



CITY OF COSTA MESA

P.O. BOX 1200, COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

July 5, 2011

CONTACT

Bill Lobdell, (949) 887-2541

wlobdell@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us

www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us

www.facebook.com/CostaMesaCityHall

Twitter @CityofCostaMesa

Judge rules Costa Mesa can continue outsourcing process, but can't lay off employees until all 'proper procedures' are followed

COSTA MESA, CALIF.—Orange County Superior Court Judge Tam Nomoto Schumann ruled today that the City of Costa Mesa can continue its exploration of outsourcing many of its services, but can't lay off employees until all "proper procedures" were followed.

The Court did not make a finding that the City wasn't following "proper procedures."

The preliminary injunction was sought by the Costa Mesa City Employees' Assn., which filed a lawsuit in May to stop the potential outsourcing of 213 employees. In March, Schumann denied a temporary restraining order to stop any potential layoffs.

Schumann didn't specify what exactly the proper procedures were, but Costa Mesa City Attorney Tom Duarte said the City has and will continue to follow the law and provisions in the employee association contract while it explores the viability of outsourcing services. The association's contract mandated a six-month notice if City jobs were outsourced. The City began issuing the notices in March.

"We are following the proper procedures," Duarte said. "This ruling doesn't affect the City's ability to research outsourcing possibilities and, if it's prudent, to outsource City jobs down the road."

Under the judge's ruling, the City can continue to request proposals for outsourcing from other agencies and private companies and weigh whether the outsourcing is viable. If the City decides to outsource a service, it would meet with the Costa Mesa City Employees' Assn. on the impacts of the outsourcing and, with the "proper procedures" followed, lay off the affected workers.