

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**WALNUT AUTHORIZES SPECIAL COUNSEL TO FILE LAWSUIT
CHALLENGING THE ADEQUACY OF THE INDUSTRY STADIUM EIR**

At its closed session Wednesday evening, the Walnut City Council elected to authorize Special Counsel Jan Chatten-Brown to file a lawsuit in its efforts to obtain a court order requiring the City of Industry to prepare a legally adequate Environmental Impact Report. In December, the City Council authorized the retention of the environmental law firm of Chatten-Brown & Carstens to pursue all legal rights under the California Environmental Quality Act in anticipation of the City of Industry's approval of a project based on inadequate environmental analysis, City Manager Rob Wishner stated.

As indicated in Walnut's many comment letters to the City of Industry, the project as proposed would result in significant environmental and economic consequences to the City of Walnut. While the project could generate economic growth in the region, neighboring cities such as Walnut and Diamond Bar could realize significant traffic impacts, noise, air and light pollution, and other impacts that would diminish the quality of life in Walnut, and jeopardize the welfare and safety of the nearby neighbors. Significant additional costs would also be incurred by Walnut in providing the traffic improvements, and additional fire and police protection that would likely be required.

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. Further, once impacts are identified, they have to be mitigated if there are feasible mitigation measures Brown said. Though 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.

In other related action, the City Council authorized necessary funding from its General Fund to pay for the legal expenses and associated professional services.

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