

# Redlands Daily Facts

## Thursday, August 3, 1995

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### Judge upholds IVDA contract to local firm

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REDLANDS — San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge James A. Edwards upheld the Inland Valley Development Agency's board of directors' decision to award a \$3 million construction contract to Redlands-based J. Murrey Construction Co. early this morning.

The IVDA board of directors voted 5-4 on July 26 to award the contract to J. Murrey Construction despite its staff's recommendation to give Norco contractor Gorham Construction the nod for the renovation of four TRW buildings at the former Norton Air Force Base.

Based on the decision, the IVDA can proceed with the TRW project.

"The counsel for Gorham can appeal," said Edward Pilot, counsel representative for J. Murrey Construction. "But while this is going on, the IVDA is unencumbered from starting remodeling these buildings."

Edwards stated in his decision that "time is of the essence" in this case and that the IVDA board is not bound to its staff's recommendation.

While Gorham Construction will likely pursue this case in the Fourth

District Court of Appeals, the decision temporarily quells TRW's uneasiness about the logistical and financial fallout that would have transpired if the court ordered the scrapping of all bids.

"It means we can see things move forward and expeditiously," said Lawrence Hinkle, TRW internal operations manager.

Scott Showler, attorney for J. Murrey Construction, said that IVDA board co-chairman Jerry Eaves had predetermined he was going to strip J. Murrey of the bid and added, "It's a shame we had to go through this fiasco."

Controversy over the bid began last month when J. Murrey Construction was initially awarded the contract. Gorham Construction, the project's second-lowest bidder, filed an appeal stating that J. Murrey Construction had not complied with the IVDA's "good faith effort" of recruiting minority- and woman-owned business subcontractors.

Neither contractor completed all the proper documentation surrounding this issue, and the decision was ultimately left up to the board.