student confidence, develops literacy skills, and builds transformative life skills in communication, teamwork, and empathy. It is also a great way to earn college scholarships. The program is offered as an after school program for 4th-8th grade students and as an elective at each of our three comprehensive high schools.



Career Technical Education

Our middle and high schools offer new state-of-the-art facilities to provide students access to Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in engineering, performing arts, game design, digital media, photography, food service and hospitality, public safety, patient care and more. Cisco, one of our newest CTE programs, provides students the opportunity to obtain a certification to gain employment within the industry upon graduation from high school. Students develop real-world 21st century skills relevant to today's industry needs.

Community Schools Grant

WCUSD is honored to receive an \$8 million Community School Grant from the California Department of Education. This grant will fund wrap-around services at seven schools, removing obstacles to learning and enabling success in academic achievement, social-emotional wellness, and physical health. By transforming schools into community hubs integrating academics, health, social services, and community engagement, WCUSD aims to foster a holistic educational environment. This initiative reflects our resolve to offer essential support and strengthen community connections.



Rowland Unified School District



Committed to Innovative Learning For All

Superintendent Message

Rowland Unified School District is honored to serve our students, families and communities with innovative learning opportunities for all. This passion is at our core and we are proud to have been accepted into the national League of Innovative Schools based on our innovative vision, transformative teaching and learning, and commitment to equity and excellence.

We also understand that teaching goes beyond academics. What makes Rowland Unified so special is the care and dedication that our employees take with building relationships with our students, making opportunities to connect with them for deeper learning to take place.

During the last half of the 2022-2023 school year, our District began a student-centered initiative to develop our Guiding Principles. Thank you to our entire community that was involved in this planning process, because it truly involved everyone that touches a student's life. With equity at the core, more than 500 elementary through high school students, staff, families, community members and educational partners came together to have transparent conversations about what is needed to propel forward student success as we plan for the future of Rowland Unified. The six month engagement process culminated in the creation of the District's new Guiding Principles, a framework with a unified vision, a portrait of a graduate and goals and measures for the next five years.

I am extremely proud of our powerful District Promise: Each student is valued, supported, engaged, and empowered for the future of their choice.

We look forward to continuing this work in partnership with our community and can't wait to see what our students will continue to achieve in the years to come.

#WeAreRUSD

Julie Mitchell, Ed.D.

*Superintendent
Rowland School Unified School District*



Rowland Unified Launches Cyber Security Pathway

Rowland Unified is one of only two Districts in the state that were selected to be a part of the Digital Promise Center for Inclusive Innovation initiative. The new three-year Cyber Security career pathway opens this Fall for incoming 9th and 10th grade students at Nogales High School where students can enter this high-demand industry or college when they graduate.



Principal for a Day

Thank you to West Covina City Councilman Ollie Cantos for being the Guest Principal for a Day and spending time with Telesis Academy students at this annual District business partnership event.

Nogales Engineers

Nogales High School engineering students made it to the finals of NASA's JPL Invention Challenge where they placed 4th out of 22 teams across Orange County.



Giano Intermediate

Giano teachers reconnect with students before the 2023-2024 school year begins by building Perseverance, Unity and Determination at the Orange County Ropes Course and by taking a care and connect trip to the USS Midway Museum.

GATES Scholar

For the eighth time, the prestigious Gates Scholarship was awarded to a Nogales High School senior in the Rowland Unified School District. Thomas Aguilar is one of only 750 scholars who were chosen from a pool of 51,000 high school seniors from across the nation for this highly selective scholarship that provides college funding to the university of their choice. In addition, Aguilar was named a national QuestBridge College Match recipient, earning a full four-year scholarship that covers the entire cost of attendance and travel expenses to one of the nation's best colleges. Aguilar will be attending Pomona College, a top private liberal arts college in Claremont, California.



Class of 2023 Seniors Soar

Rowland Unified School District celebrated the Class of 2023 by featuring 100 graduates on light poles across our communities of West Covina, City of Industry and Rowland Heights.



Covina-Valley Unified School District



*Educational
Excellence for
Every Student,
Every Day*

Superintendent Message

Covina-Valley Unified School District is committed to ensuring our students receive the best education, resources, and support possible to help them succeed in K-12, college, and beyond. We accomplish this goal by providing for the needs of the whole student – servicing their educational needs through cutting-edge programs at all grade levels, while also providing for their emotional needs through social-emotional curriculum and comprehensive wellness support systems.

Our District offers a vigorous and unique curriculum that begins with coding and dual immersion classes at the elementary level. At the high school level, Covina-Valley Unified offers the International Baccalaureate Program, numerous Advanced Placement courses, and 22 award-winning career technical education pathways to help prepare students for college and careers.

Covina-Valley Unified prioritizes its students by providing comprehensive wraparound care for their physical, mental, and emotional needs. Our many wellness centers and dedicated team of school counselors and social workers all serve as resources for our students.

Our dedication to promoting educational excellence for every student, every day has yielded prestigious honors that include a high ranking on the California Reading Coalition's

California Reading Report Card, inclusion in the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools and a \$7.2 million California Community Schools Grant.

Our District students boast outstanding graduation rates, high scholarship awards, and prestigious college acceptances across all three of our comprehensive high schools, further showcasing the great successes of our students and their ability to achieve great heights in their educational and personal lives.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Eminhizer, Ed.D.

*Superintendent
Covina-Valley School Unified School District*

Graduation Achievements

Covina-Valley Unified's Class of 2023 boasted many high-achieving and accomplished graduates who will go on to attend notable colleges in the fall including Stanford University, Harvard University, Northwestern University, the University of California, Los Angeles, and more. This year, C-VUSD recognized 1,064 graduates, including 38 valedictorians and 229 honors students. Graduates received numerous awards and scholarships, including a full-ride Posse Foundation Scholarship, an \$88,000 Dean's scholarship, and a \$50,000 Edison scholarship.



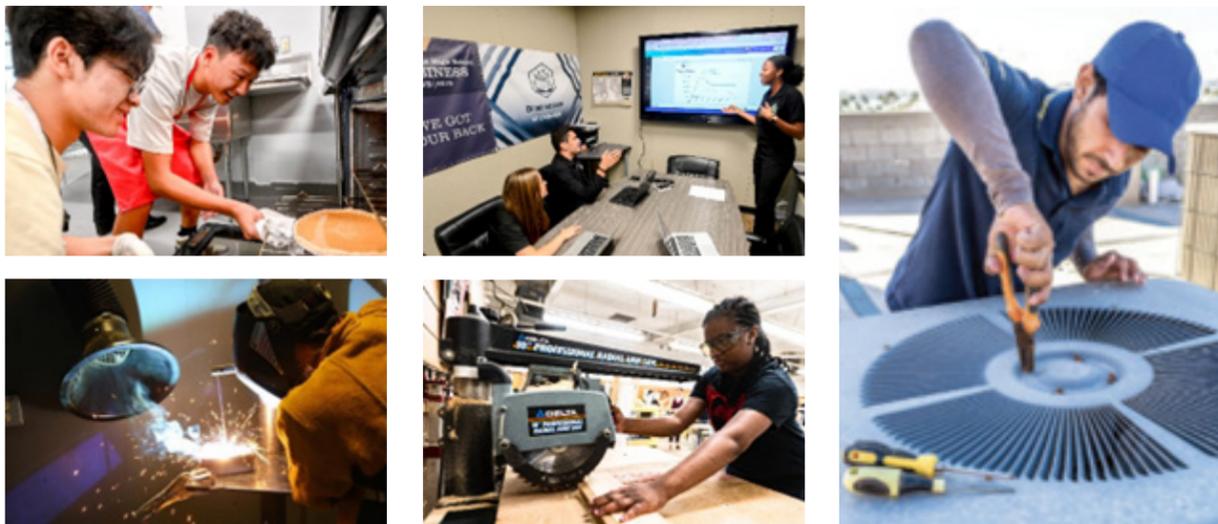
Comprehensive Wellness Support

C-VUSD prioritizes the health and wellness of its students and strives to always provide the best resources to help students succeed both in and out of the classroom. Over the last few years, the District has increased the number of school social workers and counselors, established a wellness center at every school, and opened the District Health and Wellness Center for students and families to find helpful resources and support. C-VUSD was also awarded a California Community Schools Grant for \$7.2 million to further expand access and services at the District's Wellness Center and increase counseling and mental health services at all school sites.



Career Technical Education Pathways

C-VUSD offers more than 20 unique career technical education pathways to help students develop marketable skills in varying industries. Students can gain hands-on experience in medicine, welding, engineering, entrepreneurship, culinary, and more. Many of these award-winning pathways also offer students the opportunity to earn certifications or participate in competitions, further allowing them to see their abilities play out in a real-world setting.



Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools

C-VUSD is proud to be part of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools and to be recognized as a forward-thinking leader in education for offering groundbreaking programs in the digital age. At C-VUSD, students receive coding instruction starting in kindergarten and continuing through elementary school. Every student is given a device to work with, further increasing their digital literacy and competency. At the high school level, students have the opportunity to explore engineering, drones, and robotics, and have access to the latest technology to use in the medical career technical education pathway.



California Reading Coalition's California Reading Report Card

This year, C-VUSD was ranked fifth in the state and third in Los Angeles County for excellence in reading comprehension on the California Reading Coalition's California Reading Report Card. The District was recognized for its strong number of high-need students that met or exceeded grade-level standards on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress and English Language Arts tests during the 2021-22 school year. This achievement highlights the District's dedication to ensuring that elementary students receive the highest-quality reading programs and opportunities possible.



2023 CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' CONTACT

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Mayor Pro Tem Brian Tabatabai

Councilman Ollie Cantos

Councilman Tony Wu

Councilwoman Letty Lopez-Viado

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Public Services

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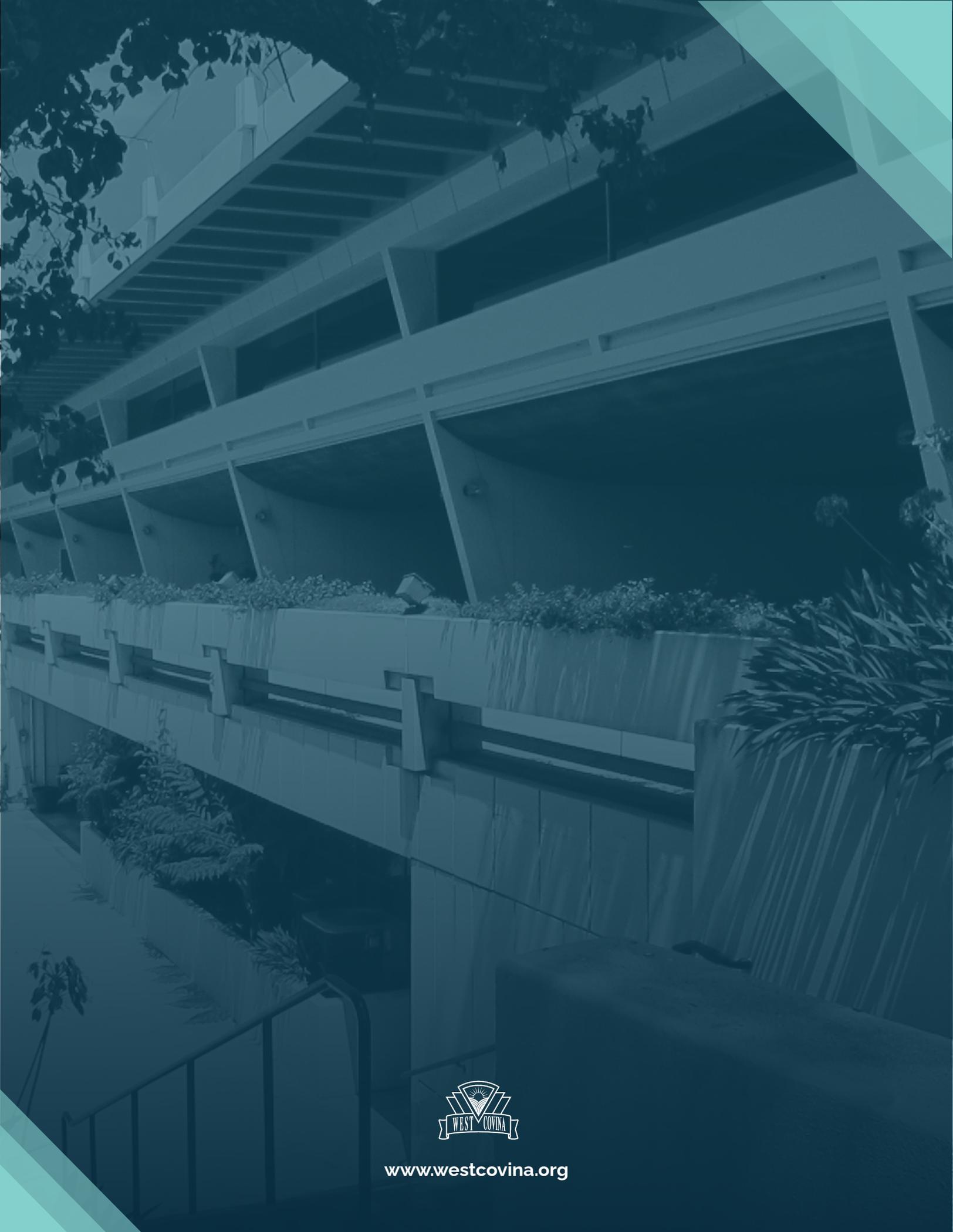
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