



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. **R 23-0175**
MAY 16 2023

REPORT RE:

**REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
FOR WBFM, LLP ("WALSWORTH")
IN ITS REPRESENTATION OF THE CITY TOGETHER WITH
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY ("SOCAL GAS")**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

The law firm of WBFM, LLP ("Walsworth"), by way of a tender of representation, represents both the City of Los Angeles and Southern California Gas Company ("SoCal Gas"), both named defendants in an action entitled *Crow, Jennifer Sparks v. Southern California Gas Company et al*, in which plaintiffs allege one cause of action for dangerous condition on government property against the City and two causes of action for negligence and premises liability against SoCal Gas.

Because the co-representation could potentially become adverse, Walsworth is required, under the Rules of Professional Conduct, to seek a waiver from both clients, which the firm has done by letter dated April 24, 2023.

Walsworth intends to develop a joint defense in the matter and not to utilize a defense where either party places blame or fault on the other, notwithstanding the



discovery of any fact or strategy that may benefit one client over the other should the matter proceed to trial.

All things considered, the City Attorney deems it in the best interest of the City to proceed with the waiver and recommends that the waiver be approved and that the City Attorney be authorized to execute a waiver with Walsworth.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned at (213) 978-7009. She or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By



Denise Mills
Chief Deputy City Attorney