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**City of Irvine Sets a New Standard**

**by Adjusting Development Fees in the IBC**

**Irvine, CA., February 25, 2009** - The Building Industry Association of Southern California, Orange County Chapter (BIA/OC) supports the Irvine City Council's unanimous decision to decrease development impact fees in the Irvine Business Complex. In July of 2008, the City approved BIA/OC's proposed economic stimulus plan which deferred fees to certificate of occupancy. At that time the council directed staff to re-examine their current fee structure.

Currently fee calculations are based on the Cal Trans CCI (Construction Calculation Index), which gathers data by tracking changes in construction materials through assessments of bids on a quarterly basis. After conducting extensive research including a survey of industry leaders, **the City Council decreased 2008/2009 IBC development impact fees by 26% due to the current economic climate and change in the CCI report.** Moving forward the staff also recommended re-visiting the calculation of future fees every 3 years.

Kristine Thalman, CEO of the BIA/OC said, "This forward-thinking decision couldn't have come at a better time. New construction in the City of Irvine and Orange County has slowed considerably in City and State of California. By adjusting their fees, the City of Irvine is sending a positive message to an industry that has been severely punished by the economic crisis. Acknowledging the fiscal realities our industry is facing, is the right step in the direction towards economic recovery."

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The Orange County Chapter of the Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIA/OC) is a non-profit trade association representing nearly 1,000 companies employing over 100,000 people affiliated with the home building industry.

The BIA/OC mission is to promote proactive participation in the development of economic and community issues in Orange County. The BIA/OC is affiliated with the California BIA and the National Association of Home Builders.

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**Orange County Chapter**

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