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California State Senate

SENATOR
ANTHONY CANNELLA
TWELFTH SENATE DISTRICT



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August 22, 2012

Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair
Court Facilities Working Group
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chairman Hill and Members of the Court Facilities Working Group:

I would like to express my strong support for the new South Monterey County courthouse project in Greenfield, California. A decision to abandon this project would not only be devastating for the City of Greenfield, but would also exacerbate already overburdened facilities.

On March 19, 2010, the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey announced that the City of Greenfield was selected as the preferred site for construction of a new 47,000 square foot courthouse. Unfortunately, budgetary considerations now appear to have placed this project in jeopardy.

The City of Greenfield has invested nearly \$5 million in support of this project and has completed construction of critical off-site street improvements. The land for the proposed courthouse was purchased by the City of Greenfield and donated to the State of California with the expectation that the courthouse would be built. In addition, the City of Greenfield has tentative agreements with the offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender for the construction of facilities immediately adjacent to the proposed courthouse.

In anticipation of the site being a hub of government and civic services in the future, the City of Greenfield also recently completed a modern, \$8 million Civic Center and Police Department, which abuts the courthouse site.

It is my understanding that the existing South Monterey County facilities are woefully inadequate and result in the need for time-consuming and costly trips to Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula to conduct routine court business. It is also my understanding that the proposed South Monterey County courthouse is the furthest along in the schedule amongst the projects being designated for reassessment. This being the case, I believe it would not be prudent to abandon this project after such a significant amount of time and resources have already been committed to make this project a reality.

I strongly urge you to support the construction of the South Monterey County courthouse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Cannella", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony Cannella
Senator, 12th District

MONTEREY COUNTY



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August 22, 2012

Court Facilities Working Group
OCCMComments@jud.ca.gov

Subject: New South Monterey County Courthouse

To the Court Facilities Working Group:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to convey our support for the proposed new South Monterey County Courthouse project.

The proposed new courthouse will address access, security issues, overcrowding, and physical facility concerns. These much needed improvements to the superior court will enhance its ability to serve the public as follows:

- Replace the unsafe and physically deficient King City Courthouse;
- Expand court services – including the return of civil and small claims case processing to the southern part of the county – by increasing judicial-proceedings capacity, and moving from two to three courtrooms to accommodate one new judgeship;
- Enhance access to court services by eventually expanding to a full-service courthouse for south county residents, enabling the court to operate more effectively and efficiently in the south county area. This project returns criminal and civil, including jury trials, family law and small claims case processing to the south county area, eliminating the need for south county residents to drive from 65-100+ miles for these services;
- Provide basic services previously not provided to south county residents due to space restrictions: a self-help center, a jury assembly room, a children's waiting room, adequately-sized in-custody holding, an alternative dispute resolution center, and attorney interview/witness waiting rooms;
- Provide the capability to hold proceedings on state prison cases in the same region in which they are derived and within 10 miles from the state prison facilities located in the City of Soledad – instead of 50 miles away at the Salinas Courthouse Complex;

- Provide site capacity for a future building addition for one future new judgeship; and
- Reduce case load processing and overcrowding at the existing Monterey County Courthouse and at the Salinas Courthouse Complex, by shifting criminal, civil, family law and small claims cases to the new courthouse.

Delay or cancellation of this project will continue to subject south Monterey County residents to limited and remote access to justice that should be readily available to all. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors therefore your support for the new South Monterey County Courthouse.

Sincerely,



Dave Potter, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Monterey County Superior Court
Mayor John Huerta, Jr., City of Greenfield
Lew C. Bauman, County Administrative Officer, Monterey County
Dean Flippo, District Attorney, Monterey County
Manuel Real, Chief Probation Officer, Monterey County
James Egar, Public Defender, Monterey County
Benny Young, Director Resource Management Agency, Monterey County
Paul Greenway, Director Public Works, Monterey County
Charles McKee, County Counsel, Monterey County
Clerk of the Board, Monterey County
Nicholas E. Chiulos, Director Intergovernmental & Legislative Affairs, Monterey County



Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair
Court Facilities Working Group
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chair Hill and Members of the Court Facilities Working Group,

On March 19, 2010, the Superior Court of California, County of Monterey announced that we were selected as the preferred site for a new 47,000 square foot courthouse. Due to budget considerations, it now appears this facility may be in jeopardy. If this vital project stalls, the significant adverse impacts on the South Monterey County region cannot be understated. The City of Greenfield has worked diligently over the last few years with the Justice Partners to ensure that this facility will be a great success for both the courts and the community.

The new South Monterey County courthouse in Greenfield signals the region's capacity to strengthen and protect our community assets. The City has invested nearly \$5 million in support of this project and has completed construction of critical off-site street improvements at the site. The courthouse land was purchased by the City and donated to the State of California with the expectation the courthouse would be built. The City of Greenfield has tentative agreements with the District Attorney and Public Defender offices for construction of facilities abutting the proposed courthouse. In anticipation of the site being a hub of government and civic services in the future, the City of Greenfield recently completed a modern, \$8 million Civic Center and Police Department, which abuts the courthouse site.

Existing South Monterey County facilities are unsafe and inadequate and result in the need for time-consuming trips to the county seat in Salinas or to the Monterey Peninsula to complete routine court business. As the project furthest along the schedule being designated for reassessment, the State, Monterey County and the City of Greenfield have spent a significant amount of time, energy and financial resources in working on this needed project. While the project may need to be reduced in size or scope to address the current financial difficulties, we believe that any proposal that would cancel a construction project on this site this late in the game would be extremely damaging to the development efforts of our underserved region.

We strongly urge you to support the construction of the South Monterey County courthouse.

Sincerely,

John Huerta, Jr.
Mayor