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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City Manager and City Attorney Statement on Meta Agreement

Many residents have asked whether the City can simply cancel the Meta agreement. The answer is no.

The project was approved through legally binding agreements adopted by the City Council in 2023. Since then, Meta has invested millions of dollars in land acquisition, planning, engineering, infrastructure, and construction based on those agreements. Construction is already underway.

Because of those investments and contractual commitments, the City cannot simply decide to terminate the agreement. Any attempt to do so would likely result in significant legal challenges, and there is little reason to believe the company would voluntarily abandon a project after investing substantial resources in El Paso.

At its core, this is a matter of fiscal responsibility. The City has a duty to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Attempting to cancel a legally executed agreement would create substantial financial risk for residents while offering no assurance that the project would stop.

Taxpayers should also understand that legal costs associated with such an action are not currently budgeted. Any litigation would create new, unplanned expenses that would have to be funded by the public. Those costs could include outside legal counsel, expert witnesses, court costs, staff time, and potentially significant financial damages, including Meta's legal fees, if the City were found to have violated its contractual obligations.

Just as important, filing or defending a lawsuit does not automatically stop a project. The City could find itself spending millions of taxpayer dollars on years of litigation while the project continues to move through the legal process.

The practical question is whether taxpayers should be asked to absorb potentially significant unbudgeted legal costs in an effort to undo agreements that were lawfully approved and relied upon by a company that has already invested millions of dollars in our community.

The City's responsibility is to protect taxpayers from unnecessary financial exposure and ensure public resources remain focused on core priorities such as public safety, streets, parks, infrastructure, and other essential services—not on costly and uncertain litigation.

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