



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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City Attorney's Release on \$27 Million Settlement with SDG&E

San Diego, CA: The City Attorney's Office and SDG&E have issued a joint media statement announcing a \$27 million settlement that resolves the City's claims against SDG&E arising from the 2007 wildfires. The settlement is only with the City of San Diego for its claims and does not affect other pending claims by other parties.

This case concerns the 2007 Witch and Guejito wild land fires. The Witch Fire, which is the largest fire in this litigation, was ignited at Witch Creek near Santa Ysabel in the afternoon of October 21, 2007. The Guejito Fire started shortly thereafter in the early morning hours of October 22, 2007 and subsequently merged with the Witch Fire.

The City losses included fire emergency response costs, loss of lease revenue, damage to City structures including the City's reservoir and ecological/habitat damage.

"This is a fair settlement of the City's claims and avoids years of additional litigation, including a trial and appeals," said City Attorney Jan Goldsmith.

The City Attorney praised the office's team of lawyers who have been working on this case since it was filed in 2008. "This is one of the larger and more complex non-pension lawsuits this office has handled in-house," said Goldsmith. "I am very proud of our team. They did great work for the City of San Diego."

The SDG&E litigation team was led by Deputy City Attorney Bruce Bailey. Chief Deputy City Attorney Dan Bamberg and Deputy City Attorney Travis Phelps assisted DCA Bailey.

"We worked hard to bring this to resolution without the need for further expenses or a lengthy trial," said Deputy City Attorney Bruce Bailey.

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