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NEWS RELEASE

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CITY PREVAILS IN CONDO CONVERSION CASE

San Diego, CA: Superior Court Judge Linda B. Quinn has rejected a challenge to the City's position that condominium conversions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). In a decision that could have far-reaching effects on future condominium conversions, Judge Quinn upheld the City's position in all respects.

"This ruling should help put to rest future claims such as this which are very expensive and time-consuming. We were confident that the City was complying with the law and the Court agreed," said Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Gilman who, along with Deputy City Attorney Don Worley, led the City's legal defense team.

On June 23rd, Judge Quinn denied petitioners Citizens for Responsible Equitable Environmental Development ("CREED") and Aida Reyes' petition for writ of mandate. Petitioners had sought to challenge the City's position that condominium conversions are exempt from CEQA. The court determined that condominium conversions are subject to an exemption under CEQA. Petitioners failed to show that the exemption is subject to an exception. The court further determined that the City properly complied with CEQA, the Subdivision Map Act, the San Diego Municipal Code, and the procedures for a street vacation and/or easement abandonment.

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