



CITY OF BALDWIN PARK PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CITY OF BALDWIN PARK WINS MAJOR LEGAL VICTORY TO PROTECT LOCAL RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE

**JUDGE RULES "NO MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY IN NEIGHBORING
IRWINDALE"**

BALDWIN PARK, Calif. (Dec. 9, 2019) – Baldwin Park won a significant legal victory preventing the construction of a polluting waste facility that would have been constructed in the adjacent City of Irwindale. If built, this waste facility would have posed serious health and environmental risks.

At the direction of the Mayor and Councilmembers, the city of Baldwin Park pursued a multi-year lawsuit to prevent the waste facility from being constructed. On December 11, 2019, the City of Irwindale will set aside all project approvals for the Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Station Project (MRF/TS) slated for construction at 2200 Arrow Highway. This is a direct result of the City of Baldwin Park's 2016 and 2017 challenges to the environmental impact report (EIR). The Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles found that the City of Irwindale violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and ordered Irwindale to vacate its approvals for the Waste Project.

The Court held that the EIR was deficient in five key ways:

- the project description and analysis was inadequate as to truck fueling operations;
- the EIR failed to analyze transportation energy impacts adequately;
- the EIR ignored health risks associated with the Project's emissions of ROG, NOx, and ozone, or failed to explain why this analysis would be infeasible;
- the EIR inadequately analyzed greenhouse gas emissions (GHG); and
- the EIR failed to properly assess the effectiveness of mitigation in reducing GHG emissions to a less than significant level.

Baldwin Park community members continually spoke out against the Waste Project, the Project would have processed up to 6,000 tons of waste per day, operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and received waste—including municipal solid waste, green waste, and construction and demolition materials—from across the region. On January 21, 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2009-0002 in opposition to the Project to protect Baldwin Park's residents and

businesses against the Project's impacts. Since that time, Baldwin Park's Mayor and City Council have opposed the Waste Project, which would have posed detrimental effects to the health and quality of life of Baldwin Park's families.

Mayor Lozano stated, "The court's ruling is a victory for the residents of Baldwin Park. Their voice was heard loud and clear and sent a message that we will go up against any project that is harmful to our health and not compromise or disrupt our quality of life."

This is one part of the City's ongoing effort to preemptively tackle long term environmental challenges that will affect the quality of life of Baldwin Park's residents.

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Background: The City of Baldwin Park's 75,000+ residents have continued to be impacted by adjacent heavy industrial uses developed in the City of Irwindale, a city of approximately 1,422 residents. The cities share the same zip code, which is designated as one of the "highest pollution burdened areas with sensitive population characteristics in the State" due to factors including air quality, toxic releases from facilities, traffic density, solid waste sites, and population characteristics.

The Project site is located in the San Gabriel Valley Air Basin, which is one of the most polluted air basins in the country and is in "extreme" nonattainment for ozone. Baldwin Park has been identified as a "disadvantaged community" under SB 535. Disadvantaged communities include areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards or include concentrations of sensitive populations.