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Contact: Robin Clauson
City Attorney
949-644-3131

Newport Beach & Tustin Prevail in Challenge to Irvine Residential Projects
Court Determines Irvine Environmental Studies Flawed

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. -- The cities of Newport Beach and Tustin prevailed in two lawsuits challenging the validity of the city of Irvine's environmental study and approval of two residential projects in the area known as the Irvine Business Complex (IBC) near John Wayne Airport. The cities received the Court's ruling yesterday.

One suit involved a project known as the Martin Street Project and the other suit addressed a project located at 2851 Alton Parkway.

In both suits, Newport and Tustin argued that Irvine violated the California Environmental Quality Act by approving the two residential projects without adequate environmental review. The Court agreed and held that in doing so Irvine failed to properly address the environmental impacts associated with transforming the land use of these IBC parcels from industrial / commercial to mixed use, high-density residential.

Mayor Pro Tem Leslie Daigle explained, "Our concern was rooted in the environmental impacts affecting Newport Beach." She added that her city was particularly concerned with the potential traffic impacts that the projects would impose on Newport Beach streets.

According to Mayor Edward Selich, "This was not about Irvine's plans for the IBC. It was about the adequacy of the information provided in the environmental documents and our inability to identify the impacts the area's transformation would have on our city."

Newport Beach officials are optimistic that yesterday's decision will result in renewed discussions with their neighboring city. "We look forward to working with Irvine to resolve the planning issues that will benefit both communities," Daigle added.