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May 7, 2008

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### **Newport Beach Wins National Planning Award**

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. – The City of Newport Beach General Plan received the 2008 National Planning Achievement Award for Hard-Won Victories from the American Planning Association (APA). Mayor Edward Selich, Assistant City Manager Sharon Wood and Senior Planner Gregg Ramirez accepted the award at the APA's annual awards luncheon in Las Vegas on April 30.

What began as a much-needed planning effort to update a 30-year-old General Plan, became a five-year community outreach and involvement process. That process was successful, as Newport Beach voters approved the General Plan by 54 percent in November 2006.

In accepting the award, Mayor Selich commented that, "The single most important thing in the General Plan victory was the fact that so many of our citizens were involved in the update process. Over the course of five years, they worked extremely hard to develop a plan that was supported by the voters."

Newport Beach's General Plan was selected from a field of 115 award nominations to win one of only 12 APA national awards this year. The project received a similar Outstanding Planning award from the APA's California chapter in October 2007.

For more information about the General Plan, please contact Assistant City Manager Sharon Wood at (949) 644-3222.