



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2008

Contact: Tara Finnigan
Public Information Manager
949-644-3035

Newport Beach Chooses David R. Hunt for City Attorney

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. – David R. Hunt will be the new city attorney for the City of Newport Beach. A nearly six-month-long search came to a conclusion Tuesday night when the Newport Beach City Council unanimously approved hiring Hunt as its top legal counsel. He will join the city staff on December 22.

“With more than 25 years of experience as general counsel and a trial attorney for public agencies throughout California, David is exceptionally qualified to serve as our city attorney,” said Mayor Edward Selich. “I look forward to working with him and am confident that his legal and management expertise will serve this city well.”

Hunt currently serves as special counsel with the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP, where he manages litigation and transactional real property, planning and environmental issues for public agencies throughout California.

He recently successfully led a team of attorneys in complex planning and California Environmental Quality Act litigation against the City of Irvine’s residential development efforts in the Irvine Business Complex area. The City of Newport Beach, which borders the project area, was one of several plaintiffs in the case.

Hunt has worked for a number of private law firms, including his own, where he served as the contract city attorney for the cities of Pismo Beach and Morro Bay and litigated for a number of coastal cities.

City Council Member Don Webb led the Council subcommittee responsible for the city attorney recruitment. “This was a deliberate and long process, but we are very pleased with the result. David is a well-qualified and respected attorney with a thorough understanding of the needs and challenges of a coastal city.”

Hunt earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Irvine and a Juris Doctor degree from the McGeorge School of Law. Hunt and his family reside in Santa Ana.

He will replace City Attorney Robin Clauson who will retire later this month.

-30-