

March 25, 2009

**WALNUT FILES LAWSUIT CHALLENGING
THE ADEQUACY OF THE INDUSTRY STADIUM EIR**

The City of Walnut filed a lawsuit this morning against the City of Industry, challenging its February 26th approval of the NFL Stadium complex without an adequate Environmental Impact Report. As approved, the project will exacerbate unhealthful air quality and traffic congestion in the region while diminishing the quality of life in Walnut.

On March 11, 2009, the Walnut City Council authorized Special Counsel Jan Chatten-Brown to file a lawsuit in this matter. According to City Manager, Rob Wishner, Walnut retained the environmental law firm of Chatten-Brown & Carstens in December to pursue all of the City's legal rights under the California Environmental Quality Act in anticipation of the City of Industry's project approval.

As indicated in Walnut's many comment letters to the City of Industry, the project as approved would result in significant environmental and economic consequences to the City of Walnut. While the project proponent suggests economic growth in the region, although debatable based on published literature, neighboring cities such as Walnut and Diamond Bar would realize significant traffic impacts, noise, air and light pollution, and other impacts that would jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of its residents.

Moreover, the project would burden Walnut with significant additional costs in providing traffic improvements, fire service, and police protection.

By litigating the adequacy of the EIR, Walnut can assure that the true adverse impacts of the project are acknowledged, Special Counsel Jan Chatten-Brown said. Once impacts are identified, they must be mitigated if feasible mitigation measures exist. Although litigation is expensive, the cost of ignoring the impacts and not forcing the adoption of stringent mitigation measures is even more costly, Chatten-Brown further stated.

The suit was filed in the Central District of the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

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