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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST SA RECYCLING FOR ILLEGAL OPERATIONS IN BARRIO LOGAN

Complaint Seeks Injunction, Civil Penalties, and Abatement of Public Nuisance

SAN DIEGO – City Attorney Heather Ferbert announced today that her office has filed a civil enforcement action against SA Recycling LLC, Chief Executive Officer George Adams, and Chief Financial Officer Mark Sweetman for violating California's Unfair Competition Law (UCL), creating and maintaining a public nuisance, and violating provisions of the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC).

For years, the defendants have operated an illegal recycling business in Barrio Logan, unlawfully expanding their operations to include auto wrecking and dismantling activities in a residentially zoned neighborhood without obtaining the required city permits and approvals. This action seeks to stop the unlawful operations and abate the public nuisance to protect the health, safety, and welfare of local residents.

SA Recycling unlawfully expanded its business on a 3.75-acre property in Barrio Logan without obtaining required city permits. Inspections by Building and Land Use Enforcement investigators revealed extensive violations including unpermitted grading, electrical work, and construction, as well as the illegal operation of large-scale recycling collection and processing facility.

The property is located less than 150 feet from residential homes in direct violation of the City's zoning regulations. Nearby residents have lodged ongoing complaints about excessive noise, air pollution, and other hazardous conditions stemming from the site.

The City's Complaint alleges that the defendants' operations have created a public nuisance under California Civil Code sections 3479 and 3480, as the illegal activities have caused irreparable harm to the surrounding neighborhood, endangering public health, disrupting daily life, and diminishing residents' quality of life.

"Companies that disregard the City's laws and public health protections put entire neighborhoods at risk," said **City Attorney Heather Ferbert**. "No one should have to live next to unpermitted heavy industrial operations that pollute the air, damage property, and harm families."

Councilmember Vivian Moreno added, “Barrio Logan is home to many small business owners who contribute greatly to the community and follow City permitting requirements. These permits exist to ensure businesses operate safely and responsibly. When companies ignore those rules, they put the entire neighborhood at risk. I thank City Attorney Ferbert for taking action to make sure businesses in Barrio Logan are properly regulated.”

The Complaint also alleges that SA Recycling has been unjustly enriched by operating outside the law, gaining an unfair advantage over businesses that comply with state and local regulations. The remedies sought include civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day per violation and permanent injunctive relief ordering defendants to immediately cease all illegal operations.

The Housing Protection and Civil Code Compliance Unit of the City Attorney’s Office partnered with the City’s Building and Land Use Enforcement to address the violations at this property. This case is being prosecuted by Deputy City Attorney David Miller.

The Complaint is attached.

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