

Office of the City Attorney
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Contact: Gerry Braun
(619) 533-4782
gbraun@sanidiego.gov

CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENT

City Attorney Jan Goldsmith released the following statement with respect to next week's hearing on a motion to lift an order barring disclosure of certain documents:

Earlier this week it was brought to our attention that, among other things, the Vice President of Briggs Law Corporation helped a consultant prepare an environmental document for the City, and that Briggs Law Corporation subsequently sued the City over the adequacy of that very same document.

Taxpayers paid \$142,262.50 in attorneys' fees to Briggs Law Corporation to settle that lawsuit.

When we hear this sort of information, we investigate it. We have not made an accusation of any impropriety at this point, and don't know whether we will. The City and taxpayers, however, are entitled to a full explanation, and we will get it.

There are three steps we are taking right now to investigate.

First, we have sent a letter to the consultant, Helix Environmental, requesting information. They have responded that they will cooperate.

Second, we have asked the City Auditor to assist in reviewing.

Third, we have requested that the court lift an order barring disclosure of certain documents which would bear on this matter.

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