



CITY OF COSTA MESA

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

PRESS RELEASE

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Costa Mesa, California – Costa Mesa Officials Continue Pursuit of Fairgrounds Purchase

Council Members Gary Monahan and Katrina Foley along with City Attorney Kim Barlow and City Manager Allan Roeder met with members of the Governor's Office yesterday in pursuit of an agreement for City acquisition of the Orange County Fairgrounds. Included in the meeting was Guy Lemmon of Facilities Management West, the private operator with whom the City entered into an exclusive negotiating agreement earlier this week.

"I felt the meeting was positive for both the City and the Governor's Office in pursuit of solutions to ensure the Orange County Fairgrounds remains in public ownership" stated Council Member Foley. The proposed partnership between Facilities Management West and Costa Mesa would result in the property being owned by the City and operated by the private sector that would also be responsible for guaranteeing debt service on the purchase from the State. "While the sale has not been concluded and there are several additional steps to be taken, I am confident that everything possible is being done to make this a success for the citizens of Costa Mesa and all of Orange County" added Council Member Monahan.

Thursday's meeting focused on the City's proposed business relationship with Facilities Management West, the structure of the acquisition and financing involving the State and the City and other technical details of the proposed transaction. While Costa Mesa officials indicated that solid progress had been made in meeting the State's aggressive schedule for sale of the 150 acre Fairgrounds, they cautioned that much remains to be done and that the State continues to express its commitment to putting the property on the open market if an acceptable sales agreement cannot be reached with the City.

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