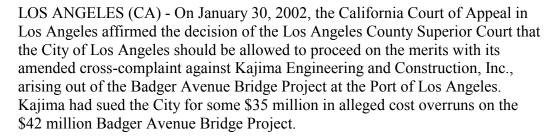
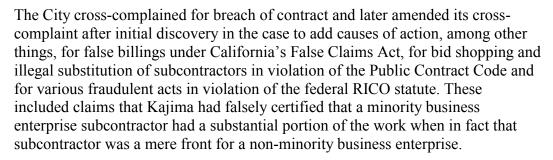


January 31, 2002

CONTACT: Sheila Gonzales (310) 732-3506

SUBJECT: CITY OF LOS ANGELES PREVAILS IN RULING





Kajima had argued that the City's amended cross-complaint should be stricken pursuant to California's SLAPP statute which provides a summary procedure for striking a suit or countersuit which is based upon petitioning or speech activities. The SLAPP statute was originally designed, for example, to protect environmentalists from suits by developers arising from protests or petitioning against real estate developments. The trial court had held that only one of the 21 causes of action asserted by the City in its amended cross-complaint was subject to such a motion and Kajima appealed, asserting the City's entire countersuit should be stricken.

The Court of Appeal's opinion affirms the trial court's ruling allowing the City to proceed on the merits on its amended cross-complaint. The City intends to pursue its amended cross-complaint, including against Kajima Corporation, the Japanese parent, which has been joined on allegations that Kajima Engineering is insolvent and without sufficient assets to satisfy any judgment to be obtained by the City. For a copy of the opinion, please contact David McKenna, City Attorney's Office, (310) 732-3750.

425 S. Palos Verdes Street

San Pedro, CA 90731
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After 5:00 p.m.:
310/732-3500

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